



November 17, 2019

By email

Ken Trester, Mayor
City Council
City of Saugatuck
Butler Street
Saugatuck, Michigan

Cindy Osman, Supervisor
Board of Trustees
Saugatuck Township
Blue Star Highway
Saugatuck, Michigan

Linda Anderson, Mayor
City of the Village of Douglas
86 W. Center St.
Douglas, MI

Re: Selection of Trail Route Option

Dear Ken, Cindy, and Linda:

I am writing to request your urgent help so that the tri-communities do not lose the \$200,000 pledge towards construction of the Blue Star Trail.

At the donors' request, I met with them this week to review where we stand regarding the conditions they had attached to the pledge they first announced last May. They remain firm in requiring that by December 31 the City express its support for a specific route option through the bridge-Lake St. corridor, sufficient to enable the communities to apply for grants. They recognize that completion of the agreement among the communities and FOTBST will take more time, but hope it can be completed relatively soon.

We can still meet this deadline, but it requires fast action. We respectfully request that (1) the City immediately authorize engineer Jon Moxey of Fleis & VandenBrink ("F&V") to meet as soon as possible with the Fire Dept., representatives of the Township and Douglas, and the FOTBST to review the route options; and (2) in accordance with the Nov. 15 email from the Township Manager, the City Council and Douglas Board each appoint two of their members to join the City Managers to meet with the representatives of the Township and the FOTBST to draft a simple form of resolution in support of the Trail and the next steps.

At the July Council workshop, Mayor Trester asked the Fire Chief to meet with Mr. Moxey and the FOTBST to provide comments on the route options. The Chief could not arrange a meeting until Oct. 23, but it was then cancelled after the City passed the joint resolution on Oct. 14. We tried to reschedule the meeting but then for undisclosed reasons F&V decided to terminate its agreement with the FOTBST, and only take direction from the City.

If we can schedule the joint meeting with the Fire Dept. in the next two weeks, we would then be in a position to present the route options to the respective governing bodies in early December.

If we lose the pledge, it would be a significant loss for the tri-communities.

As always, I would welcome the chance to discuss this request in person or on the phone. Of course, feel free to share this letter with your governing bodies.

Yours sincerely,

John Adams

John Adams, President

cc (via email): Kirk Harrier
Griffin Graham
Rich LaBombard