

FRED UPTON
6TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

ENERGY
CHAIRMAN

HEALTH

DIGITAL COMMERCE AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Michigan Department of Transportation
State Transportation Building
425 W. Ottawa Street
Lansing, MI 48909

March 5, 2018

Grant Coordinator:

I write today to express my unfettered support for Friends of the Blue Star Trail which is seeking a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant to further construction of the Blue Star Trail. The Blue Star Trail is a non-motorized trail way being built alongside Blue Star Highway to offer residents and visitors a safe and healthful way to move between South Haven and the Saugatuck-Douglas area.

Towns and attractions along the trail are top destination spots in Michigan's Sixth Congressional District, driving tourism in our corner of the state. The trail will vastly improve the safety of those traveling via bike and foot to the many beaches, parks, and unique, small-town attractions in our area and expand opportunities for local businesses catering to a new population of bikers and hikers. When completed, the trail will connect residents and visitors to a network of over 100 miles of West Michigan trails.

Over the last several years, Friends of the Blue Star Trail has work diligently to secure local support and federal and state grants, matched with private dollars, to undertake construction of the trail. Several sections of the trail have been completed and this spring construction will start on a new section on the north side of Saugatuck Township. A TAP grant would support continued trail construction, allowing uninterrupted progress to continue on this important local asset and tourist attraction.

Southwest Michigan has incredible natural beauty and local attractions. The Blue Star Trail will enhance recreation experiences for residents and visitors and expand opportunities for local businesses. As one who has personally enjoyed the trail I would like to see it extended, as do many, many others in our community. I encourage you to give the grant application from Friends of the Blue Star Trail all due consideration.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lynn Turner in my Kalamazoo office at 269-385-0039.

Sincerely,

Fred Upton
Member of Congress

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TONYA SCHUITMAKER

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**THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

February 20, 2018

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HIGHER EDUCATION - C
COMMUNITY COLLEGES - VC
JUDICIARY - VC
CAPITAL OUTLAY
JUDICIARY - VC
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express my full support for the Blue Star Trailway Project. The completed trail will enrich the region with a variety of transportation options and recreational opportunities that would become available to commuters, visitors, families, and students.

The construction of an off-road multi-user pathway will eventually connect the areas of Holland, South Haven, Kalamazoo, and Battle Creek, as well as the communities in between. The next step in this project will add new trails to connect the current Blue Star Trailway to the Beeline Trail and the Holland Metro Area Trails.

The approval of the proposed grant for the Blue Star Trailway will prove to be a valuable asset to Southwest Michigan. In addition to the alternative transportation option the trail will provide, this project will also enhance the recreational opportunities within the communities. Expanding the Blue Star Trailway will promote healthy lifestyle choices by giving trail users access to a convenient and safe pathway. Both residents and visitors to the region will enjoy and benefit from this project.

Thank you for your consideration of the grant application. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me toll-free at (866) 305-2120, or by email at SenTSchuitmaker@senate.michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Tonya Schuitmaker
State Senator
District 26



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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPRESENTATIVE MARY WHITEFORD
80TH DISTRICT

**APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:**
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY,
CHAIR
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT, VICE CHAIR
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
LICENSING AND REGULATORY
AFFAIRS AND INSURANCE
AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

February 27, 2018

Re: The Blue Star Bike Trail

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express my support for the Blue Star Bike Trail through Allegan County, specifically from South Haven to Saugatuck.

Allegan County is blessed to have some of the most beautiful coastline in the State which draws thousands of bicycle enthusiasts, residents and tourists, along Blue Star Highway every year.

The plans for the creation of the Blue Star Trail have been driven by passionate community members that would like to create an off the shoulder, non-motorized trail-way connecting South Haven and Saugatuck along Blue Star Highway.

The project would include an immediate goal to complete a .58 mile long portion of the trail from Oct 1, 2019 through Sept. 30 2020. This would be a non-motorized trail, 10' wide with HMA surface, boardwalk and a bridge for a creek crossing. Currently, there are 1.7 miles of trail-way completed in 2007 from 64th St along Blue Star Highway by Saugatuck Township. This year's trail project is the continuation of that trail. There are currently plans through 2024 for completion of future segments of the trail.

The Blue Star Trail Group is submitting a TAP application requesting \$250,000 from the Department of Transportation to complete the plan of the Blue Star Bike Trail. If awarded these grant dollars they would be used to fund the portion of the project that would run from the Corner of the Blue Star Highway and North Street in Saugatuck Township, to the Corner of Cemetery Road and Holland Street/Maple Street, in Saugatuck Township. The establishment of a paved trail ensures that bicyclists, and pedestrians, can travel with minimized risk of being injured by vehicles.

I am extremely supportive of this trail and believe this trail merits the grant money requested. In addition, I have personally been an active participant and supporter in the planning and development of this trail and would be happy to answer any questions regarding the project.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration of my support of this project.

Sincerely,

Mary Whiteford
State Representative
80th District