



City of South Haven

City Hall • 539 Phoenix Street • South Haven, Michigan 49090-1499
Telephone (269) 637-0700 • Fax (269) 637-5319

March 26, 2018

To Whom it May Concern:

It is with great enthusiasm that the City of South Haven can express our support of the Blue Star Trailway TAP Grant Application.

This new connector will provide residents of the area and visitors alike the ability to travel on non-motorized pathways from the Saugatuck-Douglas area, all the way to Lake Macatawa in Holland.

In the City of South Haven, we have not only seen the physical benefits (healthy living, exercise) that biking and walking provide on these types of trails, but huge economical ones as well. In a study done by the Michigan Department of Transportation in 2014, it was estimated that bicycling had a \$6.4 million impact on the local economy. This figure included not only the purchase of bike equipment, but employees using bikes to get to and from work, using bikes for leisure, or going on vacations that included traveling along bicycle trailways. We believe that this type of benefit could be increased in the West Michigan area as a whole with the addition of the proposed trailway.

I thank you for your consideration with this proposal and look forward to being able to ride my bike to the Saugatuck area in the near future! Should wish to contact me, I can be reached by phone at (269) 906-0334, or by email at scottsmith@south-haven.com.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Smith", is written over a horizontal line.

Scott Smith
Mayor, City of South Haven



March 29, 2018

Friends of the Blue Star Trail
7104 107th Ave.
South Haven, MI 49090-9678

Dear Friends of the Blue Star Trail:

This letter is to confirm the additional plans that the City of the Village of Douglas has for non-motorized transportation routes within the City. We did receive a Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) grant for Blue Star Highway. The project has been bid and approved by MDOT, and we are just waiting for the work to begin, with a finish planned for Memorial Day 2018. The project includes taking the four-lane portion of Blue Star Highway from Center Street north to Washington Street and reducing the motorized portion of the road to two lanes. The other two lanes will have a landscaped buffer and then a 10' wide non-motorized path installed.

Additionally, the City plans to install an additional non-motorized trail from Wiley Road to the southern City Boarder along the west side of the Blue Star Highway. The project will be paid for directly out of the City budget. It is anticipated it should be in place by Fall 2020. This will bring our non-motorized trail along Blue Star Highway all the way from the southern city limits to the northern city limits

If you have any questions or concerns about these or other projects, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for all you do to help promote the trail system throughout our community.

Sincerely,

William LeFevere
City Manager



February 26, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

The Allegan County Community Foundation has been actively working with the Friends of the Blue Star Trail for more than five years. We have been there to witness the idea and now to witness the reality of this stretch of trail that highlights the beauty of our West Michigan shoreline. Acting as the fiduciary for gifts to the trail development fund, we have seen an outpouring of support.

The trail is anticipated to provide a healthy, safe and beautiful experience for those who bike, walk, snow ski and more in West Michigan – as well as the summer tourists who fill our lakeshore communities each summer. Trails throughout Michigan and the country boast great economic benefits to those businesses and communities where trails are present.

The Allegan County Community Foundation has provided funding in addition to fiduciary services because we believe the trail is an asset to our community; as a health/recreation option and as a catalyst to drive tourism up and down our lakeshore communities. We are a proud supporter and an ardent admirer of the volunteers who comprise the Friends of the Blue Star Trail.

I am always happy to discuss the trail and its benefits. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theresa M. Bray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Theresa M. Bray
CEO/Allegan County Community Foundation