



September 28, 2015

Hurley Stewart, LLC
Attn: Tim Stewart, P.E.
2800 11th Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

RE: Blue Star Trail Project

Dear Mr. Stewart:

The Saugatuck City Council is in support the Blue Star Trail project. We appreciate the consolidated efforts of our neighboring municipalities and the Friends of the Blue Star Trail to develop this interconnected system of off road pathways along Blue Star Highway. It will provide a safe alternative for our area residents and tourists who enjoy these popular trailways and add much to the quality of life of those who live, work, and play in our community.

Many people in the area are directly involved with the trail project in various volunteer roles; they continually contribute their time and treasure to the success of this project. Additionally many local businesses and non-profit organizations such as the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society and Convention Bureau work directly with the Friends group to tell the story of the Blue Star Highway (originally the West Michigan Pike) and assist where possible with fund raising efforts.

Over the years, the City of Saugatuck Council members have received periodic updates from The Friends of the Blue Trail at our board meetings and passed a resolution of support on their behalf. Within the past week council members have also met with their consulting engineers at a workshop meeting. Together we are exploring options along the Blue Star Highway and possible in-town routes for the section of Trail that will border our city.

We are hopeful that together we will determine the most efficient and effective route for our community as plans and designs are presented to us and evaluated in the months to come. The City of Saugatuck pledges to continue its efforts to connect our lakeshore communities with this the 20 mile pathway.

Sincerely,

William Hess, Mayor
City of Saugatuck