



Mid-Michigan Community Pathways Group Action Plan

OCTOBER 2013



The **Mid-Michigan Community Pathways Group** is a collaboration of local, state, and tribal entities working toward a common goal of the construction of a paved, non-motorized path network between the cities of Ithaca and Clare in Isabella and Gratiot Counties (approximately 40 miles of pathway). The group is composed of representatives and support from:

- Central Michigan University
- Charter Township of Union
- Chippewa Township
- City of Alma
- City of Clare
- City of Ithaca
- City of Mt. Pleasant
- City of St. Louis
- Clinton County Parks & Green Space Commission
- Clare County Parks and Recreation Department
- Coe Township
- East Michigan Council of Governments
- Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Department
- Gratiot County Road Commission
- Greater Gratiot Development Corporation
- Isabella County Parks and Recreation Department
- Isabella County Road Commission
- Michigan Department of Transportation
- Mid-Michigan Community College
- Mid-Michigan Cycling Club
- Mid-Michigan Development Corporation
- Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Department
- Mt. Pleasant Public Schools
- Pine River Township
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- The Friends of the Fred Meijer Trail
- The Friends of the Pere Marquette Trail
- Village of Rosebush
- Village of Shepherd
- Vision 20/20 Group of Isabella County

The list of supporters continues to grow with every meeting of the group and as word spreads of their efforts.



The group is structured similar to that of a municipal council with a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Below is a list of the members and their positions:

- President, Steve Davidson, DPW Crew Leader – Village of Shepherd
- Vice President, Sue Ann Kopmeyer, Parks and Recreation Director – Isabella County
- Secretary, Steven Clark, Project Administrator – ROWE PSC
- Treasurer, Pete Little, Parks and Recreation Director – Gratiot County

The group has drafted a **Group Charter** to maintain focus for the group's initiatives. The following document serves as the framework of the group:

Mid-Michigan Community Pathway Group CHARTER STATEMENT

Develop the Mid-Michigan Community Non-Motorized Pathway starting with the segment from Ithaca through Clare, promoting partnerships with communities, businesses and governments in the area.

Long-Term Goal:

Have a separate non-motorized pathway providing a quality non-motorized environment for all through safety, health, education, culture and art. Provide linkage to businesses and communities through other routes, including regional tracks.

Purpose:

Create the Mid-Michigan Community Non-Motorized Pathway for the benefit of the public residents, communities and governments in the area of the path. Elements of the path include:

- ⌚ Separate non-motorized path
- ⌚ Connection to the communities
- ⌚ Quality family experience
- ⌚ Link to public parking (park & ride, bike) lots
- ⌚ Promote art and cultures
- ⌚ Support education
- ⌚ Provide a low-stress quality experience
- ⌚ Link to major trails
- ⌚ Low impact environmentally and socially

Task:

- ⌚ Identify long-term corridors for a separated path.
- ⌚ Encourage short-term solutions and local connections. Support business and communities to promote a quality experience.



- ⌚ Recognize opportunities for community loops to encourage positive education and cultural experience.
- ⌚ Identify funding options for path development and connectivity to encourage a greener lifestyle.
- ⌚ Promote fund raising events for the public and path maintenance. Develop the path for cyclists, pedestrians and rollerbladers.
- ⌚ Include provisions for handicap users.

Success:

In 20 years, develop a separated pathway connecting Mid-Michigan communities starting with Ithaca through Clare. Include linkage to regional paths such as the Fred Meijer and the Pere Marquette trails. Support communities in connecting the non-motorized system to get individuals to local destinations, creating without use of motorized vehicles, a quality family experience. Have in place a funding mechanism to provide maintenance for the next 20 years. Have evidence of a healthier more sustainable community, both physically and economically.

The MMCP Group is also working on a **Public Relations** campaign in order to gain the support and involvement of local, state, and federal agencies and the members of the travelling public towards this common goal. The individual PR items which are to be, or have already been created are listed below:

- Creation of a MMCP Website: www.midmichpathways.org
- Creation of a group Facebook page
- Creation of an informational tri-fold pamphlet
- Creation of a Powerpoint presentation detailing the groups intentions, factual information regarding the construction of pathways and their benefits

The MMCP Group has also received numerous letters of support. Those letters can be found in Appendix A.

The group has divided the path network into **six** segments as of this time. The availability of funding will likely define the segments further in the future, possibly breaking them down into smaller ones over time. The following is a preliminary list of the different path segments:

- Alma/St. Louis area to Ithaca
- Shepherd to Alma/St. Louis area
- Mt. Pleasant to Shepherd
- Mt. Pleasant to Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- Mt. Pleasant to Rosebush



- Rosebush to Clare

As each segment of the path network is completed, there will be a fair amount of maintenance which will be required to keep the pathways in a safe condition. The group has formulated the following ideas to raise money to create a “**Maintenance Fund**” for the segments of pathway:

- Locally designed art sculptures will be displayed along the segments of pathway. The proceeds from the sale of the art pieces (certain percentage), or the spaces themselves can be leased to the artist for a certain fee.
- Users or the path segments (either individual, or corporate) would become members of the Users group (i.e.: Friends of the Fred Meijer, Friends of the Pere Marquette, etc.) and a yearly fee would be collected.
- Donations from local organizations would be collected.
- Creation of an “Adopt-A-Mile” program will assist with general path maintenance

In order to organize our efforts, and proceed with the construction of each segment of pathway in a constructive manner, we have assembled this document titled the “**Action Plan**” for the MMCP group. The document is structured in the following manner:

- I. *Path Segment Description*
- II. *Map of Project Area*
- III. *Estimated Project Costs*
- IV. *Funding Options*
- V. *Project Schedule*

The conceptual project estimates include costs for projected inflation at 2% per year.

Segment A (16.3 miles+/-), Connection of the Alma/St. Louis Area to Ithaca

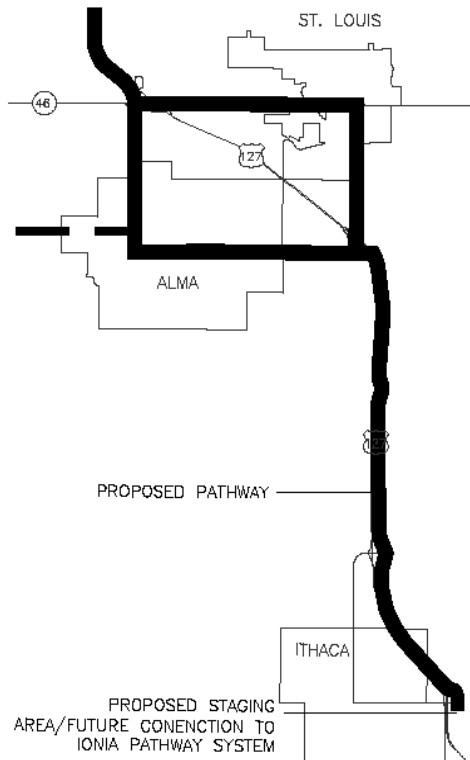
- I. *Path Segment Description*

This segment of pathway has two beginning points (two legs). The first path leg begins at the existing Fred Meijer path network on Charles Avenue and heads south to Superior Street (approx. 0.5 mile). Then, the path would head east along Superior Street (US-127BR) through downtown Alma and connect to the second path leg which heads north into St. Louis at the E. Lincoln Road/State Road (US-127BR) intersection (approx. 3.5 miles). A significant portion of this path segment proposes re-striping of the roadway to include bike lanes. The second leg would start at Charles Avenue/Monroe Road (M-46) and head east to downtown St. Louis along Monroe Road/M-46 (approx. 3.5 miles). From here, the path would turn south and head to the E.



Lincoln Road/State Road (US-127BR) intersection along State Road/US-127BR and combine with the first path leg (approx. 2.0 miles). A significant portion of this path segment also proposes re-striping of the roadway to include bike lanes. The path would then continue east along E. Lincoln Road to the east side of US-127, then turn south on the east side of northbound US-127 (approx. 0.25 mile). The path would head south (within the US-127 right-of-way), pass by the Rest Area, and continue to Washington Road/US-127BR in Ithaca (approx. 6.5 miles). The path would turn west, and terminate at the Park and Ride on the north side of the road (approx. 0.06 mile). This segment totals approximately 16.3 miles of pathway.

II. Map of Project Area



III. Estimated Project Costs

CONSTRUCTION	\$3,446,783
CONTINGENCY & INFLATION (43%)	\$1,482,117
DESIGN ENGINEERING (7%)	\$ 345,023
CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING (8%)	\$ 394,312
TOTAL	\$5,668,235



IV. *Funding Options*

The following list contains different funding options for the construction of non-motorized pathways:

- MDOT TAP Program (typically a 60/40 split, 60% State and federal funds, 40% match funds)
- MDNR Trust Fund (Typically a 50/50 split, with higher priority given to applications with larger matches), \$300K cap
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe 2% Program
- Private Donors (East Michigan Coalition of Governments, Gratiot County Community Foundation, Fred Meijer, MDNR Recreation Passport Program, Morey Foundation, Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation, Mt. Pleasant Community Foundation, etc.)

MDOT is planning road improvements to US-127 in this area and an Enhancement Grant Application would likely score higher if this path project is paired with the road project.

V. *Schedule*

Although subject to change based on funding availability, the following is a schedule for the completion of this segment of non-motorized pathway:

Complete Design Engineering	2015
Acquire Match Funding for Project	2015
Acquire Remainder of Funding	2015
Begin Construction	2016
Complete Construction	2016

Segment B (9.1 miles+/-), Connection of the Village of Shepherd and the Alma/St. Louis Area

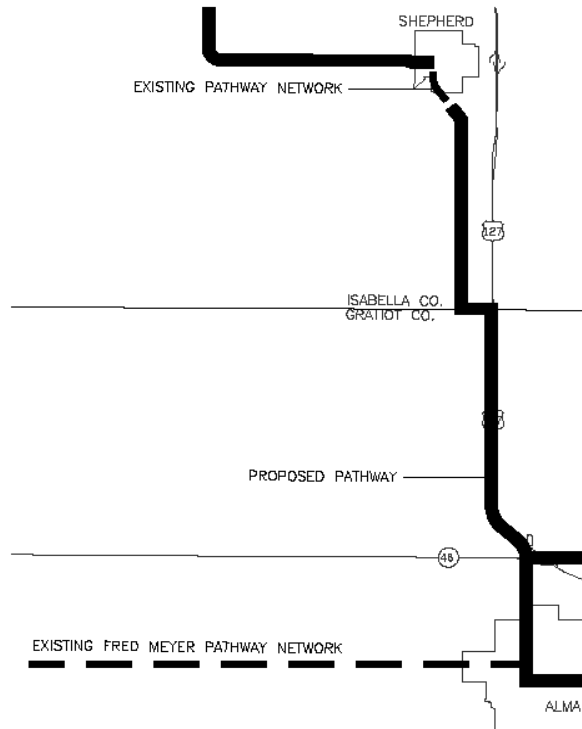
I. Path Segment Description

This segment of pathway begins at the south end of the Village of Shepherd where the existing path network extends along S. Shepherd Road. The path would head south along S. Shepherd Road until it reaches E. South County Line Road/Gratiot County Line (approx. 3.2 miles). From here the path would head east along E. South County Line Road to the existing US-127 right-of-way (approx. 0.5 mile). Then, the path would head south within the US-127 right-of-way to Monroe Road/M-46 (approx. 4.0 miles). The path would then



continue south along Charles Avenue to the existing Fred Meijer path network (approx. 1.4 miles). This segment totals approximately 9.1 miles of pathway.

II. Map of Project Area



III. Estimated Project Costs

CONSTRUCTION	\$2,161,177
CONTINGENCY & INFLATION (35%)	\$ 821,248
DESIGN ENGINEERING (7%)	\$ 208,770
CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING (8%)	\$ 238,594
TOTAL	\$3,429,789

IV. Funding Options

V. The following list contains different funding options for the construction of non-motorized pathways:

- MDOT TAP Program (typically a 60/40 split, 60% State and federal funds, 40% match funds)



- MDNR Trust Fund (Typically a 50/50 split, with higher priority given to applications with larger matches), \$300K cap.
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe 2% Program
- Private Donors (East Michigan Coalition of Governments, Gratiot County Community Foundation, Fred Meijer, MDNR Recreation Passport Program, Morey Foundation, Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation, Mt. Pleasant Community Foundation, etc.)

VI. *Schedule*

Although subject to change based on funding availability, the following is a schedule for the completion of this segment of non-motorized pathway:

Complete Design Engineering	TBD
Acquire Match Funding for Project	TBD
Acquire Remainder of Funding	TBD
Begin Construction	TBD
Complete Construction	TBD

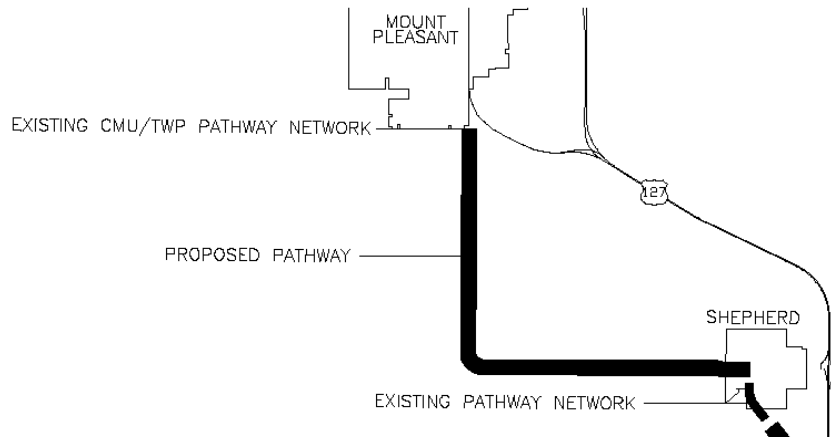
Segment C (6.8 miles+/-), Connection of the Mt. Pleasant Area and the Village of Shepherd

I. Path Segment Description

This segment of pathway begins at the intersection of Deerfield Road and S. Mission Road. The path would head south and follow S. Mission Road until it reaches Blanchard Road (approx. 3 miles). Then, the path would turn east and head to 1st Street in the Village of Shepherd along Blanchard Road (approx. 3.8 miles). Once at First Street, the path would head south approximately 3 blocks (approx. 0.05 mile) and connect to the Village's existing 1.8 mile long paved path system. This segment totals approximately 6.8 miles of pathway.



II. Map of Project Area



III. Estimated Project Costs

CONSTRUCTION	\$1,583,867
CONTINGENCY & INFLATION (20%)	\$ 328,653
DESIGN ENGINEERING (7%)	\$ 133,877
CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING (8%)	\$ 153,002
TOTAL	\$2,199,399

IV. Funding Options

The following list contains different funding options for the construction of non-motorized pathways:

- MDOT TAP Program (typically a 60/40 split, 60% State and federal funds, 40% match funds)
- MDNR Trust Fund (Typically a 50/50 split, with higher priority given to applications with larger matches), \$300K cap.
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe 2% Program
- Private Donors (East Michigan Coalition of Governments, Gratiot County Community Foundation, Fred Meijer, MDNR Recreation)



Passport Program, Morey Foundation , Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation, Mt. Pleasant Community Foundation, etc.)

V. *Schedule*

Although subject to change based on funding availability, the following is a schedule for the completion of this segment of non-motorized pathway:

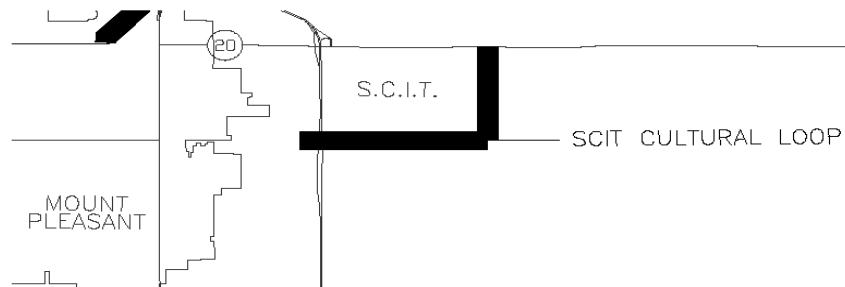
Complete Design Engineering	March 2014
Acquire Match Funding for Project	April 2014
Acquire Remainder of Funding	October 2014
Begin Construction	April 2015
Complete Construction	November 2015

Segment D (1.6 miles+/-), SCIT Cultural Loop

I. *Path Segment Description*

This segment begins just west of US-127 at Isabella Road, crosses the freeway utilizing a proposed tunnel/freeway overpass, then continues east along Remus Road to Isabella Road. Once at Summerton Road the path continues east cross country approx. ½ mile, then turns north passes the SCIT Elders Center and ends at Broadway Road at the Ziibiwing Cultural Center. This segment totals approximately 1.6 miles of pathway.

II. *Map of Project Area*





III. *Estimated Project Costs*

CONSTRUCTION	\$2,634,011
CONTINGENCY (20%)	\$ 526,803
DESIGN ENGINEERING (7%)	\$ 221,257
CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING (8%)	\$ 252,865
TOTAL	\$3,634,936

IV. *Funding Options*

The following list contains different funding options for the construction of non-motorized pathways:

- MDOT TAP Program (typically a 60/40 split, 60% State and federal funds, 40% match funds)
- MDNR Trust Fund (Typically a 50/50 split, with higher priority given to applications with larger matches), \$300K cap.
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe 2% Program
- Private Donors (East Michigan Coalition of Governments, Gratiot County Community Foundation, Fred Meijer, MDNR Recreation Passport Program, Morey Foundation, Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation, Mt. Pleasant Community Foundation, etc.)

V. *Schedule*

Although subject to change based on funding availability, the following is a schedule for the completion of this segment of non-motorized pathway:

Complete Design Engineering	TBD
Acquire Match Funding for Project	TBD
Acquire Remainder of Funding	TBD
Begin Construction	TBD
Complete Construction	TBD

Segment E (6.4 miles+/-), Connection of the Mt. Pleasant Area and the Village of Rosebush

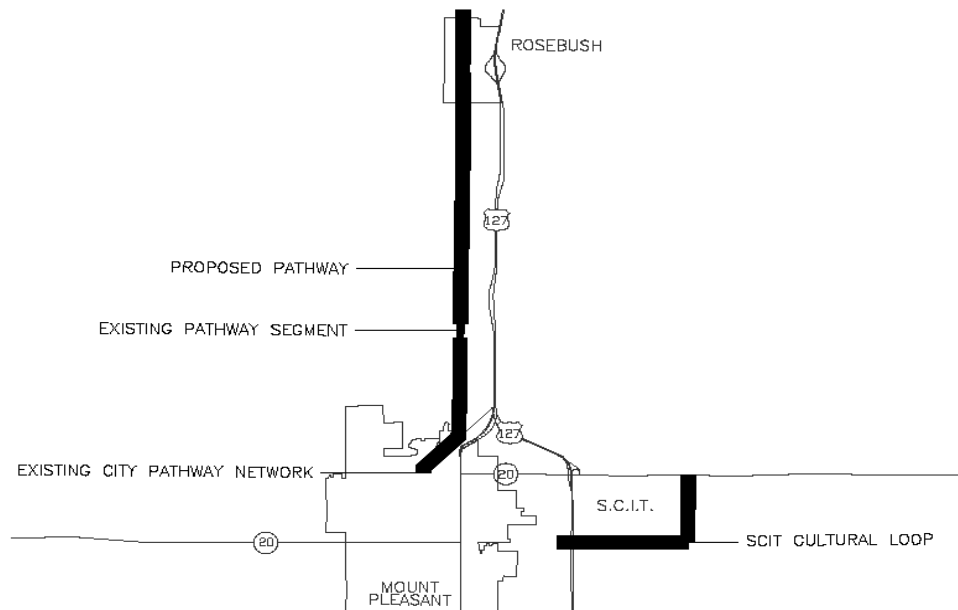
I. *Path Segment Description*

This segment of pathway begins at the north end of the City of Mt. Pleasant's Island Park, near the Chippewa River, on Pickard Street. The City has an extensive pathway network and this would provide connectivity to the



northern end. The path would head northeast in the vicinity of the old railroad right-of-way/Industrial Park until it reaches N. Mission Road (approx. 1.0 mile). From here the path would head north along N. Mission Road to the existing north/south path segment located at the Isabella County Fairgrounds (approx. 1.4 miles). Then, the path would continue along N. Mission Road north to Rosebush Road in the Village of Rosebush (approx. 4.0 miles). This segment totals approximately 6.4 miles of pathway.

II. Map of Project Area



III. Estimated Project Costs

CONSTRUCTION	\$1,324,737
CONTINGENCY & INFLATION (27%)	\$ 381,525
DESIGN ENGINEERING (7%)	\$ 119,439
CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING (8%)	\$ 136,501
TOTAL	\$1,962,202

IV. Funding Options

The following list contains different funding options for the construction of non-motorized pathways:



- MDOT TAP Program (typically a 60/40 split, 60% State and federal funds, 40% match funds)
- MDNR Trust Fund (Typically a 50/50 split, with higher priority given to applications with larger matches), \$300K cap.
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe 2% Program
- Private Donors (East Michigan Coalition of Governments, Gratiot County Community Foundation, Fred Meijer, MDNR Recreation Passport Program, Morey Foundation, Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation, Mt. Pleasant Community Foundation, etc.)

V. *Schedule*

Although subject to change based on funding availability, the following is a schedule for the completion of this segment of non-motorized pathway:

Complete Design Engineering	TBD
Acquire Match Funding for Project	TBD
Acquire Remainder of Funding	TBD
Begin Construction	TBD
Complete Construction	TBD

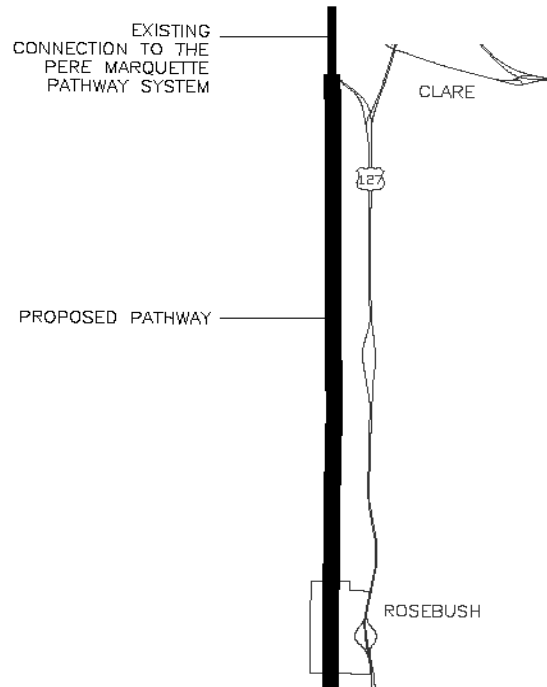
Segment F (7.8 miles+/-). Connection of the Village of Rosebush and Clare

I. *Path Segment Description*

This segment of pathway begins at the E. Rosebush Road/N. Mission Road intersection in the Village of Rosebush. The path would head north along N. Mission Road until it reaches the US-127BR interchange at the south end of Clare (approx. 7.8 miles). This segment totals approximately 7.8 miles of pathway.



II. Map of Project Area



III. Estimated Project Costs

CONSTRUCTION	\$2,054,638
CONTINGENCY & INFLATION (51%)	\$1,047,866
DESIGN ENGINEERING (7%)	\$ 217,175
CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING (8%)	\$ 248,200
TOTAL	\$3,567,879

IV. Funding Options

The following list contains different funding options for the construction of non-motorized pathways:

- MDOT TAP Program (typically a 60/40 split, 60% State and federal funds, 40% match funds)
- MDNR Trust Fund (Typically a 50/50 split, with higher priority given to applications with larger matches), \$300K cap.
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe 2% Program
- Private Donors (East Michigan Coalition of Governments, Gratiot County Community Foundation, Fred Meijer, MDNR Recreation)



Passport Program, Morey Foundation , Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation, Mt. Pleasant Community Foundation, etc.)

V. *Schedule*

Although subject to change based on funding availability, the following is a schedule for the completion of this segment of non-motorized pathway:

Complete Design Engineering	TBD
Acquire Match Funding for Project	TBD
Acquire Remainder of Funding	TBD
Begin Construction	TBD
Complete Construction	TBD



APPENDIX A

Letters of Support



ALMA COLLEGE

ONLY ONE ALMA.

August 18, 2010

Mr. Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. LaHood:

I am writing to express my support of the TIGER II Discretionary Grant proposal submitted by the city of Alma and several Mid-Michigan communities to fund and develop a bicycle trail which would connect the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail in Alma and the Pere Marquette Trail in Clare. The trail would create a more deeply interconnected community, encouraging walking and cycling while greatly enhancing the health and safety of our community members.

This initiative will provide important recreational opportunities for the residents of Alma, Gratiot County and the greater mid-Michigan area. The path will pass by both the Alma College and Central Michigan University campuses, increasing collaborative opportunities for students and faculty alike.

We appreciate your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Jeff Abernathy
President

JA:bsd

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

614 West Superior Street, Alma, Michigan 48801-1599 Telephone (989) 463-7146 Fax (989) 463-7094

WWW.ALMA.EDU

CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

525 E. Superior, P. O. Box 278 Alma, MI 48801-0278
www.ci.alma.mi.us

ADMINISTRATION
989 463-8336

FAX
989 463-5574

16 August 2010

Mr. Ray LaHood, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. LaHood,

I am writing in support of the TIGER II grant application submitted jointly by the Gratiot, Isabella, and Clare County Road Commissions in collaboration with the Saginaw-Chippewa Indian Tribe. These agencies propose to build a bicycle path in mid-Michigan connecting the cities of Ithaca, Alma, Mt. Pleasant, Clare and the village of Shepherd.

The communities in this rural mid-Michigan region have a well-deserved reputation for intergovernmental cooperation. This grant proposal is just one more example of our ability to realize the synergies of working together across jurisdictional boundaries to make our region a more attractive place for people to work and live. When completed this bike trail will

- provide **better safety** for cyclists and pedestrians
- help to **reduce road traffic and reduce greenhouse gas emissions** by making cycle travel an attractive alternative
- **make the community more livable** and thus help business and industry attract the best job applicants.

The proposed project has widespread support within the community. The completed trail will be used by people of all ages and all walks of life. Thank you for giving this multi-jurisdictional proposal careful consideration. The bike trail connecting our communities will bring a number of benefits to all of us.

Sincerely,



Melvin A Nyman, PhD, Mayor
nyman@alma.edu
989-463-7264 (office)
989-463-3791 (home)



CLINTON COUNTY

PARKS and GREEN SPACE COMMISSION

100 E. State Street, Suite 1300
St. Johns, Michigan 48879-1582
Phone: (989) 224-5128 Fax: (989) 224-5102
Email: parks@clinton-county.org



October 25, 2013

MEMBERS

Chuck Nelson, Chair
Citizen Representative

Jack Enderle, Vice Chair
Board of Commissioners Rep.

Phil Hanses, Secretary
Drain Commissioner

Dave Pohl,
Board of Commissioners Rep.

Pat Jackson,
Citizen Representative

Bob Kudwa,
Planning Commission Rep.

Tim Machowicz,
Citizen Representative

Andrea Polverento,
Citizen Representative

Don Potts,
Citizen Representative

Donald Sisung,
Road Commission Rep.

STAFF

Jerry Jalszynski, Coordinator
Parks & Green Space Commission

Gayla Phillips, Secretary
County Administration

Stephen Davidson, President
Mid-Michigan Community Pathways Group
207 W. Boulevard Street
Shepherd, MI 48883-9025

Dear Mr. Davidson:

Thank you and Steven Clark for presenting information to the Clinton County Parks and Green Space Commission on the Mid-Michigan Community Pathways Group's ("Group") non-motorized trail development plan. I was unable to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict but understand Commission members were impressed with the Action Plan and with the Group's organization and enthusiasm in pursuing its trail development objectives.

The Commission approved a Motion of Support for the concept of the Group Action Plan and trail development efforts. Please accept this letter as representation of that support.

I have been working on a county-wide non-motorized facility plan for the past four years and am nearing completion of the plan document. Clinton County's proposed non-motorized route map includes three portals into Gratiot County. This Commission would like to see development of a trail connection between the Fred Meijer CIS Trail in St. Johns and the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail in Alma. We share the Group's vision for the Clare to Ithaca non-motorized trail, but also for an extension to the Clinton County line where we can bring the trail to St. Johns and beyond. How can we partner in this effort?

Sincerely,

Gerald Jalszynski
Coordinator



CITY OF CLARE

202 West Fifth Street • Clare, Michigan 48617-1490
989/386-7541 • Fax 989/386-4508
www.cityofclare.org

August 18, 2010

CITY HALL

Ph 989/386-7541
Fx 989/386-4508
www.cityofclare.org

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Ph 989/386-2182
Fx 989/386-3445

W/WWT PLANT

Ph 989/386-2321
Fx 989/386-2387

POLICE DEPT.

Non-emergency
Ph 989/386-2121
Fx 989/386-0440

FIRE DEPT. NON-EMERGENCY

Ph 989/386-2151
Fx 989/386-3020

PARKS & RECREATION

Ph 989/386-7541
Fx 989/386-4508

AIRPORT

Ph 989/386-0445
Fx 989/386-4508

MAIN STREET MANAGER

Ph 989/386-9190
Fx 989/386-9190

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I offer this letter on behalf of the City of Clare in providing its unequivocal endorsement and wholehearted support to the MidMichigan Community Non-Motorized Pathway Group in its collective efforts to develop and construct a 60+ mile pathway system. This proposed project is a model of intergovernmental collaboration and cooperation and is considered a major regional economic development initiative.

When completed this pathway will connect the US-127 Corridor communities of Ithaca, Alma, Shepherd, Mt. Pleasant, and Clare; will provide a much-needed non-motorized transportation alternative and highly-desired recreation asset to the residents of Clare, Isabella, and Gratiot Counties and to the members of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe; and will provide an easily-accessible link with two existing, major pathway systems: the Pere Marquette Rail Trail (the Michigan portion of US Bike Route 20) and the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail.

State and federal endorsement and fiscal support of this proposed project is essential to ensure project success and to promote continued regional development in mid-Michigan.

Sincerely yours,

Ken Hibl
City Manager



August 16, 2010

Mid-Michigan Community
Non-motorized Pathway Group

Dear Mid-Michigan Community Non-motorized Pathway Group:

Central Michigan University strongly supports the proposed trail system known as the "Mid-Michigan Community Non-motorized Pathway" (Pathway). We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with the Department of Transportation and other entities to advance this project.

The proposed Pathway affords an excellent example of reinvesting in our area, by connecting the downtown communities of Alma, Clare, Ithaca, Mt. Pleasant, Rosebush, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Saint Louis and Shepherd. These changes likely mean an increase in usage, which has great potential for a rise in tourism that would help improve our economically challenged region.

The Pathway offers a multitude of benefits. Users of the Pathway benefit from a fun, safe place to walk, run, pedal, skate, and do just about anything that does not require a motor. The barrier free path will host thousands of statewide and regional users each year, and the proposed linkage of the Fred Meijer and the Pere Marquette pathways are a wonderful complement to the project.

With easy access to the rivers, parks and historical areas, the Pathway also provides opportunities to increase environmental education and promote sustainability.

I trust the Pathway will enhance the educational living environment of our students by providing more convenient and accessible transportation routes throughout our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George E. Ross", written over a white background.

George E. Ross, Ph.D.
President

GER:km

EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

3144 DAVENPORT AVENUE, SUITE 200, SAGINAW, MI. 48602
PHONE: 989-797-0800, FAX: 989-797-0896
WWW.EMCOG.ORG



Aug 17th, 2010

Mid Michigan Non-Motorized Pathways Group
C/O Brian Atkinson, Cost and Scheduling Engineer
Mt. Pleasant TSC
1212 Corporate Drive
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Dear Mr. Atkinson,

The **East Michigan Council of Governments** strongly supports the efforts made by the **Mid Michigan Community Non-Motorized Pathways** group to connect the communities within Isabella County from Gratiot county line to the south to Clare county line on the north into a unified non-motorized network. Creating such a network will allow usage of existing networks that exist within independent cities and villages by county-wide users. The following connections of local and regional non-motorized facilities are in accordance with the **Michigan Department of Transportation Bay Region Non-Motorized comprehensive Plan 2010**.

1. The Gratiot County Road Commission's application to construct an **eight mile** long non-motorized path between Ithaca and Alma.
2. The Isabella County Road Commission's application to construct a **twelve mile** long non-motorized path between Alma and Mt. Pleasant.
3. The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's application to construct a **thirteen mile** long non-motorized path between Mt. Pleasant and Clare

The following application will not only connect the Mid-Michigan area to other State wide networks such as **Pere Marquette Trail** and **Fred Meijer Trail**, but will also allow for smooth influx of biking, jogging and trail enthusiasts from all over the United States. It will serve as an alternative mode of transportation for many individuals who currently are forced to use automobiles for shorter trips. The Mid-Michigan region houses some very attractive tourism destination that will have new set of visitors through these connections.

The amazing cooperative effort within **Mid- Michigan Community Non-Motorized Pathways** group of communities like cities, villages, townships, local private entities, arts and cultural foundations, educational institutions and tribal governments is a great example of regional collaboration and **East Michigan Council of Governments** embraces this through support and participation. We believe that this network of non-motorized facilities will prove very beneficial to the health, well-being and economy of the Region as a whole.

Sincerely,

Sue Fortune
Executive Director,
East Michigan Council of Governments (EMCOG)



August 17, 2010

Mid-Michigan Community Non-motorized Pathway Group

The Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail Trail of Midland County, Michigan, strongly supports your efforts to create a trail system connecting Mid-Michigan communities, cities, and villages in the Mid-Michigan area of Gratiot, Isabella and Clare Counties, starting from Ithaca to Clare, Michigan. The Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail Trail is a not-for-profit group, whose mission is to assist in promoting and improving the Pere Marquette Rail Trail (PMRT), which runs a span of just over thirty miles, from Midland to Clare, Michigan.

The Pere Marquette Rail Trail has been nothing less than a treasure to Midland County. A 2001 usage study estimated 178,000 visits of the Pere Marquette Rail Trail from April through September, with a "visit" defined as one person using one section of the PMRT on a given day. The PMRT promotes improved health through exercise and is an asset that helps Midland county businesses recruit the "best and brightest." On any given day you will see scores of people walking, roller blading, jogging, bicycling on the trail, clearly enjoying their experience. Such a trail is a win win for everyone in the area. We wish you nothing but the best of fortunes in developing such a trail.

Sincerely,

Mark W. McCartney

Mark W. McCartney
President, Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail Trail
P.O. Box 505
Midland, Michigan 48640

Mr. Ray LaHood
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

August 18, 2010

Dear Mr. Hood

The Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce is supporting several mid-Michigan communities in the effort of obtaining the TIGER grant allowing a bike trail to go from Ithaca to Mt. Pleasant. It is part of the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce mission to enhance quality of life. The many ways this will affect Gratiot County's quality of life are as follows:

- Improved health of the community by more exercise,
- More livable community - ability to attract best job applicants
- Makes the community a more attractive place to live
- Lessens bike traffic on the road
- More tourists in the community
- Better safety for the bicyclists and pedestrians (most of the path is anticipated to be separated from the traffic lanes.

The Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce encourages the TIGER grant decision makers to bestow this opportunity upon Gratiot, Isabella and Clare Counties. This would allow three communities to rally around a project in a collaborative manner which will improve the quality of life (in ways already stated) today, tomorrow and in the future.

The Gratiot Area Chamber is in full support of the TIGER grant which will allow a bike trail to be constructed from Ithaca to Mt. Pleasant. Our support for this project is also reflected in a resolution of support on behalf of the Gratiot Area Chamber Board of Director's with a unanimous vote in a board meeting held on Thursday, August 19, 2010; and signed by the Gratiot Area Chamber Executive Director, Patricia Nelson and President, Bill Henderson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Patricia F. Nelson'.

Patricia F. Nelson
Executive Director
Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce

RESOLUTION

Support for Development of Mid Michigan Community Pathway

WHEREAS, the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce encourages economic growth and quality of life throughout the Gratiot Community; and

WHEREAS, Gratiot County has a long history of inter-community collaborative efforts, which have resulted in immense collective benefits for the wider Gratiot Community; and

WHEREAS, the individual communities of Gratiot County realize the importance of having exceptionally walkable, interconnected communities; and

WHEREAS, area residents continue to realize the benefits the recently completed Fred Meijer Heartland Trail brings to the region; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has realized the value of non-motorized transportation by offering grant funding under the TIGER II program; and


WHEREAS, an area identified for a new walking/bicycle trail is along the Old US-27 and US-127 Corridor, which intersects Ithaca, Alma, St. Louis, Shepherd, Mt. Pleasant, and Clare; and

WHEREAS, such a trail connecting those communities along the Old US-27 and US-127 Corridor will likely bring additional economic activity and healthier lifestyles, making for a more prosperous and sustainable future for our members, as well as our children and grandchildren;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce supports an application for funding of the Mid Michigan Community Pathway through the federal TIGER II transportation program at an approximate cost of \$28 million.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce agrees to be an active participant in the discussions and planning process to make this dream a reality.

Dated: August 19th, 2010


William Henderson III, President


Patricia F. Nelson, Executive Director



Gratiot County Road Commission

P.O. Box 187 – 200 Commerce Drive, Ithaca, MI 48847-0187

Phone (989) 875-3811 – Fax (989) 875-2831

E-mail: gratiot@gratiotroads.org

RESOLUTION

Commissioner Whitford offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

WHEREAS, Mid-Michigan Community Pathways Group (Group) has determined to apply for Federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) II Grant Funds to construct a Bike Path from Ithaca, Michigan to Clare, Michigan, and

WHEREAS, the Gratiot County Road Commission (Commission) is the only local Act 51 Agency with jurisdiction throughout the county, and

WHEREAS, the applicant for these funds must be an Act 51 Agency and the Group has requested the Commission to serve as that Agency, and

WHEREAS, TIGER II Grant Funds are part of the federal stimulus monies allocated to boost the economy and are not diverted from normal road and bridge funding, and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes the proposed Bike Path project would be an asset to the community by providing a safe system for bicycle traffic and is supported by the communities involved, and

WHEREAS, the application costs and if successful, the costs for, engineering, administration and construction of the project will be totally reimbursed to the Commission and the future maintenance and any liability incurred will be by others similar to the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail project recently completed between Alma and Riverdale for which the Commission served as the Act 51 Agency, and

WHEREAS, the Commission will have the authority to review and amend the design of this project in respect to its impact on the Gratiot County Road system,

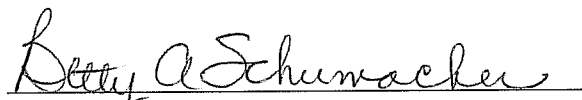
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that under the conditions stated above, the Gratiot County Road Commission agrees to serve as the Act 51 Agency for this project.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Federspiel and passed as follows:

YEAS: Commissioners Federspiel and Whitford

NAYS: Commissioner Netzley

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution made and adopted at a Special Meeting of the Board of Gratiot County Road Commissioners, of the County of Gratiot, on the 18th day of August, 2010.


Betty A. Schumacher, Finance Director/Clerk

August 17, 2010

Mark Craft, Managing Director
Gratiot County Road Commission
200 Commerce Dr
Ithaca, MI 48847

Dear Mr. Craft:

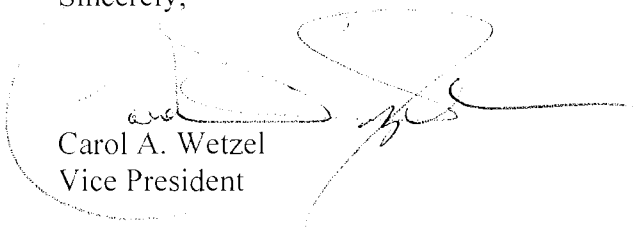
On behalf of Greater Gratiot Development, Inc, a 501(c) 3 private non-profit economic development agency, I am writing to support your efforts to apply for TIGER II grant funding for the Gratiot County section of the proposed Mid Michigan Community Pathway.

Gratiot County's rural nature results in a number of positive attributes that make it a great place to live. However, it remains difficult for residents or tourists to fully enjoy the area and neighboring communities without using motorized transportation.

Several recent studies regarding economic competitiveness of individual regions in Michigan and other Midwestern states have identified key characteristics of those communities that tend to be most successful in retaining and attracting businesses and a talented workforce. Without exception, near the top of the list is high quality, livable, walkable communities that are family- and tourist friendly.

I commend you for your leadership in this effort, and stand ready to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,



Carol A. Wetzel
Vice President

Administration
(989) 875-5261

Animal Control
(989) 875-2221

Board of Commissioners
(989) 875-5261

Building & Grounds
(989) 875-5275

Circuit Court
(989) 875-5224

Clerk
(989) 875-5215

Commission on Aging
(989) 875-5246

District Court
(989) 875-5240

Drain Commission
(989) 875-5207

Emergency Management
(989) 875-5280

Equalization
(989) 875-5203

Friend of the Court
(989) 875-5226

Geographical
Information System
(989) 875-5207

Information Manager
(989) 875-5267

Juvenile
(989) 875-5222

MSHDA/CDBG
Housing Administrator
(989) 875-5251

MSU Extension
(989) 875-5233

Payroll/Personnel
(989) 875-5239

Permits
(989) 875-5201

Planning/Zoning
(989) 875-5201

Probate Court
P.O. Box 217
(989) 875-5231

Probation/Parole
(989) 875-5229

Prosecutor
(989) 875-5236

Register of Deeds
(989) 875-5217

Sheriff
(989) 875-5214

Treasurer
(989) 875-5220

Veterans
(989) 875-5258



Mr. Mark Craft, Managing Director
Gratiot County Road Commission
200 Commerce Drive
Ithaca, MI 48847

August 18, 2010

Dear Mr. Craft:

I am writing to convey that Gratiot County eagerly supports your efforts to secure TIGER II Grant funding for Gratiot County's portion of the proposed 38-mile Mid Michigan Community Pathway.

The development of inexpensive forms of recreation is of increasing importance to Gratiot County, particularly within the current economic climate. The Mid Michigan Community Pathway is of special interest to the County, given the potential that exists for connection to existing trails. Gratiot County is eager to advance the utilization of this proposed trail through collaborative efforts with surrounding rural counties.

Gratiot County has enjoyed a good working relationship with the Gratiot County Road Commission and is greatly encouraged by their involvement in this funding request. Gratiot County commends their efforts in the furtherance of this project and for taking the lead in applying for project funding.

Gratiot County's support of the Mid Michigan Community Pathway Project confirms a continuation of its commitment to the quality of life available to its residents. We are excited that the Gratiot County Road Commission is working toward the same goal!

Sincerely,

Mark Knowles
Chairman, Gratiot County Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION 2010-28
Support for Development of Mid Michigan Community Trail

WHEREAS, the City of Ithaca has encouraged and undertaken actions to improve the walkability of this community; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan and Federal governments, the Michigan Municipal League, and many others have recognized that walkable, interconnected communities are important assets for making for a more sustainable future ; and

WHEREAS, through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, the Federal Government has realized its value by offering grant funding under the TIGER 2 program; and

WHEREAS, an area identified for a new walking/bicycle trail is along the Old US-27 Corridor, which intersects Ithaca, Alma, St. Louis, Shepherd, Mt. Pleasant, and Clare; and

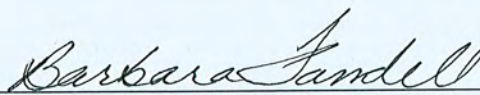
WHEREAS, such a trail connecting those communities along the Old US-27 Corridor will likely bring additional trade, commerce, and tourism, making for a more sustainable future for our children and grandchildren;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Ithaca supports an application for funding of the Mid Michigan Community Trail through the federal TIGER 2 transportation program at an approximate cost of \$28 million.

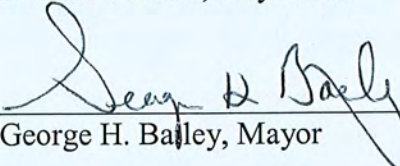
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Ithaca agrees to be an active participant in the discussions and planning with the Michigan Department of Transportation and all of the other communities along the Old US-27 Corridor to advance this project.

Dated: August 3rd, 2010





Barbara Fandell, City Clerk



George H. Bailey, Mayor



93RD DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 30014
LANSING, MI 48909-7514
PHONE: (517) 373-1778
FAX: (517) 373-5780
E-MAIL: paulopsommer@house.mi.gov

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PAUL E. OPSOMMER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

August 17, 2010

Mark Craft, Managing Director
Gratiot County Road Commission
200 Commerce Dr.
Ithaca, MI 48847

Dear Mr. Craft:

I am writing in support of the application for Tiger 2 Discretionary Grant funding of the southernmost portion of the proposed 38-mile Mid Michigan Community Pathway.

I believe such a pathway will be a benefit to this area. It will be an asset to the residents and help to encourage a greater sense of community and collaboration in Gratiot County. It will also aid in increasing the area's desirability for businesses and employees considering relocating to our area. Such projects that assist in attracting these individuals will be a positive development for our community.

I have admired and encouraged the exceptional collaborative spirit that seems to be a way of life in Gratiot County. This is yet another example of several communities rallying around a project with common benefits for those along the route, including two other counties and the Saginaw-Chippewa Indian Tribe.

I am excited to join you as an advocate for the Mid Michigan Community Pathway!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Opsommer", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Paul E. Opsommer
State Representative, 93rd District



The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Of Michigan

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

7070 EAST BROADWAY

MT. PLEASANT, MICHIGAN 48858

(989) 775-4059

(989) 775-4074

FAX (989) 775-4052

August 17, 2010

Re: Mid-Michigan Trail grants funding submittal.

To Whom It May Concern:

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan supports the application of funding the Mid-Michigan Community Trail, a collaborative effort of at least 14 governmental units located within the Mid-Michigan area.

The Mid-Michigan Community Trail coordinating group seeks to design, construct and create a funding mechanism for a regional trail/pathway connecting exiting trails/pathways in adjacent regions with the diverse interests of the Mid-Michigan area while enhancing sustainable transportation, land use, energy efficiency and economic development while promoting intergovernmental coordination and collaboration in the affected areas.

Mid-Michigan has been greatly impacted by the recession and auto industry shut down. It is in immense need of planning and sustainable development to preserve and protect our land and environment.

We look forward to participating in this collaborative effort with the Mid-Michigan Trail coordinating group for the sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Sheila Leauteaux
Tribal Council Treasurer

Cc: Tribal Council
Fjc: file



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MT. PLEASANT TRANSPORTATION SERVICE CENTER

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

KIRK T. STEUDLE
DIRECTOR

August 18, 2010

Mid Michigan Community Pathway

Dear Group:

Letter of Support for a Non-Motorized Pathway from Ithaca through Clare

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Mt. Pleasant Transportation Service Center (TSC) offers full support to the initiative of developing a comprehensive Non-Motorized Pathway starting with Ithaca through Clare. The regional pathway connects the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail, the Fred Meijer Hartland Trail in Alma, and the Shepherd Trail. Public benefits would include positive economic impacts; incorporate green initiatives, health and fitness improvements, enhanced community connections, and greater non-motorized transportation options.

The Pathway Group's Charter Statement, goals and purpose fit in with the Michigan Department of Transportation's mission, vision and values. It also fits many of our goals, including customers, system focus, safety and partners. We have been supporting the group's two years of collaborative efforts to form partnerships to better serve the area's non-motorized needs.

If you should have further questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (989) 773-7756, extension 301.

Sincerely,

Terence W. Palmer
Mt. Pleasant TSC Manager

TWP/kay



August 17, 2010

Dear Mid Michigan Community Pathways Group:

On behalf of the Mid Michigan Cycling Club, I would like to extend support for efforts of the Mid Michigan Community Pathways Group. The creation of a non-motorized pathway from Clare to Ithaca, through Rosebush, Mt. Pleasant, Shepherd, and Alma will create a safe environment for commuters and recreation users alike. The cycling community recognizes the health and environmental benefits of riding and commuting by bicycle, and welcomes the opportunity for more of the community to enjoy what we are so passionate about.

Non-motorized pathways not only provide a wonderful health benefit but by linking the communities, adding artwork, and a safe riding environment the economic benefits that would come with the creation of this trail are innumerable.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this project and the grant applications submitted to implement this program. Feel free to contact me for any further information.

Thank you,

Allison Quast
Manager



Mid Michigan
Community College

Great careers start here.

August 14, 2010

Mid Michigan Non-Motorized Pathway Group
C/O Brian Atkinson, Cost and Scheduling Engineer
Mt. Pleasant TSC
1212 Corporate Drive
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Dear Mr. Atkinson

This letter is written in support of the efforts of the Mid Michigan Non-Motorized Pathway Group to create a non-motorized trail system to connect the cities, villages, and municipalities in the counties of Gratiot, Isabella, and Clare. Connecting a trail system between these entities would greatly enhance the usage of non-motorized trails in these areas, creating a safe environment for bicycling, walking, and running.

At Mid Michigan Community College (MMCC), we seek to support endeavors that will enrich all aspects of our students' lives as well as the lives of the community members we serve. We recognize that obesity is a major problem in the United States, and our counties are certainly no exception. To combat this ever-growing problem, we need to provide means by which people can exercise inexpensively and safely. Furthermore, to protect our environment, to conserve energy, and to ensure that our students can access resources, we need to provide a means of inexpensive and safe transportation routes. The non-motorized pathway system would provide such access.

You are well aware of the dwindling resources we are all confronting, due to the well-documented demise of the automotive industry in the state of Michigan and the resulting structural economic changes. At MMCC, we applaud the efforts of the Non-Motorized Pathway Group to advance this cause, despite the economic situation. We are very appreciative that the group has chosen to collaborate and to share expertise so that scarce resources are maximized. Your collaborative efforts are exactly what the state needs during this dire time in our history.

Mid Michigan Community College supports not only the non-motorized concept but also the collaborative spirit that this group exhibits. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 989.386-6602 if I can offer further support of the non-motorized initiative in the heart of Michigan.

Sincerely

Carol A. Churchill, President
Mid Michigan Community College



Middle Michigan Development Corporation

Representing the Central Michigan Region:
The Counties of Clare and Isabella

August 13, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

Please let this letter serve as Middle Michigan Development Corporation's support for the Federal Tiger II grant requests being made by the Mid-Michigan Community Pathway Group in the creation of a regional trail system.

Middle Michigan Development Corporation has supported recreation and activity over its 30 year history and we view this Trail System as highly valuable to the economic and social vitality of our region.

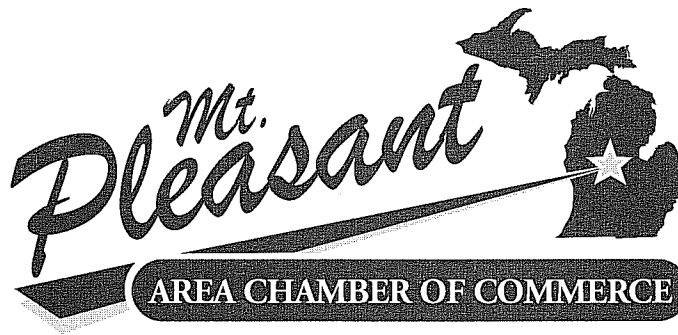
With the creation of this Trail System we will strengthen an already strong recreational system of parks and rivers that will better unite and connect our region. We strongly urge your support.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Anderson
President & CEO

111 South University
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
Phone: (989) 772-2858
FAX: (989) 773-2115

Website: www.mmdc.org



August 18, 2010

RE: Rail to TRAIL Pathways Project and Grant Applications

Dear Mid Michigan Community Pathways Group,

It is a great honor to provide a letter of support for the Mid Mi Community Pathway Group regarding the three grant applications for the **Rails to Trails** project. The Mid Mi Community Pathway Group recently received the approval to submit three separate federal Tiger II grants for the creation of the Mid Mi Community non-motorized trail system. The pathway will connect Clare, Rosebush, Mt. Pleasant, Union Township, CMU, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian tribe, Shepherd, St. Louis, Alma, and Ithaca. This proposed project is consistent with the regional non-motorized master plan for the area.

The Mt. Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce whole heartedly endorses his project as the Chamber supports non-motorized modes of transportation as a means to building healthy communities. This Chamber hosts one of the largest professional bicycle races in the Midwest each year entitled, "Le Tour de Mont Pleasant" which is modeled after the Tour de France. Last year over 595 competitive race entrants graced our streets in downtown Mt. Pleasant and throughout Isabella County for a weekend of racing in all types of competitive events. We also hosted a Family Fun Ride and a Commuter's Race where business organizations competed against each other to raise funds for a charitable cause.

The bicycling phenomena sweeping Mt. Pleasant, Isabella and Gratiot County has produced resurgence in bicycling for fitness, recreation and health. More bicyclists are on the roads today than the past several years. And more cyclists are asking for more trails and options for community cycling opportunities. These grant applications represent an opportunity to serve our local communities in so many positive ways. These include improving health status through bicycling, walking and jogging, building community collaboration as we become more connected to our neighboring communities, recreational opportunities that will bring in tourism dollars, fitness and cycling club utilization, and the chance to highlight our beautiful outdoor recreation. The added benefit of public art along the Rails to Trails path will provide a mark of distinction for our area that will draw and attract numerous visitors each year.

Thank you again for the opportunity to support this most worthwhile project. We strongly endorse the submission of the grant applications to implement this program. Please feel free to contact me should you need further information,

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Hadden".

Lisa Hadden
President & CEO



August 16, 2010

Dear Mid Michigan Community Pathway Committee,

On behalf of the Mount Pleasant Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, I would like to express our support for the Mid MI Community Non-Motorized Trail System connecting our local communities. This would connect several locations in Isabella County including Mt. Pleasant, Union Township, CMU, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Shepherd and Rosebush. It would also connect the surrounding communities including Clare, St. Louis, Alma, and Ithaca.

Mt. Pleasant and surrounding communities are striving to become more "bike friendly" by creating a regional non-motorized trail system in Mid Michigan. Our community has embraced cycling by creating a Mid Michigan Cycling Club and hosting the Le Tour de Mont Pleasant the past two years which brought in over 500 racers to our area. This trail system would be a great attraction and addition to our local community and visitors.

We are grateful for this opportunity to improve the trail system and know that this has great potential to help our local economies. If I may be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (989) 772-4433.

Sincerely,

Chris Rowley
Executive Director



THE CITY OF MT. PLEASANT, MICHIGAN

CITY HALL

320 W. Broadway St. • 48858-2447
(989) 779-5300
(989) 773-4691 fax

PUBLIC SAFETY

804 E. High St. • 48858-3599
(989) 779-5100
(989) 773-4020 fax

PUBLIC WORKS

1303 N. Franklin St. • 48858-4682
(989) 779-5401
(989) 772-6250 fax

August 6, 2010

Terry Palmer, TSC Manager
Michigan Dept. of Transportation
1212 Corporate Drive
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858

Subject: Mt. Pleasant Area Pathway Group Project Application

Dear Mr. Palmer:

The City of Mt. Pleasant is a participant in the Mt. Pleasant Area Pathway Planning Group. This group was formed to encourage bicycle and pedestrian safety and accessibility in the Mt. Pleasant area. The City of Mt. Pleasant has embarked upon a similar effort to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety through the application of Complete Streets Programs. The City is funding several projects to increase pedestrian safety and to provide dedicated bike lanes by narrowing travel lanes and providing bicycle paths.

The City of Mt. Pleasant supports the effort of the Mt. Pleasant Area Pathway Group to apply for funding to finance the planning and development of a pathway system surrounding the Mt. Pleasant community. This pathway will connect major use areas within the City, Township, and Tribal areas of the community. The City supports the effort to obtain state and federal funds to develop an integrated pedestrian and bicycle pathway system.

We appreciate the efforts of the Planning Group in this important endeavor, and encourage them in their funding efforts.

Sincerely,
CITY OF MT. PLEASANT – PUBLIC WORKS

Duane F. Ellis, P.E., Director
Division of Public Works, (989) 779-5402

DFE/jac
[10-141]



ROGER KAHN, M.D.
STATE SENATOR

32ND DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 30036
LANSING, MI 48909-7536
PHONE: (517) 373-1760
TOLL-FREE: (866) 305-2132
FAX: (517) 373-3487
www.senate.michigan.gov/kahn

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
CHAIR — DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH
VICE-CHAIR — DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES
VICE-CHAIR — JUDICIARY AND
CORRECTIONS
VICE-CHAIR — RETIREMENT
TRANSPORTATION — VICE-CHAIR

August 17, 2010

Mark Craft, Managing Director
Gratiot County Road Commission
200 Commerce Dr
Ithaca, MI 48847

Dear Mark:


I am writing to enthusiastically support your efforts to secure grant funding for Gratiot County's portion of the Mid Michigan Community Pathway.

I am a tremendous proponent of providing as many recreational options as possible for our people. Not only am I a supporter of such options, I have actively worked to encourage non-motorized pathways, including sponsoring legislation to extend the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail. I am very pleased to see that Gratiot County continues to create an atmosphere of attracting and retaining a highly educated workforce; construction of the Mid Michigan Community Pathway will only help to enhance these efforts.

As a Medical Doctor, I am passionate about seeing our youth learn active, healthy lifestyles early in life. I truly believe the Mid Michigan Community Pathway will make great strides in making Gratiot County a healthier, more livable, walkable, and sustainable community. I am strongly supportive of your application and look forward to assisting in any way possible.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to write on behalf of this very worthwhile project. Please keep me updated on its status.

Sincerely,


Roger Kahn, M.D.
State Senator
32nd District

Village of Shepherd



PO Box 523
Shepherd

251 W. Wright
MI 48883

(989) 828-5278

Mid Michigan Community
Trails Committee:

July 29, 2010

The Village Council of the Village of Shepherd strongly supports the efforts of Mid Michigan Pathways to create a trail system connecting Mid Michigan communities, cities and villages in the Mid Michigan area of Gratiot, Isabella and Clare Counties have created non-motorized trails within their corporate entities. Creating a trail system connecting these entities would allow non-motorized travel between communities that would enhance the use of the existing trails by residents throughout the area. The trails would provide a safe means for area residents to engage in healthy recreational activities such as bicycling, jogging or walking.

As a result of difficult financial times for Michigan cities and villages, providing recreational facilities for our residents is more crucial than ever for their physical well being. Unfortunately, the ability of municipal entities to provide those facilities is reduced by dwindling revenues. Therefore, any financial assistance provided by private foundations or state and federal governments is essential to making these connecting trails become a reality.

The cooperative efforts of villages and cities of the Mid Michigan area demonstrates a willingness of communities to work together for the benefit of the entire region. The Village of Shepherd recognizes and appreciates the efforts of Mid Michigan Pathways in creating safe, enjoyable trail systems in Clare, Gratiot and Isabella Counties.

Sincerely,

Lee Coughlin
Village President
Village of Shepherd

**RESOLUTION 2010-13
CITY OF ST. LOUIS**

Support for Development of Mid Michigan Community Trail

Minutes of a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of St. Louis, County of Gratiot, Michigan held on the 17th day of August, 2010, at 7:30 a.m.

Present: Mayor Joe Scholtz, Mellissa Allen, Jerry Church, William Shrum

Absent: James Kelly

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Member Allen, and supported by member Church.

WHEREAS, the City of Saint Louis has encouraged and undertaken actions to improve the walkability of this community; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan and Federal Governments, the Michigan Municipal League, and many others have recognized that walkable, interconnected communities are important assets for making for a more sustainable future; and

WHEREAS, through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, the Federal Government has realized its value by offering grant funding under the TIGER 2 program; and

WHEREAS, an area identified for a new walking/bicycle trail is along the Old US-27 Corridor, which intersects Ithaca, Alma, St. Louis, Shepherd, Mt. Pleasant, and Clare; and

WHEREAS, such a trail connecting those communities along the Old US-27 Corridor will likely bring additional trade, commerce, and tourism, making for a more sustainable future for our children and grandchildren;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Saint Louis supports an application for funding of the Mid Michigan Community Trail through the federal Tiger 2 transportation program at an approximate cost of \$28 million.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Saint Louis agrees to be an active participant in the discussions and planning with the Michigan Department of Transportation and all of the other communities along the Old US-27 Corridor to advance this project.

Dated: August 17, 2010



Nancy L. Roehrs, City Clerk

RESOLUTION
Charter Township of Union Planning Commission
Support for Development of Mid Michigan Community Trail

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Union has encouraged and undertaken actions to improve the walkability of its community; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan and Federal governments, the Michigan Townships Association, and many others have recognized that walkable, interconnected communities are important assets for making for a more sustainable future ; and

WHEREAS, through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, the Federal Government has realized its value by offering grant funding under the TIGER 2 program; and

WHEREAS, an area identified for a new walking/bicycle trail is along the Old US-27 Corridor, which intersects The Charter Township of Union, Ithaca, Alma, St. Louis, Shepherd, Mt. Pleasant, and Clare; and

WHEREAS, such a trail connecting those communities along the Old US-27 Corridor will likely bring additional trade, commerce, and tourism, making for a more sustainable future for our children and grandchildren;

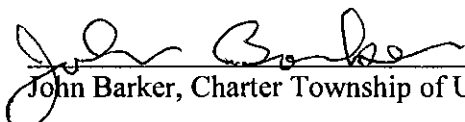
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Charter Township of Union supports an application for funding of the Mid Michigan Community Trail through the federal TIGER 2 transportation program at an approximate cost of \$28 million.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Charter Township of Union agrees to be an active participant in the discussions and planning with the Michigan Department of Transportation and all of the other communities along the Old US-27 Corridor to advance this project.

Dated: August 18th, 2010



Alex Fuller, Secretary
Charter Township of Union Planning Commission



John Barker, Charter Township of Union Supervisor



108 S University, Suite 6, Mt. Pleasant MI 48858

August 18, 2010

Vision 20/20's Committee on Quality of Life is in full support of Mid-Michigan Community Pathway Group's efforts to obtain funding to construct a Non-Motorized Pathway to connect communities in Isabella, Gratiot and Clare Counties, in addition to connecting to the Fred Meijer and Pere Marquette Pathways.

This coincides with one of 20/20's ongoing projects which is to encourage an active lifestyle by promoting a safer, more walkable and bikeable community.

We look forward to participating and promoting this project and seeing it come to fruition to the benefit of the citizens of the mid-Michigan area and neighboring communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Sidney Smith". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

W. Sidney Smith
Co-Chair

Vision 20/20 Mission statement: To foster intergovernmental cooperation, economic development, leadership development, quality of life and educational opportunities in Isabella County.