

Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail

RESOLUTION __-_____

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE INDIANA-MICHIGAN RIVER VALLEY TRAIL PLAN

WHEREAS non-motorized transportation is an important element for the health and quality of life for residents and an economic development tool for the communities of Berrien County and Southwest Michigan and St. Joseph County and Northwest Indiana as well as a popular recreational activity for visitors to enhance their overall travel experience; and

WHEREAS a connected 34-mile trail system called the Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail connecting Niles, MI to Mishawaka is a collaborative effort of local, regional, State and Federal agencies.

WHEREAS the Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail is a crucial north-south link in the overall non-motorized and green infrastructure network in southwest Michigan and northern Indiana.

WHEREAS the “Connecting Michigan Statewide Trailways Vision and Action Plan” recommends linking trailways together, gaining cooperation to encourage regional and statewide collaboration, and to create a “statewide trailways network that will provide transportation, leisure, recreation and community benefits and encourage residents’ active participation and support” with trailway activities; and

WHEREAS the “Hoosiers on the Move: The Indiana State Trails, Greenways and Bikeways Plan” with its goal of “a trail within 15 minutes of every Hoosier by 2016”, and Objective 1 of the State Trails Plan calls for increasing partnerships with Federal, State, Local, Not for-profit and private resources to build a statewide network of trails; and

WHEREAS the Michiana Area Council of Governments in order to mitigate congestion, improve air quality, and respond to the importance of establishing an accessible and efficient non-motorized transportation network, has developed a comprehensive bikeway and pedestrian walkway plan for St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties; and

WHEREAS the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission’s 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan is committed to encouraging walking and other forms of non-motorized movement for community health and environmental improvements; Participate and/or co-sponsor public education programs aimed at increasing walking and other forms of non-motorized commuting; Consider pedestrian and bicycle features (e.g., dedicated lanes along roadways and bridges, bulb outs, cross walks) as a part of transportation projects during the initial planning and design phases; and

WHEREAS a team of representatives from various local, regional, State and Federal agencies and municipalities has been assembled to develop the Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail implementation strategy; and

WHEREAS the Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail Task Force has identified a trail route connecting Niles, MI to Mishawaka, IN; and

WHEREAS _____
(Insert name of board or commission of municipality or agency) has identified the provision of non motorized transportation facilities and greenways as a priority in the future planning of Berrien County, MI and St. Joseph County, IN and the southwest Michigan and Northwest Indiana regions in order to improve connectivity between communities, places of interest and destinations and enhance quality of life and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors in the region.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that _____
(Insert name of board or commission of municipality or agency) hereby endorses the Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail concept for further development, and supports the exploration of funding and other methods of implementation of the plan in order to make it a reality.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, (20__) by the

(Insert name of board or commission of municipality or agency)

Name and Title

Name and Title

Name and Title

Name and Title

Name and Title

Name and Title

Name and Title

Name and Title

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