



Department of Community &
Economic Development
McHenry Municipal Center
333 Green Street
McHenry, Illinois 60050
Phone: (815) 363-2170
Fax: (815) 363-2173
www.ci.mchenry.il.us

June 29, 2017

Re: Support for Regional Active Mobility Program Application

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of McHenry City Council recently passed a resolution supporting a Local Technical Assistance Grant application, which is being submitted by McHenry County for their ongoing study, planning and analysis of the Fox River Corridor, which is wonderful complement to the grant being submitted by the City of Aurora. Similar to many of the other villages and cities along the Fox River Corridor the City of McHenry is a recreational community with more than 640 acres of parkland. Additionally, the City lies on the banks of the Fox River and is adjacent to Moraine Hills State Park and the Prairie Path/Great Western Trail extend through a large section of our community.

City of McHenry staff is currently pursuing initiatives which have a great deal of synergy with the proposed grant application including: a potential partnership with McHenry County in extending an existing bike path from the Prairie Path east so users can access Moraine Hills State Park. Additionally, the City of McHenry also has an extensive wayfinding program and an expansion of this program would be beneficial particularly for tourism and economic development, which are major priorities for our City.

The City of McHenry is in the midst of several major projects, which in some manner relate and will benefit from the proposed grant application. These include: downtown revitalization and reopening of our downtown theater, extension of the McHenry Riverwalk, erecting a section of the Historic Pearl Street Bridge across Boone Lagoon, decommissioning our central wastewater plant, which will then be redeveloped in the future, marketing a property the City owns on the Fox River for private development, construction of a public boat launch on the Fox River, conducting a parks and recreation needs assessment as well as ascertaining the potential next phase of our recreation center campus.

Tourism and bike sharing are also initiatives we have been pursuing. All of these projects including wayfinding will enhance and supplement these efforts and enhance the region and quality of life for residents and visitors. Similar to other cities and villages the City of McHenry is

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home to numerous community events and festivals such as Fiesta Days, Thursday night band concerts and farmers markets in Veterans Memorial Park, which draw people from all over the Chicagoland region and other states.

The City of McHenry has two bicycle shops and I have spoken with both owners recently about bike sharing and they are interested in learning more about what a bike sharing program might look like; the potential users of a program and how they could participate. Both are very active in our community. I am also on the McHenry County Public Transit Advisory Committee and we have discussed bike sharing on a county-wide scale.

The City of McHenry is a community rich in history and tradition with three unique downtowns as well as a host of national and international retailers and manufacturing companies. The City of McHenry is built on a foundation of relationships, partnerships and mutual collaboration and takes tremendous pride in the many partnerships we have formed with other governmental entities and organizations.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 815-363-2110.

Sincerely,

Douglas P. Martin AICP ICMA-CM ARM, Director of Economic Development

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