



January 13, 2025

Re: Niles-Buchanan Trail Connection Project

The City Commission of the City of Buchanan would like to express its support for the Niles-Buchanan Trail Connection Project. The Niles-Buchanan Trail Connection project is a key 3.4-mile improved shared-use path along Walton Road including a trailhead at Walton and Winn Roads.

This key trail project in Southwest Michigan will connect the cities of Niles and Buchanan in Berrien County by linking two regionally significant trails, the McCoy's Creek Trail and the IN-MI River Valley Trail. The McCoy's Creek Trail is a 6-mile trail through Buchanan, while the IN-MI River Valley Trail is a 20+ mile trail that routes from Niles, MI to Mishawaka, IN.

Connecting these trails in Berrien County will be transformational as they are Michigan's gateways from major population centers, Chicago and South Bend/Mishawaka regions. This project is supported by a multi-stakeholder partnership, including partners from local and county government, non-profit, and community advocates. The project is also a priority in local, county and regional planning documents.

We look forward to having a safe, non-motorized option connecting these two urban areas in Southwest Michigan. Additional benefits include both physical and mental health, community building, economic/tourism development, and an enhancement to our region's overall quality of life.

Sincerely,

Mayor Mark Weedon