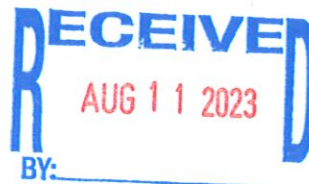


Gary L. Vandenberg  
PO Box 1000  
352 Mariners Cove  
Douglas, MI 49406



August 9, 2023

City Council  
Douglas City Hall  
86 W. Center Street  
Douglas, MI 49406-0757

Dear City Council Members,

The chain ferry and Saugatuck- Douglas History Museum are wonderful public assets in our community. Yet from the Museum side of the river, these assets are not easily accessible by pedestrians. With Ferry Street being so narrow and public parking so limited, wouldn't it make sense to encourage safe pedestrian and bicycle traffic to the area in the future?

Currently the sidewalk in Douglas runs along Ferry Street from Center Street to just past Westshore Street. If this walking and bicycle path extended to the chain ferry, it would significantly encourage use of these public facilities. Residents and tourists along Ferry Street could also access the Root Beer Barrel and Outside Coffee without driving.

The narrow right of way and challenging topography would make it challenging to build. Moving the walkway from one side of the road to the other side once or twice in this .8 of a mile stretch would make it less difficult.

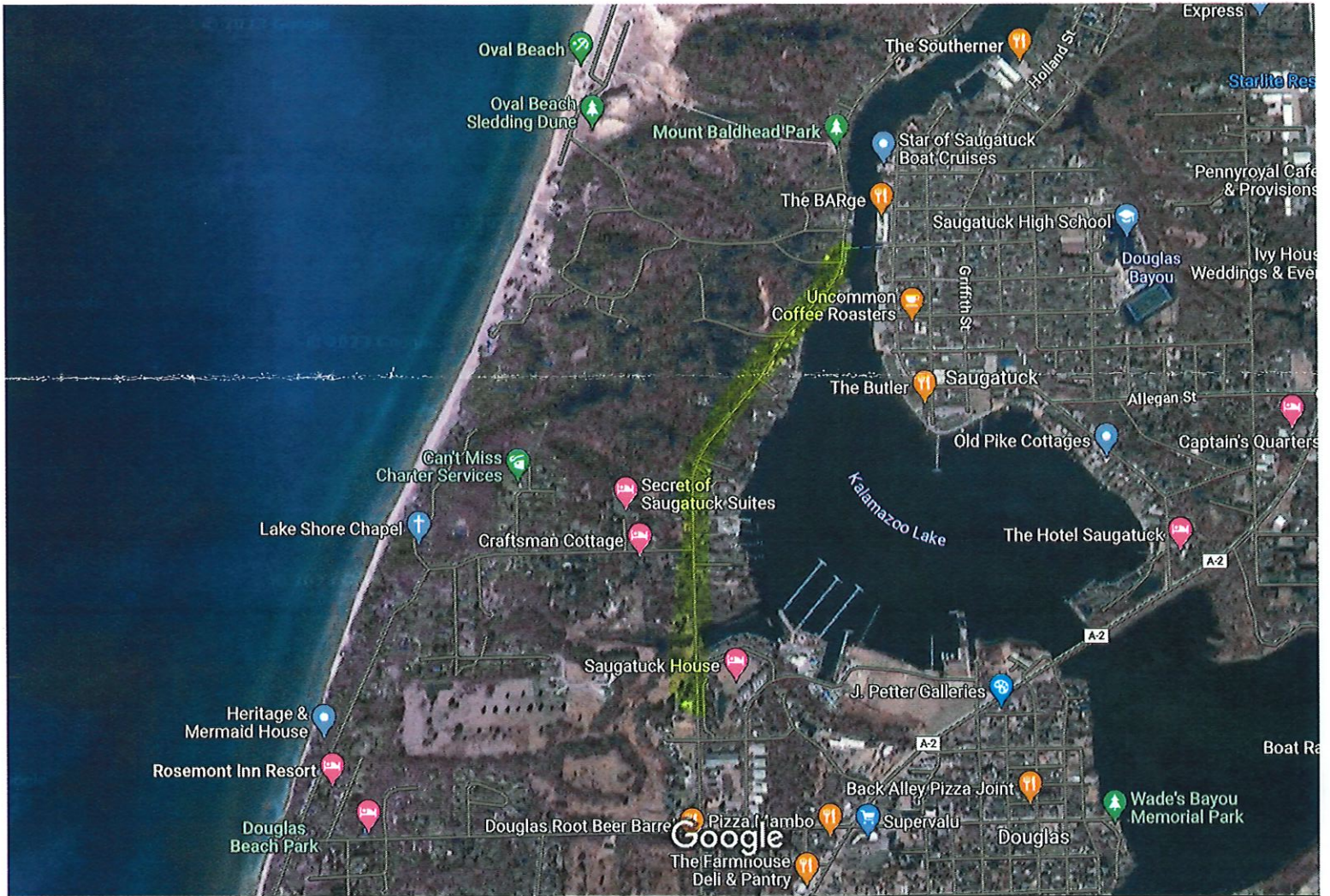
Such a paved walkway would encourage healthy exercise and be much better for the environment than bringing even more cars into this area. It would encourage use of our public assets. It would also encourage patronage of our local businesses.

If you are looking to form a Citizen's Committee to investigate the cost and feasibility, I would consider serving.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary L. Vandenberg



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