



*The Village of Friendliness – Since 1870*

**To: The city of the Village of Douglas City Council**

**From: Lisa Nocerini, City Manager**

**RE: Resolution of Support: Transportation Alternatives Grant Application for the Blue Star Highway Trail Extension**

**Date: September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

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The City of Douglas, Saugatuck Township, and Friends of the Blue Star Trail are submitting a grant application to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) under the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), this fall. The grant will focus on extending the existing Blue Star Highway Trail, bridging the gap from Wiley Road to the anticipated endpoint at M-89.

This project represents a crucial step in our ongoing initiative to enhance connectivity between Douglas's residential neighborhoods, commercial centers, and adjacent communities. The proposed trail extension will link several significant areas within the Village of Douglas to the broader trail network, including previously completed segments in neighboring Laketown Township. This connection will serve our diverse community, improving accessibility for all residents, including those in underserved neighborhoods. Moreover, the new pathway will open additional recreational and commuting opportunities, fostering a more inclusive and active lifestyle.

An added advantage of this project is its potential to facilitate future expansion. The proposed trail provides a foundation for extending south along the Blue Star Highway, further integrating our community with other regional trails and local destinations, as planned this trail will aim to eventually connect into South Haven.

The attached resolution is required by MDOT as a component of the application.

*Recommended Motion: Approve Resolution No. 21-2024 in support of the Transportation Alternatives Grant Application for the Blue Star Highway Trail Extension.*