

# Appendix A: Letters of Support

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## Letters of Support from US and State Senators and Representatives

### Illinois Support

United States House of Representatives, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Robin Kelly

### Indiana Support

United States Senator, Mike Braun

United States House of Representatives, 1<sup>st</sup> District, Frank Mrvan

Indiana State Senate, District 1, Frank Mrvan (BUILD letter)

Indiana State Senate, District 2, Lonnie Randolph (BUILD letter)

Indiana State Senate, District 4, Karen Tallian

Indiana State Senate, District 3, Eddie Melton (BUILD letter)

Indiana House of Representatives, District 2, Earl Harris

Indiana House of Representatives, District 9, Pat Boy

### Michigan Support

United States Senator, Gary C. Peters (TIGER letter)

United States House of Representatives, 6<sup>th</sup> District, Fred Upton (BUILD letter)

Michigan State Senate, 21<sup>st</sup> District, Kim LaSata

Michigan House of Representatives, 78<sup>th</sup> District, Brad Paquette

## Letters of Support from Government Agencies

### Illinois Support

Chicago City Council, 10<sup>th</sup> Ward, Alderwoman Susan Sadlowski Garza

Chicago Department of Transportation (BUILD letter)

Chicago Park District (TIGER letter)

Chicago Metropolitan Area for Planning

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (BUILD letter)

### Indiana Support

City of Gary, Mayor Jerome Prince

City of East Chicago, Mayor Anthony Copeland

City of Hammond, Mayor Thomas McDermott, Jr.

City of Michigan City, Mayor Duane Parry

City of Portage, Mayor Sue Lynch  
City of Whiting, Mayor Steve Spebar  
Gary Public Transportation Corporation  
Lake County Council (by resolution)  
Porter County Parks  
Porter County Development & Stormwater Management  
Town of Beverly Shores  
Town of Burns Harbor  
Town of Ogden Dunes  
Town of Porter  
County of LaPorte Commissioners  
Indiana Dunes National Park  
Indiana Dunes State Park  
Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority  
Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District

*Michigan Support*

City of New Buffalo  
New Buffalo Township  
County of Berrien  
Chickaming Township (BUILD letter)  
Village of Grand Beach (BUILD letter)  
Village of Michiana  
Michigan Dept. of Transportation  
New Buffalo Downtown Development Authority (BUILD letter)  
New Buffalo Area Schools (TIGER letter)  
St. Joseph Township (TIGER letter)  
Southwest Michigan Planning Commission



## Other Letters of Support

### Illinois Support

Active Transportation Alliance  
Calumet Collaborative  
Metropolitan Planning Council (BUILD letter)  
Openlands

### Indiana Support

Causes for Change  
Greenways Foundation of Indiana (BUILD letter)  
Health by Design  
Indiana Dunes Tourism  
Lake County Economic Alliance (BUILD letter)  
Miller Neighborhood Spotlight (BUILD letter)  
Northern Indiana Public Service Company  
One Region  
Save the Dunes  
Shirley Heinze Land Trust  
South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority  
South Shore Trails  
Northwest Indiana Forum  
NWI Forum READI Grant Submission Confirmation  
The Nature Conservancy  
Visit Michigan City – LaPorte  
Visit Miller Beach

### Michigan Support

Bike Michiana  
Cornerstone Alliance  
Friends of Berrien County Trails  
Forward New Buffalo (BUILD letter)  
Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce (BUILD letter)

Lake Michigan College

Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council (BUILD letter)

Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance

The Pokagon Fund

Toast Hotel Group (BUILD letter)

Three Oaks Spokes (BUILD Letter)

West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum

Whirlpool Cycling Club

### **National Letters of Support**

Adventure Cycling

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE - VICE CHAIR  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION  
AND COMMERCE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS  
AND TECHNOLOGY  
COMMITTEE ON  
OVERSIGHT AND REFORM  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1302

ROBIN L. KELLY  
2ND DISTRICT, ILLINOIS  
2416 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-0773  
DISTRICT OFFICES:  
600 HOLIDAY PLAZA DRIVE  
SUITE 505  
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(708) 679-0078  
1000 EAST 111<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SUITE 5N  
CHICAGO, IL 60628  
(773) 321-2001  
WEBSITE: [WWW.ROBINKELLY.HOUSE.GOV](http://WWW.ROBINKELLY.HOUSE.GOV)

June 1, 2021

United States Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to support the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*. NIRPC is the MPO for Northwest Indiana and lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC's impressive partnership includes three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

The Marquette Greenway's long-standing mission is to connect Chicago eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, Michigan, a distance of 60 miles. NIRPC has championed the Greenway for more than a decade, and to date nearly half of this route is either built or funded. This RAISE grant would complete the remaining 29 miles.

The Marquette Greenway route winds through a diverse cross-section of communities and land-uses and would link residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders of the Indiana Dunes. In addition, it would connect a variety of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail and across the region.

I am confident NIRPC and its partners share the expertise and commitment to complete this project, which in part reflects Daniel Burnham's vision in his landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago*. Thus, I urge you to give this request full and fair consideration under applicable guidelines. If you need additional information, please have staff contact my senior adviser, Rick Bryant, at 312-505-6001. Thank you for your consideration in this unique opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin L. Kelly".

Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress

## United States Senate

July 1, 2021

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

This letter is in support of an application for grant funding submitted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) under the Department of Transportation's RAISE grant program.

If allocated, this funding will support the completion of the final 29 miles of the Marquette Greenway. The Greenway has been a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a total distance of 60 miles. NIRPC along with their partners have worked for over a decade on the project and to date nearly half the route has either been built or is funded.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would link both residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders offered by the Indiana Dunes. In addition, the Greenway would link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

I respectfully request that you give full and fair consideration to the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission's grant request. If I can provide any further assistance or additional information, please contact my office at 317-822-8240. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mike Braun  
United States Senator

**FRANK J. MRVAN**

1ST DISTRICT, INDIANA

1607 LONGWORTH  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0007  
(202) 225-2461

7895 BROADWAY, SUITE A  
MERRILLVILLE, IN 46410  
(219) 795-1844

<http://mrvan.house.gov>



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0007

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
CHAIRMAN - TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION  
HEALTH  
EDUCATION AND LABOR COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSIONS  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CO-CHAIRMAN - CONGRESSIONAL STEEL CAUCUS  
CONGRESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CAUCUS

June 14, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20003-3660

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in strong support of a proposal submitted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) for the consideration of funding offered through the Fiscal Year 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant opportunity.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Northwest Indiana and is the lead applicant in the effort to implement this project, Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway. The Marquette Greenway is a multi-modal trail proposed through Northwest Indiana, along the south shore of Lake Michigan, and creates a continuous connection between the lakeshore communities in Indiana to Chicago, Illinois and New Buffalo, Michigan for approximately 60 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Marquette Greenway for over a decade; to date nearly half of this route has either been built or funded. Impressively, the Marquette Greenway partnership includes three states, three counties, seven municipalities, and the Indiana Dunes National Park, all committed to the planning and construction of this trail to offer connections to the greater Chicagoland region of nearly 8 million people.

As reflected in its proposal, NIRPC, in coordination with the project partners, assembled this request to address segment gaps in the remaining 29 miles that link to constructed or funded segments. The partnership forged to bring the Marquette Greenway to fruition recognizes the trail's potential as a key economic driver in Northwest Indiana, given its ability to benefit several components within the region. The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and, once complete, will link both residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders offered by the Indiana Dunes as protected by the Indiana Dunes National Park and the Indiana Dunes State Park. Additionally, the Marquette Greenway complements the established Lake Michigan and Kankakee River National Water Trails and effectively will provide three east-west recreational trail systems connecting Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois. Multiple north-south trails connect to the Marquette Greenway that together create

a comprehensive, alternative transportation system that links together a network of employment centers. NIRPC and its partners, inspired by the words Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 Plan of Chicago to "Make no little plans...", intend to ensure the Marquette Greenway serves as an economic catalyst that lends to improving the quality of life for residents in communities along the trail as well as the region in whole.

I know you will give this proposal the serious consideration it deserves. If you are in need of any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or have the appropriate member of your staff contact Elizabeth Johnson, Director of Projects and Grants, in my Merrillville District Office at 219-795-1844.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Mrvan  
Member of Congress

FJM:ej

Senator Frank Mrvan  
Co-Minority Whip  
200 West Washington Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
(317) 232-9532  
[s1@iga.in.gov](mailto:s1@iga.in.gov)

Committees:  
Agriculture, RMM  
Insurance and Financial Institutions, RMM  
Education and Career Development  
Health and Provider Services  
Homeland Security and Transportation  
Natural Resources  
Veterans Affairs and The Military

June 22, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2018 BUILD application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

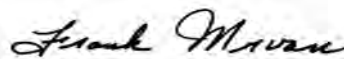
NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 58 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and to date nearly half of this route has either been built or funded. This BUILD grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 30 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses, and would link both residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders offered by the Indiana Dunes. In addition, the Greenway would link together a network of employment centers, and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago* to “Make no little plans...”, and this visionary plan viewed the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana. It is with this philosophy in mind the BUILD application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland and beyond.

Sincerely,



Frank Mrvan  
Indiana State Senator  
Senate District 1

Senator Lonnie M. Randolph  
200 West Washington Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
(317) 232-9532  
[s02@iga.in.gov](mailto:s02@iga.in.gov)

Committees:  
Commerce and Technology, RMM  
Judiciary, RMM  
Civil Law  
Ethics  
Public Policy  
Rules and Legislative Procedure  
Tax and Fiscal Policy  
Utilities

June 22, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2018 BUILD application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

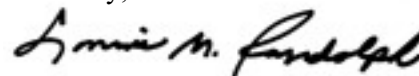
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The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 58 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and to date nearly half of this route has either been built or funded. This BUILD grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 30 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses, and would link both residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders offered by the Indiana Dunes. In addition, the Greenway would link together a network of employment centers, and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago* to “Make no little plans...”, and this visionary plan viewed the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana. It is with this philosophy in mind the BUILD application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland and beyond.

Sincerely,



Senator Lonnie M. Randolph  
Senate District 2



Senator Karen Tallian  
200 West Washington Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
(317) 232-9404  
[s4@iga.in.gov](mailto:s4@iga.in.gov)

Committees:  
Corrections and Criminal Law, RMM  
Appropriations  
Environmental Affairs  
Pensions and Labor  
Public Policy  
Rules and Legislative Procedure

May 27, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and to date nearly half of this route has either been built or funded. This RAISE grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would link both residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders offered by the Indiana Dunes. In addition, the Greenway would link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago* to "Make no little plans...", and this visionary plan viewed the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana. It is with this philosophy in mind the RAISE application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland and beyond.

Sincerely,



Karen Tallian  
Indiana State Senator  
Senate District 4

Senator Eddie Melton  
200 West Washington Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
(317) 232 9491  
[s3@iga.in.gov](mailto:s3@iga.in.gov)

Committees:  
Education & Career Development, RMM  
Natural Resources, RMM  
Agriculture  
Homeland Security & Transportation  
Insurance & Financial Institutions  
Pensions & Labor  
Veterans Affairs & The Military

July 18, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2018 BUILD application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 58 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and to date nearly half of this route has either been built or funded. This BUILD grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 30 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses, and would link both residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders offered by the Indiana Dunes. In addition, the Greenway would link together a network of employment centers, and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago* to “Make no little plans...”, and this visionary plan viewed the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana. It is with this philosophy in mind the BUILD application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland and beyond.

Sincerely,



Eddie Melton

Indiana State SenateSenate District 3



**STATE OF INDIANA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

THIRD FLOOR STATE HOUSE  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

EARL L. HARRIS JR.  
ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC FLOOR LEADER  
200 W. WASHINGTON STREET.  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

COMMITTEES:  
WAYS AND MEANS  
GOVERNMENT AND REGULATORY REFORM  
ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

June 21, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and to date nearly half of this route has either been built or funded. This RAISE grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would link both residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders offered by the Indiana Dunes. In addition, the Greenway would link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago* to “Make no little plans...”, and this visionary plan viewed the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana. It is with this philosophy in mind the RAISE application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland and beyond.

Sincerely,

Earl L. Harris, Jr.  
State Representative  
House District 02



**STATE OF INDIANA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

THIRD FLOOR STATE HOUSE  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

REPRESENTATIVE PATRICIA BOY  
200 WEST WASHINGTON STREET  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

June 4, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) is applying for a FY 2021 RAISE grant for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*. NIRPC, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, is the lead applicant for this grant request. An impressive partnership for this project involves three states, three Indiana counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. It directly touches a population of more than 130,000 and offers connections to the greater Chicagoland region of eight million people.

The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI – 60 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and nearly half of this route has either been built or funded. This RAISE grant would enable completion of the remaining 29 miles that link to these segments. We can't quit now!

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would link both residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders offered by the Indiana Dunes. It would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail and for the whole region.

“Make no little plans.” Daniel Burnham’s 1909 visionary, landmark Plan for Chicago viewed the greater Chicago area as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana. It is with this philosophy in mind that this RAISE application has been made to complete the Marquette Greenway. I am asking for your support. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Northwest Indiana.

Sincerely,

Patricia Boy  
[H9@iga.in.gov](mailto:H9@iga.in.gov)  
(800) 382-9842

# United States Senate

October 5, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

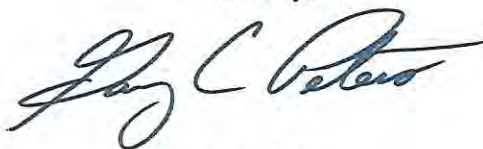
Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to express my strong support of the application submitted by the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) and the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) for funding through the Department of Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program. The parties are requesting the funds to support the proposed *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

The Marquette Greenway represents a long-standing vision to connect the greater Chicago area eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, Michigan, for a distance of 58 miles. To date, nearly half of this three-state route has either been built or funded. This TIGER grant application has been assembled to complete the remaining 30 miles of the route that, when completed, will provide for more direct and efficient travel within the Tri-State region for residents and tourists alike. Since 2013, the SWMPC and NIRPC have been working with an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to champion the development of the Marquette Greenway, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering safer and more efficient travel connections for a regional population of eight million.

I am confident this application for support through the Department of Transportation's TIGER competitive grant program will receive all appropriate consideration. If I may be of any assistance, please contact me or Peter Dickow of my Grand Rapids office at (616) 233 9150. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



FRED UPTON

6TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

ENERGY  
CHAIRMAN

HEALTH

DIGITAL COMMERCE AND  
CONSUMER PROTECTION



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

DC OFFICE:

2183 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2206  
(202) 225-3761  
FAX: (202) 225-4986

MICHIGAN HOME OFFICES:

350 E. MICHIGAN AVENUE  
SUITE 130  
KALAMAZOO, MI 49007  
(269) 385-0039  
FAX: (269) 385-2888

720 MAIN STREET  
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085  
(269) 982-1986  
FAX: (269) 982-0237

<http://upton.house.gov>

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

July 15, 2018

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to indicate my strong support for the *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grants program by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC).

NIRPC is working with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) and an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, Michigan, for a distance of 58 miles. Since 2013, the SWMPC has been working with NIRPC to champion the development of the Marquette Greenway to connect to Michigan and Chicagoland. To date nearly half of the three-state route has either been built or funded. This BUILD grant application has been assembled to complete the remaining 30 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The remaining portion of the proposed route of the Marquette Greenway needed to be constructed connects New Buffalo and the rest of Southwest Michigan to the nation's third largest population center, building greater cultural, recreational, and economic ties between Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois.

Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago* to "Make no little plans...", and this visionary plan viewed the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana and Michigan. It is with this philosophy in mind the TIGER application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland, Indiana, and Michigan.

Sincerely,

Congressman Fred Upton



21ST DISTRICT  
 P.O. BOX 30036  
 LANSING, MI 48909-7536  
 PHONE: (517) 373-6960  
 FAX: (517) 373-0897  
 senklasata@senate.michigan.gov

**THE SENATE**  
**STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**Kimberly LaSata**  
**Assistant Majority Floor Leader**

SERVING BERRIEN, CASS  
 AND ST. JOSEPH COUNTIES  
 StateSenatorKimLaSata.com

June 8, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
 Office of the Secretary  
 U.S. Department of Transportation  
 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
 Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and to date half of this route has either been built or funded. This RAISE grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would link both residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders offered by the Indiana Dunes. In addition, the Greenway would link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago* to "Make no little plans...", and this visionary plan viewed the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana and Michigan. It is with this philosophy in mind the RAISE application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland and beyond.

Sincerely,

Kim LaSata  
 State Senator  
 21<sup>st</sup> District

**COMMITTEES:**  
 TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, VICE CHAIR • APPROPRIATIONS  
 ECONOMIC AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT • ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY  
 HEALTH POLICY AND HUMAN SERVICES • INSURANCE AND BANKING

**APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES:**  
 UNIVERSITIES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES, CHAIR • CAPITOL OUTLAY, VICE CHAIR • COMMUNITY HEALTH/HUMAN SERVICES





78TH DISTRICT  
STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 30014  
LANSING, MI 48909-7514

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**BRAD PAQUETTE**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PHONE: (517) 373-1796  
FAX: (517) 373-5918  
BradPaquette@house.mi.gov  
www.RepPaquette.com

July 2, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

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Sincerely,

Brad Paquette  
State Representative  
Michigan's 78th District





**CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF CHICAGO  
COUNCIL CHAMBER**

City Hall - Third Floor, Room 300  
121 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
Workforce Development Office: (312) 744-3078

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

**CHAIRWOMAN  
COMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

- Budget and Government Operations
- Committees and Rules
- Education and Child Development
- Ethics and Government Oversight
- Finance
- Health and Human Relations
- Special Events, Cultural Affairs, and Recreation
- Workforce Development

**SUSAN SADLOWSKI GARZA  
ALDERWOMAN, 10TH WARD**

10500 S. Ewing Ave, Floor 1  
Chicago, Illinois 60617  
Ward Office Phone: (773) 768-8138  
Ward Office Fax: (773) 768-8176  
ward10@cityofchicago.org

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

May 25, 2021

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

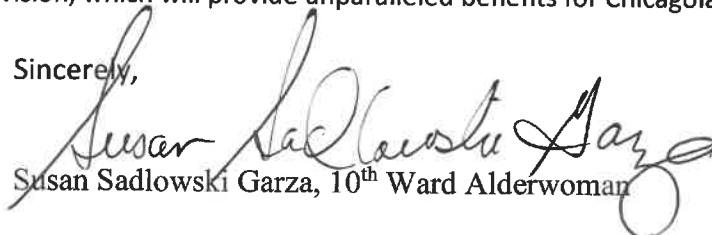
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Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago* to "Make no little plans...", and this visionary plan viewed the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana. It is with this philosophy in mind the RAISE application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland and beyond.

Sincerely,

  
Susan Sadlowski Garza, 10<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderwoman



CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
CITY OF CHICAGO

July 17, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2018 BUILD application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 58 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and to date nearly half of this route has either been built or funded. This BUILD grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 30 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses, and would link both residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders offered by the Indiana Dunes. In addition, the Greenway would link together a network of employment centers, and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago* to "Make no little plans...", and this visionary plan viewed the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana. It is with this philosophy in mind the BUILD application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland and beyond.

Sincerely,

Luann Hamilton

Deputy Commissioner  
Division of Project Development



Michael P. Kelly

Chicago Park District General Superintendent and CEO

541 N. Fairbanks Ct, Chicago, IL 60611

p: 312.742.7529

October 13, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave., SE

Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway TIGER Application

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application for \$24,245,000 to the Department of Transportation's FY 2017 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request, and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 58 miles. This TIGER grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 30 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses, and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers, and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 312-742-7529 or Michael.Kelly@chicagoparkdistrict.com.

Sincerely,

*Michael P. Kelly*  
Michael P. Kelly

General Superintendent and CEO

**Administration Office**

541 North Fairbanks Ct.  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
(312) 742-7529  
(312) 747-2001 (TTY)  
www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

**Board of Commissioners**

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& CEO**

Michael P. Kelly

City of Chicago  
Rahm Emanuel  
*Mayor*





# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

433 West Van Buren Street  
Suite 450  
Chicago, IL 60607

312-454-0400  
cmap.illinois.gov

June 22, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is pleased to support the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission's (NIRPC) FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) application to complete the Marquette Greenway multi-state trail.

As the comprehensive regional planning organization of northeastern Illinois, CMAP helps communities to thrive by supporting initiatives that will make metropolitan Chicago a more resilient and competitive region. The Marquette Greenway will complement the extensive network of multiuse trails in CMAP's Northeastern Illinois Regional Greenways and Trails Plan, which was adopted within the regions ON TO 2050 long-range plan.

Completing the Marquette Greenway would have a significant local and regional impact. The Greenway will improve quality of life by connecting coastal communities, employment centers, and access to transit across three states. This project will address climate change and improve safety by providing an uninterrupted trail for bicyclists and pedestrians. The trail will also provide greater access to natural wonders like Lake Michigan and the Indiana Dunes National Park.

Once again, CMAP is supportive of NIRPC's RAISE application to complete the remaining half of the Marquette Greenway. CMAP shares NIRPC's commitment to completing this multistate trail knowing the significant positive impact it will have on northeastern Illinois, our neighbors, and visitors.

Sincerely,

Erin Aleman  
Executive Director

TM:EA/stk

## Board Members

Gerald Bennett, Chair  
Rita Athas  
Frank Beal  
Matthew Brolley  
Maurice Cox  
Karen Darch  
James Healy  
John Noak  
Rick Reinbold  
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Matthew Walsh  
Diane Williams

## Non-voting Members

Leanne Redden  
Abolfazl Mohammadian

## Executive Director

Erin Aleman



## Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Bruce Rauner, Governor  
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

July 9, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for: *Completing the Vision -The Marquette Greenway* BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to indicate my strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2018 BUILD application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 58 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and to date nearly half of this route has either been built or funded. This BUILD grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 30 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

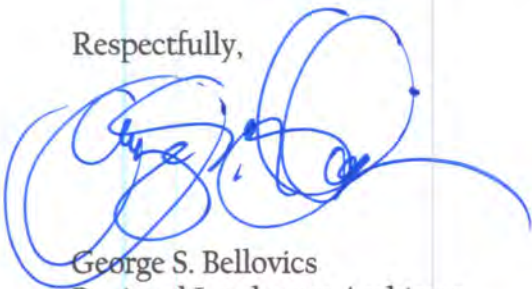
The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses, and would link both residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders offered by the Indiana Dunes. Additionally, the Greenways' intent to link with Illinois and the Grand Illinois Trail system and those within Michigan elevates the project and demonstrate its national significance.



Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago* to “Make no little plans...”, and this visionary plan viewed the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana. It is with this philosophy in mind the BUILD application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made.

Thank you for your consideration of this tremendous opportunity to showcase and support Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commissions' FY 2018 BUILD application for the Marquette Greenway.

Respectfully,



George S. Bellovics  
Regional Landscape Architect  
Grand Illinois Trail Coordinator  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Region 1 Office of Engineering & Planning  
C/o  
Castle Rock State Park  
1365 West Castle Road  
Oregon, IL 61061  
(815) 732-4270 Office  
(815) 441-5929 Cell  
[George.bellovics@illinois.gov](mailto:George.bellovics@illinois.gov)



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

JEROME PRINCE  
MAYOR

Phone 219.881.1302  
Fax 219.881.1337

June 21, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

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The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and to date nearly half of this route has either been built or funded. This RAISE grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

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Sincerely,

Jerome A. Prince, Mayor

401 Broadway • Suite 203 • Gary, Indiana 46402-1236

*Anthony Copeland*  
MAYOR

July 7, 2021



*City of East Chicago*  
4527 INDIANAPOLIS BLVD.  
EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA 46312  
219-391-8200 • 219-391-8397 FAX

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

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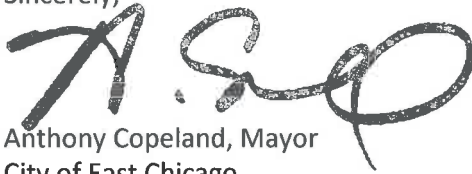
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Sincerely,



Anthony Copeland, Mayor  
City of East Chicago





**Thomas M. McDermott, Jr.**

Mayor

**CITY OF HAMMOND**

May 25, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in support of the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission's (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, directly touching a population of over 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

The Marquette Greenway represents a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 57 miles. NIRPC continues to champion the development of the Greenway for over a decade and, to date, nearly half of this route has either been built or funded. This application has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The City of Hammond constructed and operates 6.6 miles of trail including two pedestrian bridges along the Marquette Greenway. A portion of the remaining 2.1 miles of Hammond's portion is in design and the balance of the project received FHWA funding through NIRPC, showing Hammond's commitment to the visionary trail and its importance in linking Indiana to both Illinois and Michigan.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would link both residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders offered by the Indiana Dunes.

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Sincerely,

Thomas M. McDermott, Jr.  
Mayor

5925 Calumet Avenue  
Hammond, Indiana 46320

**219.853.6301**

fax: 219.931.0831

www.gohammond.com

e-mail: mayor@gohammond.com

Thanks for consideration  
Secretary Pete -  
Congratulations my friend!  
Mike Tam  
McDermott





**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
City of Michigan City  
MAYOR DUANE PARRY**

**May 27, 2021**

**The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590**

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Duane Parry".

Duane Parry  
Mayor



*Sue*  
**Lynch**  
MAYOR

June 27, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue I. Lynch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sue I. Lynch  
Mayor  
City of Portage





**Whiting**

June 7, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

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**City of Whiting**

1443 119th Street • P.O. Box 591 • Whiting, Indiana 46394 • tel. 219.659.7700 • fax. 219.473.4452  
[www.whitingindiana.com](http://www.whitingindiana.com)

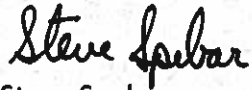


June 7, 2021

Page 2

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Spebar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Spebar

Mayor, City of Whiting



June 30, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

ADMINISTRATION FACILITY  
100 West 4th Avenue  
(219) 884-7555

TRANSPORTATION/MAINTENANCE  
2101 West 35th Avenue  
(219) 884-6100

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to indicate the Gary Public Transportation Corporation's support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and to date nearly half of this route has either been built or funded. This RAISE grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would link both residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders offered by the Indiana Dunes. In addition, the Greenway would link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

As a transit provider which has long provided service that is bike-friendly, we see this as a "WIN" for our agency. Our service currently provides access to three locations on the Greenway, and plans exist for service that would access several other connection points. Facilitating multimodal travel reduces a barrier to transportation and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago* to "Make no little plans...", and this visionary plan viewed the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana. It is with this philosophy in mind the RAISE application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland and beyond.

Sincerely,

David W. Wright  
Planning and Marketing Manager



RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING  
COMMISSION'S (NIRPC) FY2021 RAISE GRANT APPLICATION  
FOR COMPLETING THE VISION: THE MARQUETTE GREENWAY

**WHEREAS,** NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant in partnership with three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; and

**WHEREAS,** the Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, Illinois eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to new Buffalo, Michigan with a paved non-motorized facility spanning 60 miles; NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and to date nearly half of this route has either been built or funded; and

**WHEREAS,** the RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments; and

**WHEREAS,** the proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land uses and would link both residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders offered by the Indiana Dunes; additionally, the Greenway would link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail and the region in whole; and

**WHEREAS,** the Marquette Greenway will represent an unparalleled trail experience, traversing through a diverse landscape, both geographic and socio-economic.

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED:**

That the Lake County Council supports Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission's (NIRPC) FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

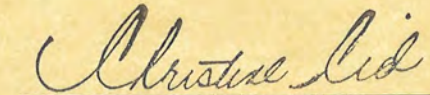
SO RESOLVED THIS 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2021.



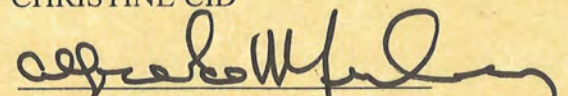
DAVID HAMM

  
TED F. BILSKI, President

CHRISTIAN J. JORGENSEN

  
DANIEL E. DERNULC

CHRISTINE CID

  
ALFREDO MENCHACA  
CHARLIE BROWN





June 01, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

**Porter County Parks  
and Recreation Board**

Craig Kenworthy

Drew Armstrong

Bryan Waisanen

Erin Labovitz

Karl English

David Hollenbeck  
*Attorney*

Walter Lenckos  
*Superintendent*

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and to date nearly half of this route has either been built or funded. This RAISE grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would link both residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders offered by the Indiana Dunes. In addition, the Greenway would link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago* to "Make no little plans...", and this visionary plan viewed the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana. It is with this philosophy in mind the RAISE application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter J. Lenckos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Walter" and last name "Lenckos" clearly legible.

Walter Lenckos  
Superintendent, Parks and Recreation





May 26, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and to date nearly half of this route has either been built or funded. This RAISE grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would link both residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders offered by the Indiana Dunes. In addition, the Greenway would link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago* to "Make no little plans...", and this visionary plan viewed the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana. It is with this philosophy in mind the RAISE application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland and beyond.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Thompson, AICP  
Director

# TOWN OF BEVERLY SHORES

PO BOX 38, BEVERLY SHORES, IN 46301  
(219) 728-6531 FAX (219) 728-6532  
Beverlyshores.clerk@gmail.com

June 15, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buegling  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buegling,

I am writing to indicate the Beverly Shores Town Council support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and to date nearly half of this route has either been built or funded. This RAISE grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would link both residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders offered by the Indiana Dunes. In addition, the Greenway would link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago* to "Make no little plans...", and this visionary plan viewed the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana. It is with this philosophy in mind the RAISE application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland and beyond.

Sincerely,



Geof R. Benson  
Town Council President



# Town of Burns Harbor

## Redevelopment Commission

1240 North Boo Road  
Burns Harbor, Indiana 46304-9707  
T: (219) 787-9413 • F: (219) 787-1353

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June 25, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Town of Burns Harbor Redevelopment Commission, I am writing to indicate Burns Harbor support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway.

In 2021, the Town of Burns Harbor completed a 1.5-mile segment of the Marquette Greenway at a total project cost of \$2.44 million. The remaining 1.5-mile section that traverses a new planned unit development and the Indiana Dunes National Park will be fully constructed by 2022 at a cost of approximately \$5.1 million. Grants through the State of Indiana's Next Level Trails, Recreational Trails and Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Programs have been instrumental in accelerating trail development and private investment within Burns Harbor.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and to date nearly half of this route has either been built or funded. This RAISE grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

Thank you for your consideration of the Marquette Greenway implementation vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Northern Indiana, Chicagoland and beyond.

Sincerely,

Eric Hull  
President



## Town of Ogden Dunes

115 Hillcrest Road  
Ogden Dunes, Indiana 46368  
219-762-4125

July 7, 2021

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U. S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington D.C. 20590

**Re: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Town of Ogden Dunes, Indiana to indicate our support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE Application for *Completing the Vision: the Marquette Greenway*.

NIRPC continues to serve as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has established impressive partnerships encompassing three states, three counties, seven municipalities as well as the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, directly serving a population of 130,000 while offering connections to the greater Chicagoland area of 8 million people.

The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, Illinois by proceeding eastward along the Indiana shoreline of Lake Michigan and continuing on to New Buffalo, Michigan; a combined distance of 58 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the "Greenway" for over a decade, and to date, nearly half of this route has been completed or funded. The RAISE grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 30 miles that will link the segments previously mentioned.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway flows through a diverse cross-section of land-uses providing both residents and visitors the opportunity to experience the unique and natural wonders of the Indiana Dunes. In addition, the Greenway would link together a network of commercial districts serving as an economic catalyst promoting growth while improving the quality of life for those along the trail and throughout the region. The Town of Ogden Dunes reserves the right to continue discussions with NIRPC, and other participants, regarding the development, the final location of the trail and the costs associated with any portion of The Marquette Greenway running through or around the Town of Ogden Dunes.

In the landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago*, Daniel Burnham and Edward H. Bennett wrote: "Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will never die, but long after we are gone will be a living thing, asserting itself with ever-growing insistency." It is with this philosophy in mind that the RAISE application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of a vision that will provide unparalleled opportunities to the Chicagoland area and beyond.

Sincerely,

J. Douglas Cannon  
Town Council President





June 14, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and to date nearly half of this route has either been built or funded. This RAISE grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would link both residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders offered by the Indiana Dunes. In addition, the Greenway would link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago* to "Make no little plans...", and this visionary plan viewed the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana. It is with this philosophy in mind the RAISE application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland and beyond.

Sincerely,

Greg Stinson, Town Council President



**LA PORTE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202  
La Porte, IN 46350-3400  
(219) 326-6808 ext. 2229

**Richard Mrozinski  
President**

**Joseph Haney  
Vice President**

**Sheila Matias  
Member**

May 25, 2021

**The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590**

**Subject: Support for Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway RAISE Application**

**Dear Secretary Buttigieg,**

**I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway.**

**NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.**

**The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and to date nearly half of this route has either been built or funded. This RAISE grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.**

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**Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 Plan of Chicago to "Make no little plans...", and this visionary plan viewed the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana. It is with this philosophy in mind the RAISE application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland and beyond.**

Sincerely,

**Richard J. Mrozinski, Jr.  
President, La Porte County Board of Commissioners**





IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Indiana Dunes National Park  
1100 N. Mineral Springs Road  
Porter, Indiana 46304-1299

May 26, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

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Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago* to "Make no little plans...", and this visionary plan viewed the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana. It is with this philosophy in mind the RAISE application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland and beyond.

Sincerely,

Superintendent, Indiana Dunes National Park



Indiana Dunes State Park  
1600 N 25 East  
Chesterton, IN 46304  
219-926-1952

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and to date nearly half of this route has either been built or funded. This RAISE grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

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Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 Plan of Chicago to "Make no little plans...", and this visionary plan viewed the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana. It is with this philosophy in mind the RAISE application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland and beyond.

Sincerely,

Michael Rea  
Property Manager  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
1600 N 25 East  
Chesterton, IN 46304





June 29, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and to date nearly half of this route has either been built or funded. This RAISE grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

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Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago* to "Make no little plans...", and this visionary plan viewed the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana. It is with this philosophy in mind the RAISE application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland and beyond.

Sincerely,

Sherri Ziller  
Interim Chief Executive Officer/Chief Operating Officer  
Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority



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June 18, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate NICTD's support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, Illinois eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and to date nearly half of this route has either been built or funded. This RAISE grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

NICTD's support rests on several conditions which we and NIRPC believe can be met. These include:

- A third-party would complete the detailed engineering analysis that demonstrates there is sufficient room for the path as well as required railroad, safety and regulatory clearances from our tracks/assets. NICTD will want to participate in the selection of this entity.
- In the future, should NICTD need the portion of the right-of-way (ROW) on which the path would be built, the parties agree that the trail will be relocated off of the ROW using separate (non-railroad) funding that the parties agree to jointly pursue.
- A third-party would secure Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Nature Preserves approval in writing for the path through Cline Avenue Nature Preserve.
- A third-party would secure approval from any other real estate owner affected by the plan, which may include South Shore Freight and/or Save the Dunes Conservation Fund.
- A third party would manage all permitting and approvals for the project.

We are glad to participate in this application. Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole Barker".

Nicole Barker  
Director of Capital Investment & Implementation





June 30, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

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Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago* to "Make no little plans...", and this visionary plan viewed the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana and Michigan. It is with this philosophy in mind the RAISE application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland and beyond.

Sincerely,

John Humphrey  
Mayor,  
City of New Buffalo

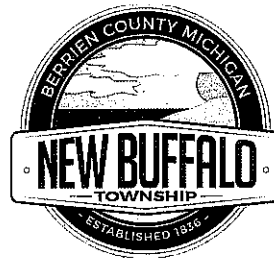
Michelle Heit  
Supervisor

Judy Zabicki  
Clerk

Jack Rogers  
Treasurer

Pete Rahm  
Trustee

Patty Iazzetto  
Trustee



*The Gateway of*

June 04, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and to date half of this route has either been built or funded. This RAISE grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would link both residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders offered by the Indiana Dunes. In addition, the Greenway would link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago* to "Make no little plans...", and this visionary plan viewed the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana and Michigan. It is with this philosophy in mind the RAISE application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland and beyond.

[www.newbuffalotownship.org](http://www.newbuffalotownship.org)

ph: 269-469-1011 – fx: 269-469-6711 ~ 17425 Red Arrow Highway, New Buffalo, MI 49117

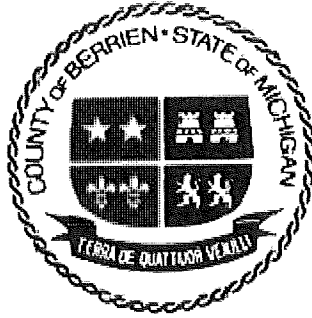
*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Heit". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

Michelle Heit  
New Buffalo Township Supervisor

County Administrator  
Brian Dissette



Berrien County Administration Building  
701 Main Street  
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Tel: (269) 983-7111, Ext. 8601  
Fax: (269) 983-5788  
Email: [bdissette@berriencounty.org](mailto:bdissette@berriencounty.org)

July 1, 2021

**To Whom It May Concern:**

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

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RAISE application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland and beyond.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Dissette', is written over the typed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends upwards and to the right.

Brian Dissette  
County Administrator



# CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP

---

13535 Red Arrow Hwy., P.O. Box 40, Harbert, MI 49115  
269.469.1676 phone 269.469.4416 fax [www.chikamingtownship.org](http://www.chikamingtownship.org)



June 21, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 58 miles. This BUILD Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 30 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

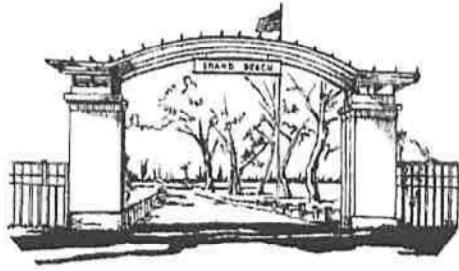
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Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 269-469-1676 or [dbunte@chikamingtownship.org](mailto:dbunte@chikamingtownship.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Bunte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David A. Bunte  
Supervisor — Chikaming Township



VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH  
48200 Perkins Blvd., Grand Beach, MI 49117  
(269) 469-3141 Fax (269) 469-0146

June 21, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grants program.

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Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 773-704-1756 or [pleonard@grandbeach.org](mailto:pleonard@grandbeach.org).

Sincerely,



Paul A. Leonard, Jr.  
President, Grand Beach Village Council



June 14, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

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Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago* to "Make no little plans...", and this visionary plan viewed the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana and Michigan. It is with this philosophy in mind the RAISE application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made. Thank you for your consideration of this vision, which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland and beyond.

Sincerely,



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
LANSING

PAUL C. AJEGBA  
DIRECTOR

June 14, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

This letter is to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2021 RAISE application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*. NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park, directly touching a population of 130,000, and offering connections to the greater Chicagoland region of 8 million people.

The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, Illinois, eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, Michigan, for 60 miles. NIRPC has championed the development of the Greenway for over a decade, and to date half of this route has either been built or funded. This RAISE grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

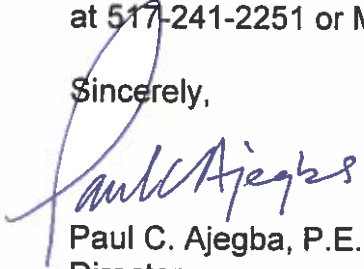
The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land uses and would link both residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders offered by the Indiana Dunes. In addition, the Greenway would link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Daniel Burnham wrote in his landmark 1909 *Plan of Chicago* to "Make no little plans...", and this visionary plan conceptualized the greater Chicago region as a metropolitan region with strong connections into Indiana and Michigan. It is with this philosophy in mind that the RAISE application for completing the Marquette Greenway has been made.

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Page 2  
June 14, 2021

Thank you for your consideration of this vision which will provide unparalleled benefits for Chicagoland and beyond. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact either me or Eric Mullen, Asset Management and Policy Division Administrator, at 517-241-2251 or MullenE@Michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul C. Ajegba". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

Paul C. Ajegba, P.E.  
Director

cc: Eric Mullen



July 12, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 58 miles. This BUILD Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 30 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

**The City of New Buffalo Downtown Development Authority Board strongly supports the advancement of non-motorized access to our city. Our board voted unanimously to send this letter of support. As the gateway to Michigan from the South and West, this will help all of our state residents. This will help us continue to be better positioned for positive community development.**

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 269-469-2027x408 or robertk@toasthotelgroup.com.

Sincerely,

Robert Kemper  
Chairperson/City of New Buffalo Downtown Development Authority



**Office of the Superintendent**

**Dr. Jeffrey Leslie**

[jleslie@nbas.org](mailto:jleslie@nbas.org)

---

October 9, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Office of the Secretary - U.S. Dept of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* TIGER Application**

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application for \$24,245,000 to the Department of Transportation's FY 2017 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request, and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 58 miles. This TIGER grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 30 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses, and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers, and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

As the route will end in downtown New Buffalo, the business district will benefit through additional tourism revenue and so will families in New Buffalo Area Schools. The stores and restaurants employ several of our students, as well as their parents. Additional patronage will contribute to the success for all involved. Possibly, some of these visitors will see the attraction of our area and purchase property.

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please contact me at 269 469-6010 or [jleslie@nbas.org](mailto:jleslie@nbas.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey M. Leslie".

Jeffrey M. Leslie  
Superintendent of Schools



B E R R I E N C O U N T Y

*A Full Service Community*

3000 Washington Avenue  
P.O. Box 147  
St Joseph, MI 49085

Telephone: (269) 429-7703  
Fax: (269) 429-2079

October 9, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Support for Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway TIGER Application**

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to state our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application for \$24,245,000 to the Department of Transportation's FY 2017 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request, and has constructed an extraordinary partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 58 miles. This TIGER grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 30 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses, and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers, and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

St. Joseph Charter Township supports the proposed Marquette Greenway project which would create additional recreational opportunities for the three states involved. Township officials are all too aware of the economic decline, population loss, and urban decay that have occurred due to the shrinking of this area's once powerful industrial sector and we welcome this project with open arms, knowing that it possesses the potential to trigger increased tourism, economic growth, public health improvements and environmental education.

Thank you for your consideration of this genuinely transformative project, which embraces the means to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (269) 429-7703. or [dcook@sjct.org](mailto:dcook@sjct.org).

Sincerely,

Denise Cook, Manager  
St. Joseph Charter Township



# Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

June 19, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

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**The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission is leading the effort in Michigan. We are excited about the stakeholders coming together to support this significant project. SWMPC is the manager of the TwinCities Metropolitan Planning Organization and this project is a high priority in the 2045 Long Range Plan.**

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 269-925-1137 x1512 or [hamiltonm@swmpc.org](mailto:hamiltonm@swmpc.org)

Sincerely,

*Marcy Hamilton*

Marcy Hamilton  
Deputy Executive Director

376 West Main Street, Suite 130 • Benton Harbor, MI 49022-3651



ACTIVE  
TRANSPORTATION  
ALLIANCE

35 E. Wacker Drive  
Suite 1782  
Chicago, IL 60601-2314

T 312.427.3325  
F 312.427.4907  
info@activetrans.com  
[www.activetrans.org](http://www.activetrans.org)

June 25, 2018  
The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the Active Transportation Alliance, I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 58 miles. This BUILD Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 30 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Based in Chicago, the Active Transportation Alliance is a non-profit advocacy organization that works to improve conditions for walking, bicycling and public transportation. We believe regional trails like the Marquette Greenway are critical for creating healthier, more equitable communities, cleaner environments, and vibrant local economies. We highly encourage you to support this project, which has the potential to positively impact millions of people across the region.

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 312-427-3325 or [ron@activetrans.org](mailto:ron@activetrans.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Burke".

Ron Burke, Executive Director





July 12, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept our strongest support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request, representing an inclusive partnership involving the states of Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan; the three counties of NW Indiana; and the Indiana Dunes National Park. The Marquette Greenway embodies a long-standing vision to span the 60 miles of Indiana shore between Chicago, IL and New Buffalo, MI. This RAISE Grant has would complete the remaining 29 miles.

As an organization committed to a more just and sustainable region, we are hopeful that this application will receive full funding. The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway would provide safe non-motorized activity for the low-income and racialized communities clustered along the trail route. The Greenway will link together employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst, further improving the quality of life for people close to the trail, and the broader region.

Thank you for your consideration of this transformative project. If you have any questions, please contact me at 773-510-6434 or [catania@calumetcollaborative.org](mailto:catania@calumetcollaborative.org).

Respectfully,

Maggie Catania  
Interim Executive Director

# Metropolitan Planning Council

June 28, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

Please accept our strongest support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) FY 2018 BUILD application for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway*.

Metropolitan Planning Council is keenly interested in the achievement of this vision. Once completed, the Marquette Greenway will increase connection between the 10 million people of the broader Chicagoland region; will make the Indiana Lakeshore more accessible; and will ultimately span 58 miles to directly link our region to Michigan. NIRPC's tenacious leadership for more than a decade has ensured that almost half of the Greenway has already been completed.

For this BUILD grant, NIRPC has mobilized a formidable partnership of three states, three counties, seven municipalities, and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. We are confident that, if this proposal is funded, the 30 remaining miles will be built and the Marquette Greenway will be completed.

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding our unconditional endorsement of NIRPC's application.

Sincerely,



Josh Ellis  
Vice President  
312-863-6045  
[jellis@metroplanning.org](mailto:jellis@metroplanning.org)

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*Chairman  
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*BMO Harris Bank*

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*CenterPoint Properties*

Marsha Cruzan  
*U.S. Bank*

Craig J. Duchossois  
*The Duchossois Group, Inc.*

John S. Gates, Jr.  
*PortaeCo LLC*

Stephen J. Hagge  
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Edward R. Hamberger  
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Michael L. Keiser  
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Christie B. Kelly  
*Jones Lang LaSalle*

Karen Layng  
*Scheck Industries*

Raymond J. Lewis  
*Care Capital Properties, Inc.*

Jeff Malehorn  
*World Business Chicago*

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*The Banc Funds Company, LLC*

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J. Marshall Peck  
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*The PrivateBank*

Joan Rockey  
*CastleArk Management LLC*

Michael Scudder  
*First Midwest Bancorp*

Robert A. Sullivan  
*Fifth Third Bank*

Scott Swanson  
*PNC Bank*

Frederick H. Waddell  
*Northern Trust*

Edward J. Wehmer  
*Wintrust Financial Corporation*

## President

MarySue Barrett •



Suite 1650 | 25 East Washington Street | Chicago, IL 60602-1708 | Tel: 312-863-6250 | Fax: 312-863-6251 | [www.openlands.org](http://www.openlands.org)

June 23, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Openlands has long-encouraged bi-state and tri-state trail connections to build out our Midwestern trail network. This project is a premier example of a critically important trail which will serve a network of many other connecting trails throughout our region.

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at [danderson@openlands.org](mailto:danderson@openlands.org)

Sincerely,

Ders Anderson  
Greenways Director  
Openlands



it starts with **one...**

June 06, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.



it starts with **one...**

Causes for Change International, a non-profit organization working to impact the lives of persons with disabilities. We have worked as a partner with NIRPC for more than nine years. Our vision for the Marquette Greenway is that it will allow access for people who use a variety of mobility devices, communication devices and most of all to use the path that will allow opportunities for all. The Marquette Greenway will grant opportunities for employment and community inclusion to a special population that throughout history has been undervalued.

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 773-447-8500 or [zully@CausesforChange.org](mailto:zully@CausesforChange.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zully", is written over a large, sweeping, horizontal line that extends across the width of the signature area.

Zully JF Alvarado  
President & Founder





July 10, 2018



The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

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**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission's (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 58 miles. This BUILD Grant request has been assembled to complete the remaining 30 miles that link to these completed or already-funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

The Greenways Foundation of Indiana strongly supports the connection of the Marquette Greenway from Chicago along the Indiana shoreline of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, Michigan. The Foundation is a statewide charitable trust working to promote the growth, enhancement and use of Indiana greenways. The proposed project is in keeping with our ongoing efforts, and we look forward to its ultimate completion.

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at (317) 339-6179 or [tmb1952@yahoo.com](mailto:tmb1952@yahoo.com).

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Bruns, President  
Greenways Foundation of Indiana

Greenways Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 80091  
Indianapolis, IN 46280-0091

[info@greenwaysfoundation.org](mailto:info@greenwaysfoundation.org)  
[greenwaysfoundation.org](http://greenwaysfoundation.org)



**Find a trail. Find yourself.**

June 25, 2021



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Health by Design staff team and our coalition partners, I am writing to offer our strongest support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

At Health by Design, we work at the intersection of the built environment and public health, collaborating across sectors and disciplines to ensure Indiana communities have neighborhoods, public spaces and transportation infrastructure that promote active living for all. Active transportation and transportation alternatives are at the core of our work to ensure that people can access daily needs and destinations including school, work, mass transit, food, and health care. We support projects like this because they not only promote public health and safety, but they support community economic development, enhance resiliency and sustainability, build civic engagement, and generally improve quality of life for all.

The Marquette Greenway will achieve all of this and more, as a regional economic development asset that connects diverse people and places while providing a local amenity to multiple communities contributing to destination creation and placemaking across the region. We appreciate your consideration of this truly transformative project for Northwest Indiana, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Irwin".

Kim Irwin, MPH  
Executive Director



June 30, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park. Indiana Dunes Tourism is part of this partnership and supports this effort. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 219-926-2255 or [christine@indianadunes.com](mailto:christine@indianadunes.com).

Sincerely,

Christine Livingston  
Indiana Dunes Tourism  
1215 N State Road 49  
Porter, IN 46360



---

440 W. 84<sup>th</sup> Drive | Merrillville, IN 46410 | 219/756-4317 | [www.lcea.us](http://www.lcea.us)

June 20, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 58 miles. This BUILD Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 30 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

The Lake County IN Economic Alliance (LCEA), as the economic development agency for the Lake County and its nearly 500,000 citizens, understands quality of place and is supportive of completion of the final phase of this project. LCEA knows that there are several factors when company executives choose to relocate to Lake County, Northwest Indiana. Through this grant, the region will continue to show our commitment to bettering lifestyle amenities in order to attract and retain business, talent and investment.

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 219-756-4317 or [klauerman@lcea.us](mailto:klauerman@lcea.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen M. Lauerman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen M. Lauerman President & CEO

cc. Donald Koliboski, Vice President LCEA



July 14, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway BUILD Application***

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 58 miles. This BUILD Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 30 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Gary's Miller Spotlight Initiative has worked closely with Causes for Change International for the past three years and our backbone organization, the Miller Beach Arts & Creative District to improve active transportation options in Northwest Indiana. As the community builder for Gary's 1st District (Miller-Aetna-Glen Ryan-East Emerson), I feel confident expressing my full support for the project being proposed.

It has been demonstrated multiple times that further funding for universally designed recreational spaces and adaptive equipment is needed in Gary to fully engage all of our community. Uniting northern Indiana via a green trail will be a major asset for our area. This proposed project will contribute greatly to helping us attain these community goals.

I eagerly anticipate collaborating on this project.

Sincerely,

Jessica Renslow  
Community Builder-Gary, IN



June 08, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 219-647-4066 or [rcalinski@nisource.com](mailto:rcalinski@nisource.com).

Sincerely,

*Rick Calinski*

Rick Calinski  
NIPSCO  
Director of Public Affairs & Economic Development  
801 E. 86th Street  
Merrillville IN 46410  
Office: 219-647-4066  
[rcalinski@nisource.com](mailto:rcalinski@nisource.com)



June 22, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing on behalf of One Region to wholeheartedly share our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

We believe that completing the Marquette Greenway will not only enhance quality of life for our residents but it will strengthen the broad vision of creating a regional connection from Chicago to South Bend. The Marquette Greenway is a trail that will connect Chicago eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. We only have 29 remaining miles to build. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete these remaining miles that link to portions that have already been built or funded.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also provide a walkable link to the expanded South Shore line that runs from Chicago to South Bend and also connects employment centers. As a whole, it would serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region.

One Region is an organization that strives to grow population, attract and retain talent, and increase household income by enhancing quality of life. We include the Northwest Indiana Regional Opportunities Council (NIROC), a group of over 30 business CEOs and executives from Indiana's Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties and express our support to complete the Marquette Greenway through the RAISE Grant.

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize our economy and connect our people. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 219.669.8571 or [marie@oneregionnwi.org](mailto:marie@oneregionnwi.org).

Sincerely,

Marie Foster-Bruns  
President and CEO



June 30, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled a truly impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

The years of work undertaken to progress the Marquette Greenway project have been highly collaborative, and it is wonderful to see this culminating portion as a showcase for cross jurisdictional partnerships. Save the Dunes has been a proud partner in this work, and we are confident that this project would be successfully executed under the leadership of NIRPC. The impact of the completed Marquette Greenway on the communities of the Indiana Dunes region will be incredible, and we can think of no better organization to spearhead this effort than NIRPC.

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 219-879-3564 or [Natalie@savedunes.org](mailto:Natalie@savedunes.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Natalie Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Natalie Johnson  
Executive Director



June 30, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing on behalf of the Shirley Heinze Land Trust to indicate our support for Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

In addition to being supportive of the project, Shirley Heinze Land Trust is committed to helping advance the Marquette Greenway Plan. The Plan will:

- Increase the value and appreciation people have for some of the most fascinating and ecologically significant natural places in the Country, including places preserves owned and managed by Shirley Heinze Land Trust;
- Connect 60 miles of trails for recreation in a region that has significant environmental impacts;
- Provide safe non-motorized access through a diverse cross-section of land uses;
- Strengthen communities by advancing a common and shared vision;
- Raise the appreciation and understanding of what this region has to offer; and
- Improve the economy, health, and environment for all current and future residents.

Shirley Heinze Land Trust is a regional land trust involved in acquiring, restoring, and stewarding high quality natural areas throughout Northwest Indiana. To date, the organization has permanently protected more than 2,700 acres. Completing the Vision of the Marquette Greenway Plan will improve public access to these lands and, in turn, make it possible for more people to experience and enjoy the valuable natural heritage of our region.

In closing, Shirley Heinze Land Trust strongly endorses the RAISE application submitted by the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission that will undoubtedly improve the quality of life throughout Northwest Indiana, the Chicago Region, and beyond. If you have further questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 219.242.8558 or [kkrouse@heinzetrust.org](mailto:kkrouse@heinzetrust.org).

Sincerely,



Kristopher Krouse  
Executive Director





June 3, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate our support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Northwest Indiana has seen a visible increase in the VFR (visiting family and relatives) market and improvements along the Marquette Greenway and connection to Chicago, Illinois only reinforces why visitors should spend more time in Northwest Indiana.

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 219-688-4669 or [spero@southshorecva.com](mailto:spero@southshorecva.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Speros A. Batistatos".

Speros A. Batistatos, FCDME  
President/CEO

South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority



South Shore Trails, INC  
P.O. Box 483  
Robert, Indiana 46342-0183



July 1, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

South Shore Trails/Bike-Walk Northwest Indiana is an all-volunteer group of experts and policy advocates, promoting non-motorized and multi-modal transportation and connectivity across the Northwest Indiana region, to improve recreation, economic opportunity, community health and quality of life. As the only region wide group pursuing such goals, we can say that the Marquette Greenway will be a clear and outstanding contributor to achieving those goals.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 219-801-5275 or [parkerdbass@live.com](mailto:parkerdbass@live.com).

Sincerely,

Don Parker, Chair



6100 Southport • Portage, IN 46368 • 219.763.6303 Phone • 219.763.2653 Fax • [www.nwiforum.org](http://www.nwiforum.org)

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May 25, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole. Our recently released economic development plan, *Ignite the Region: Northwest Indiana's Strategy for Economic Transformation*, has placemaking as one of the five pillars of the plan. The Marquette Greenway will have a dramatic impact on quality of place for our region and continue to attract the talent critical to driving our economy.

The Northwest Indiana Forum is the regional voice for the business community and a significant catalyst for initiatives that promote economic development and create and retain quality jobs while protecting the environment. Our region encompasses Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Jasper, Newton, Pulaski and Starke Counties. We represent over 130 business investors including ArcelorMittal, BP, Cargill and Urschel Laboratories. Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 219.763.6303 or [hennis@nwiforum.org](mailto:hennis@nwiforum.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Ennis".

Heather Ennis  
President & CEO  
Heather Ennis



6100 Southport • Portage, IN 46368 • 219.763.6303 Phone • 219.763.2653 Fax • [www.nwiforum.org](http://www.nwiforum.org)

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July 8, 2021

Mr. Mitch Barloga, AICP  
Active Transportation Manager  
Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission  
6100 Southport Road  
Portage, Indiana 46368

Dear Mitch,

I am writing to inform you of your official submission for the NWI Forum's proposed application for Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) funds. Currently, we are in the process of reviewing project submissions throughout the Northwest Indiana region which aim to advance the quality of life, place and opportunity for our residents and businesses alike.

Your submission for the Marquette Greenway does represent an example of a project which aims to improve the quality of life for those living along Lake Michigan and will certainly be considered for our eventual recommendation.

The deadline for the READI grant will be August 31<sup>st</sup>, and at that time we will notify you of our decision in regard to your application request.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heather Ennis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather Ennis  
President & CEO

July 1, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

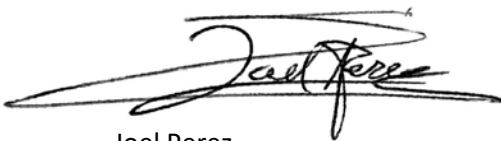
I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for 60 miles. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to already built or funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses, and would provide safe, non-motorized access for Black and Brown Residents who live in cities along the route. The Greenway would also help link together several important natural areas that stand out as rare gems in a highly built environment, further enhancing conservation opportunities as well as support for conservation.

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize Northwest Indiana and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 219-576-3938 or via email at [joel.perez-castaneda@tnc.org](mailto:joel.perez-castaneda@tnc.org).

Sincerely,



Joel Perez  
Project Director  
Lakeshore Office  
of TNC in Indiana



Visit



June 01, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

***As the official tourism organization representing the hospitality industry in LaPorte County we see this connection as a huge economic driver for the region.***

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 219-608-9659 or [jack@michigancitylaporte.com](mailto:jack@michigancitylaporte.com).

Sincerely,

  
Jack L. Arnett, Executive Director  
Visit Michigan City LaPorte

June 9, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590



**Subject: Support for Completing the Vision: Marquette Greenway RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate our whole hearted support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request, assembling an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park. The Marquette Greenway is a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built/already funded segments. The proposed Marquette Greenway route winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments.

*Gary, Indiana is largest of the lower/mixed-income communities along the Marquette Greenway. Our Miller Beach neighborhood downtown is located 1 block off of the Marquette Greenway. We need this initiative to help connect us to other communities and to downtown Gary's historic Union Station project. Our organization, Visit Miller Beach (510c3) works to bring tourism to our Gary neighborhood. We lead a community group called Miller Connections that works to improve our trails, and we are building up our tourism foundations. We need the Marquette Greenway completed and improved to help Gary, Indiana revitalize. We know it would bring more visitors, businesses, and jobs into our half vacant downtown corridor.*

Please support this initiative, it would have a catalytic effect here in Gary, in the heart of the rust belt. Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, that would help revitalize our City and its economy. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at (219) 939-0414 or [visitmillerbeach@gmail.com](mailto:visitmillerbeach@gmail.com), Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Blackwell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P".

Peggy Blackwell, President  
Visit Miller Beach (501c3)  
[www.VisitMillerBeachGary.com](http://www.VisitMillerBeachGary.com)



The Coalition seeks a more bicycle-friendly community by:  
Encouraging bicycling for commuting and recreation;  
Expanding and improving bicycle infrastructure; and  
Educating citizens and government

Bike to Work Week

Friends of Granger Paths

Michiana Bicycle Association

Northern Indiana Mountain Bike Association

Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail

Indiana-Michigan River valley Trail

Bike South Bend

President:  
*Pete Jank*

Vice President:  
*Judy Lee*

Secretary:  
*Dustin New*

Treasurer:  
*Chris VandenBossche*

Dir. Events Marketing:  
*J.V Peacock*

Dir. Membership & Bike to Work  
*Karen Haun*

Dir. At Large:  
*Aaron Divine*  
*Zach Dripps*  
*Greg Furry*

[BikeMichiana.org](http://BikeMichiana.org)

BMC  
PO Box 11699  
South Bend, IN  
46634

June 11, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate our strong support from Bike Michiana Coalition for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Bike Michiana Coalition has helped develop and advocated bike networks in South Bend, IN and the surrounding areas, including the Indiana-Michigan Trail connecting South Bend to Niles, MI. Work is under way to extend this trail to St. Joseph, MI and we would like to see it join together with the proposed trail along the lake shore. Bike trails are proven means of encouraging bicycling as a healthy activity and alternative to autos as well as an economic driver.





The Coalition seeks a more bicycle-friendly community by:  
Encouraging bicycling for commuting and recreation;  
Expanding and improving bicycle infrastructure; and  
Educating citizens and government

Bike to Work Week

Friends of Granger Paths

Michiana Bicycle Association

Northern Indiana Mountain Bike Association

Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail

Indiana-Michigan River valley Trail

Bike South Bend

President:  
*Pete Jank*

Vice President:  
*Judy Lee*

Secretary:  
*Dustin New*

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*J.V Peacock*

*Dir.*  
*Membership & Bike to Work*  
*Karen Haun*

Dir. At Large:  
*Aaron Divine*  
*Zach Dripps*  
*Greg Furry*

BikeMichiana.org

BMC  
PO Box 11699  
South Bend, IN  
46634

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at [cvandenb@nd.edu](mailto:cvandenb@nd.edu).

Sincerely,

Chris Vanden Bossche  
(on behalf of the board)  
Bike Michiana Coalition





CORNERSTONE ALLIANCE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BERRIEN COUNTY

June 2, 2021

Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

As Berrien County's lead economic development agency, Cornerstone Alliance has led initiatives to create and expand trail systems throughout the communities we serve. The expansion of trails provides better mobility and encourages a healthier lifestyle for everyone. Amenities like the Marquette Greenway improve quality of life and increase access to our greatest natural treasures.

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at (269) 363-8910 or [rcleveland@cstonealliance.org](mailto:rcleveland@cstonealliance.org).

Sincerely,

Rob Cleveland  
President & CEO, Cornerstone Alliance  
[rcleveland@cstonealliance.org](mailto:rcleveland@cstonealliance.org)  
(269) 363-8910





June 14, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

The Friends of Berrien County Trails is a Michigan registered 501(c)(3) non-profit focused on trail development. Our mission is to: support the construction and maintenance of trails (pedestrian, bicycle, and waterway) within Berrien County and connecting to adjacent counties (Indiana & Michigan) including encouraging the use of trails. Three of our key goals are: Advocate (promote the value of trails with municipalities, schools, user groups and community groups); Identify/Develop Trails - (assist in creating specific routes and solicit support from relevant municipalities, assist with obtaining right-of-way and initiating construction); & Secure Funding - (establish multiple funding streams to provide impactful financing for trails development and maintenance).

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 269-339-0797.

Sincerely,

Gary Wood, President

PO Box 371 - New Buffalo MI 49117  
[www.berrientrails.org](http://www.berrientrails.org)/[berrientrails@gmail.com](mailto:berrientrails@gmail.com)

July 11, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support for **Marquette Greenway** BUILD Application

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to share Forward New Buffalo's strong support for the Marquette Greenway Trail project and specifically the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission's (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The development of the Marquette Greenway represents a long-standing vision to connect Chicago to the Indiana shore and New Buffalo, Michigan via a 58-mile non-motorized trail. This BUILD Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 30 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route, including New Buffalo residents. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region.

Our group strongly believes that the Marquette Greenway will make New Buffalo, MI, a dynamic place to live, work and play, and will help support healthy lifestyles in our community as well as support our economic diversity.

I am the leader of the Forward New Buffalo group and our group of over 50 members is unanimous in our support of the Marquette Greenway project. Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize people and economies in need. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 312-909-9718.

Sincerely,



Diane N. Pyshos  
Forward New Buffalo



15311 Three Oaks Road  
Three Oaks, MI 49128  
269-469-5409  
chamber@harborcountry.org  
harborcountry.org



June 26, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 58 miles. This BUILD Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 30 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

The Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce represents eight communities (including New Buffalo) that are dependent on tourism for economic survival. The Marquette Greenway presents a tremendous opportunity for our area to attract not only more tourists from Chicago and Indiana, but to provide area residents with a new, safe, non-motorized route that will improve their health and quality of life.

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 269-469-5409 or viki@harborcountry.org.

Sincerely,

*Viki Gudas*

Viki Gudas  
Executive Director



June 23, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

Lake Michigan College is a two-year, accredited, nonprofit community college in southwest Michigan. The College offers over 80 different academic programs, including career education, transfer programs, part-time and full-time options and online learning. The College will provide additional support by;

- promoting the importance of volunteering in trail projects
- promoting cooperation among agencies and jurisdictions
- generating additional community support
- finding opportunities for education about nature and the environment

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 269 927-4103 or [flowers@lakemichigancollege.edu](mailto:flowers@lakemichigancollege.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ken Flowers", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Kenneth W Flowers  
Dean, Career & Workforce Education





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2300 Pipestone Road • Benton Harbor, MI 49022 • 269-925-6301 • 269-925-7540 fax  
www.swmichigan.org • info@swmichigan.org

June 21, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway BUILD Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 58 miles. This BUILD Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 30 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

The Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council is a nonprofit organization that uses one-hundred-percent of its resources to promote travel, tourism and convention business to the area. Trails are a very important part of our marketing efforts, which is the reason we support the application to complete the remaining 30 miles to link Chicago to New Buffalo.

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 269-925-6301 or [mhuminsky@swmichigan.org](mailto:mhuminsky@swmichigan.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Millicent", is positioned above the typed name.

Millicent Huminsky  
Executive Director





1213 Center Street  
P.O. Box 27187  
Lansing MI 48909

Phone: 517-485-6022

Fax: 517-347-8145

[www.michigantrails.org](http://www.michigantrails.org)

June 28, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave., SE

Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

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Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance is the statewide voice for nonmotorized trail users and we help people build and promote trails, both land and water, to connect communities and build a healthier and stronger Michigan. At the heart of our work is providing people with “connection corridors” to get outside, get to know their neighbors and the natural and historical and cultural resources, and realize that trails are literally America’s new front porch.

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 586-651-5180 or [andrea@michigantrails.org](mailto:andrea@michigantrails.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrea LaFontaine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrea LaFontaine

Executive Director, Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance





July 10, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for 60 miles. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

The Pokagon Fund has been working with partners to implement the Michigan portion of the Marquette Greenway. The Pokagon Fund has committed \$300,000 in local match toward the development of the Marquette Greenway in New Buffalo Township.

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt.

Sincerely,

Dan Peterson  
Executive Director

July 12, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 58 miles. This BUILD Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 30 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

**Toast Hotel Group operates two waterfront resort hotels and restaurants in New Buffalo. The Marquette Greenway will pass within one block of both hotels. The impact of this important project will be felt with increase occupancy and dining patrons. This will increase employment opportunities for local residents. We currently employ 90 full time people and 70-80 additional seasonal and part-time employees in New Buffalo.**

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 269-469-2027x408 or robertk@toasthotelgroup.com.

Sincerely,

Robert Kemper  
President/Toast Hotel Group (dba: Marina Grand Resort and Harbor Grand Hotel)

June 22, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao,


I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 58 miles. This BUILD Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 30 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

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***The Three Oaks Spokes Bicycle Club have supported cycling in Southwest Michigan and Northern Indiana since 1974 with the development of the Backroads Bikeway Trails. We maintain the 20 different bicycle routes ranging from 5 to 60 miles with signage and printed maps for the cycling public. All of which are funded by the Apple Cider Century Bicycle Tour, an event that attracts 5,000 cyclists annually which generates nearly \$2,000,000 for the local economy. We fully support the Marquette Greenway Project because it will allow cyclists to come to Michigan from the metro Chicago area on a safe, traffic free bicycle trail.***

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 269-756-3361 or [bryanvolstorf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bryanvolstorf@sbcglobal.net)

Sincerely,   
Bryan Volstorf, President / Executive Director  
Three Oaks Spokes Bicycle Club





June 1, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum is a regional collaboration of businesses and institutions working to advance climate leadership, community resilience, social justice and the creation of a circular economy. We are excited by the potential for this initiative to advance the sustainable development and community value in our region. Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project.

Daniel Schoonmaker  
Executive Director



June 16, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

*During the past few years, we have assembled a local cycling community, under multiple umbrellas, including the Whirlpool Cycling club with membership of over 150 participants. The number one topic is the development of safe riding trail options within Southwest, Michigan and Northwest Indiana. In addition to walking and riding safety, we know these types of trails provide an economic and healthy living boost to the communities that support and use them.*

September 13, 2017  
Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 269-519-2907 or at [Beat\\_D\\_Stocker@whirlpool.com](mailto:Beat_D_Stocker@whirlpool.com).

Beat Stocker  
Whirlpool Cycling Club



## Adventure Cycling Association

July 1, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate Adventure Cycling Association's strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park. The Marquette Greenway has represented a long-standing vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. This RAISE Grant has been assembled to complete the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway would become the routing for U.S. Bicycle Route 36, which was officially approved by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) in 2015. Together with U.S. Bicycle Routes 35, 37, and 10, these routes will offer the opportunity to bicycle around Lake Michigan, a popular tourism destination. Providing safe non-motorized access will attract bicycle tourism and its associated economic benefits to the businesses and communities along the greenway.

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Katie Harris at [kharris@adventurecycling.org](mailto:kharris@adventurecycling.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Saara Snow".

Saara Snow  
Advocacy Manager

### Adventure Cycling Association

*A member-supported nonprofit organization, inspiring and empowering people to travel by bicycle.*

(800) 755-2453 • (406) 721-1776 • [info@adventurecycling.org](mailto:info@adventurecycling.org)  
[www.adventurecycling.org](http://www.adventurecycling.org) • 150 E. Pine Street, Missoula, Montana 59802



July 4, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for *Completing the Vision: The Marquette Greenway* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program. This project directly addresses climate change – promoting active transportation, which is one of the best ways to lower our carbon footprints – as well as access barriers to jobs, outdoor recreation and essential social services for disadvantaged communities.

NIRPC is the lead applicant for this grant request and has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Park. The Marquette Greenway represents a long-standing *transformative* vision to connect Chicago, IL eastward along the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan to New Buffalo, MI, for a distance of 60 miles. This RAISE initiative targets completion of the remaining 29 miles that link to these built or already funded segments, supporting economic recovery.

The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land-uses and would provide safe non-motorized access while helping to secure investments that will positively impact lower and mixed-income residents along the trail route. The Greenway would also link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic catalyst towards improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region in whole. The pandemic has highlighted that trail networks are essential for mental & physical health and well-being, connecting all ages and abilities to people, places and opportunities.

During RTC's 35+ years of collaborating with local partners in developing trail/active transportation networks to provide economic, health, safety, environmental, recreational and other quality of life benefits for all communities, NIRPC has been an engaged and effective partner that knows how to coordinate and deliver on major projects. The Marquette Greenway is a transformational project, which underscores the importance of investing in walking and biking infrastructure to generate jobs via attracting businesses and talented individuals.

Thank you for your consideration of this truly transformative project, helping to revitalize a people and its economy in the heart of the rust belt. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 937-776-9566 or [brianh@railstotrails.org](mailto:brianh@railstotrails.org).

Best Regards & Happy Trails,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian K. Housh".

Brian K. Housh  
Midwest Policy Manager, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy  
Council President, Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio