



# COMPLETING THE VISION II



# WEST GARY PHASE



## FY 2024 RAISE Support Letters

February 28, 2024

## 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

February 23, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) in its application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region and is the lead applicant for this grant request.

The proposed project will construct the Marquette Greenway, a total of 3.75 miles with two bridges, in west Gary, Indiana. 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 a distance of 60 miles.

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 toward improving the quality of life for those along the trail, and the region as a whole.

I ask that you give this application full and fair consideration within applicable laws and regulations. If I can provide additional information, please contact my grants coordinator, Dianne Powell. She can be reached by email, [Dianne\\_Powell@young.senate.gov](mailto:Dianne_Powell@young.senate.gov).

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Todd Young  
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**

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
**RANKING MEMBER - OVERSIGHT & INVESTIGATIONS**  
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & THE WORKFORCE  
SUBCOMMITTEE:  
HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR & PENSIONS

VICE CHAIRMAN - CONGRESSIONAL STEEL CAUCUS

CONGRESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CAUCUS

February 23, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

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 2024 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. 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.

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 as a whole. The project proposed in NIRPC's application focuses upon the segment entirely within the city of Gary, Indiana, and the effort to complete this segment complements the transformational projects underway in conjunction with the city's Metro Center Transit Development District and the Gary Miller Transit Development District, which intend to harness the economic development opportunities anticipated as part of the South Shore Line – Double Track Project. Current and future residents will benefit from the synergy between these projects.



Thank you for your time to give this proposal full and fair consideration within applicable laws and regulations. Should you need 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank J. Mrvan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "F" and "M".

Frank J. Mrvan  
Member of Congress

FJM:ej

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*.

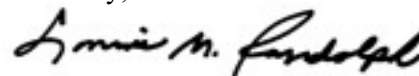
NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region, and is the lead applicant for this grant request. NIRPC has assembled an impressive partnership that involves three states, three counties, seven municipalities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, directly 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,



Senator Lonnie M. Randolph  
Senate District 2



**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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Earl L. Harris, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

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





# 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  
Nancy Rotering  
Stefan Schaffer  
Carolyn Schofield  
Anne Sheahan  
Matthew Walsh  
Diane Williams

## Non-voting Members

Leanne Redden  
Abolfazl Mohammadian

## Executive Director

Erin Aleman



CITY OF GARY  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
EDDIE D. MELTON

401 Broadway, Suite 203

Gary, Indiana 46402

(219) 881-1302 | fax (219) 881-1337

mayorsoffice@gary.gov

[www.gary.gov](http://www.gary.gov)

February 21, 2024

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

**Subject: Support for *The Marquette Greenway – Gary Phase* RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to indicate my support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission's (NIRPC) FY 2024 RAISE application for *The Marquette Greenway – Gary Phase*.

NIRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Northwest Indiana region and is the lead applicant for this grant request. 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 15 years, and to date over three-quarters of this route has either been built or fully 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 as a whole.

In 2021, NIRPC was awarded a \$17.8 million RAISE grant to finish this project. However, due to numerous delays as detailed in the project narrative, the award was reduced to \$5.6 million, and thus necessitating this new RAISE request for funding to finish the remaining segment in Gary.

It is clear from the previous RAISE award you recognized the value and impact of this trail to my city, Northwest Indiana and beyond. To this end I ask for your continued support of this application towards completing the vision and thank you once again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mayor Eddie D. Melton  
City of Gary, Indiana

*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**

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,

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.

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,

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



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

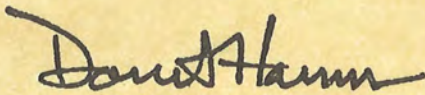
**WHEREAS,** the proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land uses and would link both residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders offered by the Indiana Dunes; additionally, the Greenway would link together a network of employment centers and serve 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*.

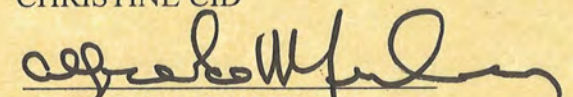
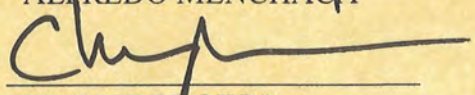
SO RESOLVED THIS 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2021.



DAVID HAMM

  
TED F. BILSKI, President

CHRISTIAN J. JORGENSEN

  
DANIEL E. DERNULC  
CHRISTINE CID  
ALFREDO MENCHACA  
CHARLIE BROWN





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.

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,

Superintendent, Indiana Dunes National Park



# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

100 North Senate Avenue  
Room N758  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

PHONE: (855) 463-6848

**Eric Holcomb, Governor**  
**Michael Smith, Commissioner**

February 26, 2024

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

RE: Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission RAISE Grant Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Secretary,

The Indiana Department of Transportation supports the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission's (NIRPC) RAISE Grant application for the Marquette Greenway – Gary West Project.

This project consists of a 3.75-mile section of greenway connecting previously designed and funded sections of the broader Marquette Greenway, which stretches from Michigan to Illinois. This portion of the trail helps tie-in the south shore area of Lake Michigan in Lake County to the Indiana Dunes National Park in Porter County.

The bike and pedestrian connectivity provided via this trail directly improves quality of life in northwest Indiana by establishing a dedicated facility for health, mobility, and recreation. The Marquette Greenway – Gary West Project will utilize abandoned legal roadway, Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) and public right-of-way, and property owned by the city of Gary to extend the trail and improve connectivity in this crowded urban region.

The trail section will also improve commuter, rail, and pedestrian safety by construction of trail bridges to clear the Indiana Toll Road, South Shore Line commuter rail, and Canadian National railroad tracks. The project will also include ADA-compliant ramps to enhance safety and access for citizens with disabilities.

NIRPC's commitment to improving quality of life aligns with INDOT's goal of operating a transportation network that improves safety and supports economic development. The RAISE Grant will enable the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission to leverage transportation to strengthen Hoosier communities, develop Indiana's economy, improve quality-of-life for residents, and grow the state's workforce.

INDOT will receive the RAISE grant funds, should the grant be approved, and will distribute funds to NIRPC upon proof of payment. INDOT does not expect to assist in project management. Should INDOT be asked to perform project management, the agreement will be amended to outline changes within expectations of how the funding will be handled.

Sincerely,

Matthew K. Deitchley  
LaPorte District Deputy Commissioner  
Indiana Department of Transportation



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.

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,

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, appearing to read "Nicole Barker".

Nicole Barker  
Director of Capital Investment & Implementation



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.

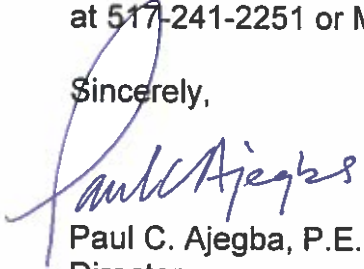
The proposed route of the Marquette Greenway winds through a diverse cross-section of land uses and would link both residents and visitors alike to the great natural wonders offered by the Indiana Dunes. In addition, the Greenway would link together a network of employment centers and serve as an economic 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



# 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.

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 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

April 22, 2020

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 2020 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 312-216-0478 or [melody@activetrans.org](mailto:melody@activetrans.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melody Geraci".

Melody Geraci  
Deputy 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



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 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



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

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)



1401 US HWY 421 | WESTVILLE | IN 46391  
DISCOVER MORE AT [ONEREGIONNW.ORG](http://ONEREGIONNW.ORG)

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@oneregionnw.org](mailto:marie@oneregionnw.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marie Foster-Bruns', with a horizontal line underneath.

Marie Foster-Bruns  
President and CEO

**ONE REGION** INITIATIVES

STRIVE TO GROW POPULATION, ATTRACT AND RETAIN TALENT, AND INCREASE HOUSEHOLD INCOME



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 183

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)

---

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". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Heather Ennis  
President & CEO  
Heather Ennis

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,

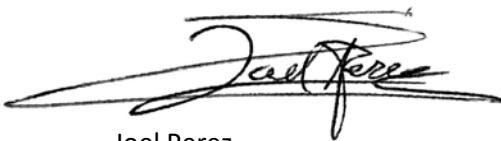
I am writing to indicate our strong support for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) application to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants program.

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

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)



## 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