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November 30, 2016

Honorable Eric Holcomb
Governor-elect of Indiana

Mr. Cameron Clark, Director
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Jim Schellinger
President, Indiana Economic Development Corporation

A regional project worthy of support – the Mounds Greenway

Gentlemen,

As Mayor of Westfield, I recognize the value in building our city's – and our region's -- quality of place. We strive to be a welcoming community, one that recognizes the importance of art and cultural attractions, a healthy and clean environment, and ample places for outdoor activities, gatherings with friends and family, and for quiet reflection. As a state without mountains or a coast, we have had to think outside the box to successfully create a greater sense of place in our community, and, as such, our city parks, greenways, trails, and open spaces serve as both enormous points of pride and valuable quality of life amenities.

Along with the people of Westfield, my administration has worked hard to connect and enhance the great places in our community – the Midland Trace Trail, Grand Junction Plaza, Grand Park, the Monon Trail, and our work to improve trail connectivity in our own city and with others.

One excellent project that will further build our quality of place while connecting us to our neighboring communities in central and east central Indiana is the proposed Mounds Greenway. The Mounds Greenway would be a linear park and trail network following the White River from Muncie to Anderson and ultimately Indianapolis. The Greenway plan would conserve the free-flowing White River, its forested floodplain, and the historic resources along its path, meanwhile connecting communities and contributing to economic well-being on a regional scale. What's more, completing this "missing link" between Anderson and Muncie sets the stage for a regional trail network of remarkable dimension.

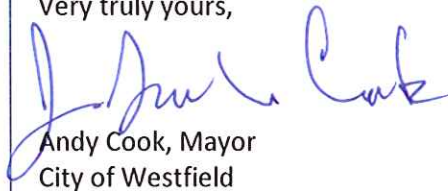
Consider the possibilities: from Anderson to the south, the greenway would eventually continue through Hamilton County, connecting the trail networks of Noblesville, Westfield, Carmel and Fishers, ultimately reaching the White River Greenway in Indianapolis. With its connection to the Cardinal Greenway via

Muncie's White River Greenway, the Mounds Greenway connects Anderson and communities downstream to Upland and Taylor University; and also via the Cardinal Greenway to New Castle and Henry County trails, and to Richmond.

The Mounds Greenway *Economic, Health and Environmental Benefits Analysis* forecasts that the Greenway between Anderson and Muncie would produce \$13 million in annual economic, health and environmental benefits, boost neighboring property values by nearly \$33 million, and lead to over \$10 million in construction spending. These forecasted benefits are in line with the actual economic outcomes being produced by existing greenway projects throughout the U.S, and given the ultimate goal of a fully connected Muncie to Indianapolis White River Greenway, the potential future impact would be far greater.

Given its potential as a regional outdoor recreation, economic, and quality of life project of substantial scope, for Westfield, and for the central and east central Indiana regions, I am declaring my support for the Mounds Greenway and urge you to join in making this proposal a reality. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy Cook".

Andy Cook, Mayor
City of Westfield

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