



MAYOR DENNIS TYLER
City of MUNCIE
MUNCIE, INDIANA

May 15, 2017

Honorable Eric Holcomb
Governor of Indiana

Mr. Cameron Clark, Director
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Ms. Elaine Bedel
President, Indiana Economic Development Corporation

RE: A regional project worthy of support – the Mounds Greenway

Governor Holcomb, Director Clark, and President Bedel,

As Mayor of Muncie, I recognize the value in building our city's quality of place – a welcoming community with arts and cultural attractions, a healthy and clean environment, and with ample places for outdoor activities, gatherings with friends and family, and for quiet reflection. These places include our city parks, our greenways and trails, and the natural center of our community, the White River.

Along with the people of Muncie my administration has worked hard to protect and enhance the great places in our community – the White River Greenway, the Kitselman Trailhead and Park, the Arc Hotel, the Streetscape downtown revitalization, the makers' space at Madjax, and our work to solidify and expand the invaluable relationship between Ball State University and the city.

One excellent project that will further build our quality of place while connecting us to our neighboring communities in east central Indiana and even further afield is the Mounds Greenway. The proposed Mounds Greenway would be a linear park and trail network following the White River from Muncie to Anderson. The Greenway plan would conserve the free-flowing river, its forested floodplain, and the historic resources along this path, connect the trails of Muncie to the trails of Anderson and beyond, and create new economic opportunities in the communities it connects. 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.



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The Mounds Greenway *Economic, Health and Environmental Benefits Analysis* forecasts that the Greenway 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. Given its potential as a regional outdoor recreation, economic, and quality of life project of substantial scope, for Muncie as well as east central Indiana and beyond, 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,

Dennis Tyler, Mayor

Cc: Honorable Thomas Broderick, Mayor of Anderson