



Office of the Mayor

December 4, 2013

Anthony Goodnight
Director of Public Works & Engineering
City of Huntington
300 Cherry Street
Huntington, IN 46750

Dear Anthony,

I am pleased to offer my wholehearted support for the grant application that is being submitted to the Fort Wayne District of the Indiana Department of Transportation to provide funding for a pedestrian bridge across US 24. This proposal, if completed, could truly transform the way our citizens can access a key retail and commercial section of the city. The partnership that has been developed with Huntington University in formulating this proposal is a great example of community collaboration for the purpose of building a more livable environment for all of our citizens and visitors.

The Comprehensive Plan that Huntington has in place includes the expansion of walking and bicycling trails as a key component. The vision for trail development focuses on recognizing and utilizing the historic Erie Railroad Corridor and linking it with existing City Parks, Downtown, historic neighborhoods, Huntington University, schools, the YMCA and Parkview Huntington Hospital. The focus of other communities in the region on this type of trail development is exciting as we hope to continue to help build momentum for a regional trail system.

Currently pedestrians and bicyclists wishing to cross US 24 face a risky situation as the traffic is often heavy and it is difficult for many to traverse the full width of the highway in the duration of a traffic light cycle. We are seeing an increase in citizens walking and riding bicycles and wish to take steps to encourage this and help insure safety. The senior citizens in our community are negatively impacted by the lack of a pedestrian crossing that they can safely maneuver to access the businesses north of US 24. The student population at Huntington University, many without vehicles, also face this obstacle. The construction of the proposed pedestrian bridge will alleviate these challenges to a livable, loveable community.

I wholeheartedly support this grant application and urge favorable action on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brooks Fetters", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mayor Brooks Fetters



OF HUNTINGTON COUNTY

305 Warren Street
Huntington, IN 46750

www.huntingtoncountychamber.com

December 4, 2013

Mr. Anthony Goodnight
Director of Public Works & Engineering Services
City of Huntington
300 Cherry Street
Huntington, IN 46750
Email: anthony.goodnight@huntington.in.us

Dear Mr. Goodnight,

The pedestrian bridge across U.S. 24 planned by the City of Huntington is a much needed and desired addition to the north end of our city. It would be a positive addition to the area for the safety of those who walk across the four-lane highway each day.

My wife and I live very near the highway and the campus of Huntington University. We see students walk across the highway each day to shop at the stores in the area for their needed groceries and items. My wife and I also frequently walk in the area and cross U.S. 24 to enjoy walking on the campus of Huntington University.

As one who has experienced the time limits to cross the highway imposed by the length of the stoplights, I see the safety issue that is at hand. Vehicles also travel at high speeds along this stretch of road and sometimes do not slow down enough to stop in time. As a pedestrian I and other walkers like me cannot anticipate when this will happen.

Huntington University is one of the top ten universities in the Midwest according to U.S. News & World Report. It attracts some of the top students in this area and a pedestrian bridge for shopping would be an added value for students looking to attend the university. Many do not bring cars to school and need to walk for their goods and services.

The additional part of the project which includes a trail from Yeoman Park, using the old historic and abandoned Erie Railroad Corridor, across U.S. 24 and connecting to Guilford Street would also be beneficial to those who exercise in our community. A system of trails in a community is always a welcome addition as it shows that the City of Huntington is in favor of promoting good health and wellness for its citizens. It would also honor the history of the Erie Railroad and its contributions to the original development of Huntington County and the surrounding areas.

The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce encourages the implementation of this project and hopes to help shape its completion.

Sincerely,

Steve Kimmel, Executive Director
Huntington County Chamber of Commerce



Location ▲ Workforce ▲ Value

December 6, 2013

8 West Market St. ▲ Huntington, IN 46750
(260) 356-5688 (888) 356-6660 Fax: (260) 358-5692

Indiana Department of Transportation
Indianapolis, Indiana

RE: Letter of Support for the construction of a pedestrian bridge on U.S. 24 at Huntington, Indiana

To Whom it May Concern:

The City of Huntington will be submitting a grant application for what we feel is a game changing project for the citizens of Huntington. Partnering with Huntington University, the City is evaluating the idea of constructing a pedestrian bridge across U.S. 24 providing pedestrians a safe and permanent means of accessing amenities north of U.S. 24. This concept would result in a huge improvement to public safety as dozens of pedestrians are currently crossing U.S. 24 daily, at grade, without any pedestrian safety measures of any kind. The safety enhancements would also dramatically improve the quality of life for citizens of Huntington.

The project idea would also connect local parks with residents already living north of U.S. 24 within the City limits and enhance historic railroad trail opportunities in the City. The U.S. 24 corridor, locally referred to historically as a bypass, is now essentially our "main street" gateway corridor. All the expected issues effecting pedestrians, businesses, quality of life and motorists normally found "downtown on main street" are also now a reality on the U.S. 24 corridor in Huntington.

Huntington University students, faculty and staff would benefit immeasurably by this opportunity. The economic impact of the University is dramatic and their campus serves as a wonderful asset to the City's gateway corridor of U.S. 24.

Please let me know if you have questions or if there is anything further I can do to assist with this concept. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Wickersham', written over a horizontal line.

Mark Wickersham
Executive Director



150 Hauenstein Road * P.O. Box 1148 * Huntington, IN 46750
Telephone (260) 356-8900 * Fax (260) 356-8787 * Toll Free 1-877-653-8900
www.bippusbank.com

November 25, 2013

Anthony Goodnight
Director of Engineering, City of Huntington
300 Cherry Street
Huntington, IN 46750

Dear Anthony;

I read your letter about the pedestrian bridge of US 24 with great interest. I have long thought and even mentioned to Mayor Brooks and others that some sort of safe crossing process across US 24 was needed. I witness daily many pedestrians, young and old try to cross US 24 and am constantly amazed they make it across without incident.

With Huntington University students trying to get to the grocery and other retail sites, the extension of the trail system of Huntington and the potential connection to the proposed Erie-Lackawanna Trail, the bridge becomes an important access point to increased physical activity such as running, walking, and bike riding. All of these things add to quality of life components that make a community a desirable place to live and work.

I wish you the best with the application and if I can be of any help, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ryan M. Warner".

Ryan M. Warner
President

CITY OF HUNTINGTON, INDIANA PLAN COMMISSION

201 N. JEFFERSON STREET ROOM 204 HUNTINGTON, IN 46750

Anthony Goodnight
City of Huntington
Director of Public Works & Engineering Services
300 Cherry Street
Huntington, IN 46750

December 4, 2013

Mr. Goodnight,

The purpose of this letter is to demonstrate support for the development of a trail linking Yeoman Park to the area north of the bypass via a pedestrian bridge over US 24. The Plan Commission strongly believes that this project would promote and contribute to adopted City of Huntington long-term planning documents, including but not limited to, the *City of Huntington 2012 Comprehensive Plan*.

The *City of Huntington 2012 Comprehensive Plan* was spearheaded by a Steering Committee comprised of 18 individuals committed to establishing a vision for the future of this great city. The planning process solicited input and feedback from the public, elected officials, and other local stake holders. The City Plan Commission, which authorized the Steering Committee, unanimously recommended approval of the Plan to the City Council. The Council, in turn, unanimously adopted the Plan in September, 2012 and the specifics of that plan are being implemented every day across the City of Huntington by both public and private entities.

This project would result in increased access and connectivity for the entire community, most noticeably with a well-designed pedestrian bridge across US 24, a recognized primary gateway and major corridor of the City. Support for this project can be found in a number of strategies & recommendations within the various sections of the Plan. The City Image and Identity section seeks to “encourage the development of additional public and private gateways”, “explore possible partnership opportunities with key businesses and institutions located along primary and secondary corridors to discuss the importance of physical image enhancement” and to “coordinate primary corridor enhancements with the Indiana Department of Transportation, a critical partner”. The Community Services portion calls for the City to “implement long-term planning for services to areas targeted for growth, which are limited geographically by established barriers, for example the high growth area north of US 24”. In terms of economic development, the Plan states that “an important issue for the area north of the bypass is the large-scale, rapidly developing, strip and big box retail centers” which are a major draw for residents and only accessible by car. In terms of transportation, the plan prioritizes major corridor improvements and seeks to “facilitate the use of alternative transportation modes and provide for interconnection between motorized and non-motorized transportation systems”. The Parks and Recreation component calls for the City to “continue to evaluate, update and implement the 2007 Trails and Greenways Master Plan” and “improve connectivity throughout the community and create regional linkages with trails and greenways”.

The *City of Huntington 2012 Comprehensive Plan* documents overwhelmingly support projects such as this and the Plan Commission is pleased to offer its support for this type of investment for the long-term growth of the City that is compliant with its adopted future growth and land use policies.

Sincerely,



Jack Snover, *President*
City of Huntington Plan Commission

Jerry Reid
Continental Structural Plastics
1890 Riverforks Dr
Huntington, IN 46750
November 24, 2013

Anthony Goodnight
Director of Engineering
City of Huntington
300 Cherry St
Huntington, IN 46750

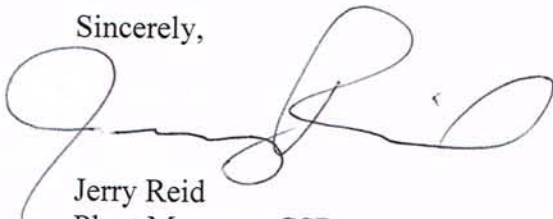
Dear Anthony:

It was with pleasure that we, at CSP, heard about a project for the City of Huntington that would benefit so many of our citizens. A pedestrian bridge crossing US 24 to allow so many easier and safer access to all of the amenities on the north side of the bypass is a wonderful idea. It would help link both sides of the city in a way that would truly enhance our community, especially by encouraging an easy way to utilize alternative forms of transportation for so many in our city.

Expanding the trail network using the Erie Railroad Corridor is also such an exciting project, helping keep Huntington at the forefront of maintaining a more livable city, encouraging growth throughout. A safe and well-maintained trail is important to so many people, and it's a wonderful bonus that it brings with it such a long and storied history.

We at CSP are thrilled to support a plan that would benefit so many of our employees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jerry Reid', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Jerry Reid
Plant Manager, CSP

November 27, 2013

Darlene Stanley
7287 N Clear Creek Rd.
Huntington, IN 46750

Anthony Goodnight
Director of Engineering, City of Huntington
300 Cherry St.
Huntington, IN 46750

Dear Anthony:

As a resident of Huntington, living on the north side of US 24, I am writing to voice my support of the proposed project to extend a pedestrian bridge across US 24. The development over the last several years on the north side of Huntington make it feel like the city/community is divided by the bypass. This project would be an enormous step in connecting the community.

More importantly, I personally witness on a regular basis, pedestrian traffic moving across the bypass to accesses businesses. The safety of our citizens should be of utmost concern and a safe and permanent means of access to the north side of the highway would be an important step in accomplishing this.

Furthermore, my dad was a long time employee of the Erie Lackawanna, and the Erie Heritage Corridor and the history that comes along with it, means a lot to our family.

Thank you for your work on this project.

Darlene Stanley



Huntington Fire Department
747 Condit Street
Huntington, Indiana 46750
260.356.3620

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the efforts to receive a grant for building a pedestrian bridge over U.S. 24 in Huntington. This project would be extremely beneficial to the citizens of Huntington and the surrounding area in many ways. A pedestrian bridge would make crossing the four lane highway safe for the dozens of people who currently walk and ride their bicycles across on a daily basis and open up the possibility of walking to the stores and restaurants across the highway for citizens that are currently not willing to take the risk. With the Huntington University student body and a residential area on one side of the highway and two grocery stores, banks, restaurants, department stores, offices and a walk-in medical clinic on the other the benefits for the neighborhood are evident. The entire City and surrounding area will benefit greatly too. There are bicycle paths being developed that will connect to the pedestrian bridge giving the paths a safe way to cross the highway.

I am very excited about the plans to develop this pedestrian bridge along with the trails that will be connected to it. The bridge opens up possibilities for trails that connect the North side of Huntington and beyond to trails on the South side and beyond. The possibilities for the growth and expansion of the trails are boundless; they could be extended along the abandoned Erie Railroad Corridor creating a regional trail system. The pedestrian bridge would also be a terrific focal point for this major gateway to Huntington welcoming the thousands of visitors driving down U.S.24. The City of Huntington and the surrounding area would benefit greatly from the investment of this pedestrian bridge.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tim Albertson
Fire Chief

Huntington County

VISITOR & CONVENTION BUREAU

Anthony Goodnight, Director of Public Works & Engineering Services
City of Huntington
300 Cherry Street
Huntington, Indiana 46750

December 4, 2013

Dear Anthony Goodnight,

The Huntington County Visitor and Convention Bureau would like to state its support for your project for the US 24 pedestrian bridge in Huntington, IN.

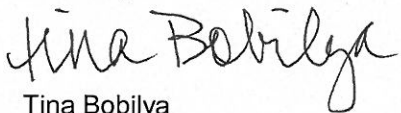
As an avid cyclist and an advocate for tourism and recreational activities in Huntington County, I am so excited at the many opportunities that this bridge could bring to the city. As was determined in our community's "Comprehensive Plan," trail development is a high priority for our residents' quality of life. We are very pleased with the current efforts to construct an organized and connected trail system that is not only functional, but that highlights the beautiful scenery that makes Huntington a great place to live and work.

I am very impressed with the routes that have been selected for the trail system expansion. The trail from Yeoman Park using the abandoned Erie Railroad Corridor is an excellent location and helps to reclaim areas that are ideal for trails. It is evident that a lot of time and thought has been given to the creation of these routes and the community will be pleased at the final product.

A major obstacle for the trail system is the US 24 bypass, where pedestrians and cyclists are left vulnerable crossing this busy interchange. The location selected for this proposed project is ideal because it would allow for the most efficient way to connect the trails to not only future city/county trails, but also to the regional Eric-Lackawanna Trail, which would be a strong asset for this region and a way to bring communities together. In addition, the bridge would connect Huntington University students (many without vehicles) with our main commerce centers north of the bypass.

I am so excited with the priority being placed on the trail development and the overall strategic vision for the project. The existing trails are extremely popular with the residents and new trails will only help to reinforce the demand for connectivity. I hope that INDOT will take into consideration the teamwork and leadership that has gone into the planning of the bridge and trails. This project will help transform this community into an active and connected city!

Sincerely,



Tina Bobilya
Executive Director



HUNTINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT


EVERETT J CARROLL, CHIEF OF POLICE

December 1st, 2013

To All:

On behalf of the Huntington Police Department and the citizens of Huntington, I would like to express my support of a pedestrian bridge over U.S. 24. The bridge would greatly increase the safety for all pedestrians and allow more residents to support northside businesses without fear of crossing the highway. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue in further depth. Thank You,

E.J. Carroll


Chief of Police



December 4, 2013

Mr. Anthony Goodnight
Director of Public Works & Engineering Services
300 Cherry Street
Huntington, IN 46750

Dear Mr. Goodnight,

This letter is in regards to the grant application being submitted by the City of Huntington to provide a pedestrian bridge across US 24. As a University, we fully support this effort and realize that there are many benefits to be gained by such a plan notwithstanding the most important aspect, increased safety for pedestrians.

Huntington University strives to provide a safe and secure campus to our students and have partnered with the City of Huntington to expand their safety beyond our campus grounds. With the development of such a bridge, our students would have expanded security and safety when walking or riding a bike across the highway, away from our campus. Student travel off of our campus greatly impacts the Huntington community from an economic and cultural perspective. Therefore, this project is very near and dear to our campus community and to the families of our students.

We also realize that from a community perspective, there are historical educational benefits involved that can foster a deeper heritage for our small town. In addition, it provides the ability to link the city of Huntington to a network of trails that bring us closer to sister communities, while providing a secure and beautiful setting for fun and exercise. This redevelops the Erie Heritage Corridor and will be a very beneficial step toward a regional Erie-Lackawanna Trail project for multiple cities and towns! This is something exceptional to look forward to in the future.

We would like to thank you and the efforts of your team in the pursuit of this very important project for the City of Huntington. This is a unique and collaborative project within the city for many to become involved. You have the full support and cooperation of the University with this endeavor and we look forward to favorable results.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Sherilyn R. Emberton'.

Sherilyn R. Emberton
President

*Johnson
Junction, Inc.*

2840 Guilford Street
Huntington, IN 46750
260-356-0130
260-356-1341 FAX



Anthony Goodnight
Director of Engineering, City of Huntington
300 Cherry St.
Huntington, IN 46750

Dear Anthony:

As a business owner on the north side of the bypass in Huntington, I am very excited about the plan to extend a pedestrian bridge across US 24. The positive outcomes of this project would include:

- The advancement of business and employment opportunities for the community
- A safe and identifiable crossing for pedestrians
- Access to businesses north of the bypass for all citizens, including students on the campus of Huntington University
- The advancement of economic development in Huntington as businesses seek out progressive communities to locate and grow their business
- Bringing the community of Huntington together in a collaborative spirit

In summary, some of the reasons why this project is crucial to the Huntington community include: safety, economic development, community spirit, convenience for the citizens, preservation of our history, etc.

Thank you for your efforts in leading the way and pursuing this valuable project. Please let me know how I can support this project as it develops.

Sincerely,
JOHNSON JUNCTION, INC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darlene Stanley".

Darlene Stanley,
President



**Office of the Mayor
Mayor's Council on Community Accessibility**

December 4, 2013

To whom it may concern:

As the Chairman of the Mayors Advisory Council on Community Accessibility, I can tell you that many citizens with disabilities have commented on the lack of surface access to the north business areas of the city. Development of this area has skyrocketed in the recent years providing shopping, entertainment, and professional services to the community. A four lane highway, US24, separates this development from those who use wheelchairs, walkers, or whose gait reduces their walking speed to below that necessary to cross safely. In addition, there are only two traffic crossing signals in over three miles of roadway.

A pedestrian walkway meeting the requirements of the ADA would provide needed access and safety to the community. It also provides two way access to Huntington University and the services that are needed by its students. I urge you to approve the necessary funding for this enterprise.

Gary Johnson

Gary W. Johnson
Mayors Advisory Council

Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.

Centennial Celebration 1912-2012

November 27, 2013

Anthony Goodnight
Director of Public Works and Engineering Services
City of Huntington
300 Cherry Street
Huntington, IN 46750

Dear Mr. Goodnight:

Please support the City of Huntington's plan to extend a pedestrian bridge across US 24 that would provide pedestrians a safe and permanent means of access to amenities north of the bypass.

This project will allow us to redevelop the historic and abandoned Erie Railroad Corridor across US 24 and connect it to Guildford Street. As with most communities in our state, we need to encourage our citizens to use alternate modes of transportation that are safe and improve their health and wellness.

This initiative would directly benefit the students and faculty of Huntington University. The proposed pedestrian bridge would safely help the students access shopping, banking, and other businesses.

We view this project as a critical investment in economic development through family and business friendly activities as well as a health and wellness initiative. This project may also allow us to tie into a larger regional Erie-Lackawanna Trail in the future that would allow bicycle access to other communities in our area.

Thank you for your consideration and we ask that you approve the funding for this important project for Huntington.

Sincerely,



Kyle Hamilton
President and General Manager
Offertory Solutions Division



Greg Erlandson
President
Publishing Division



December 4, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

As President/CEO of Pathfinder Services, Inc., a comprehensive human and community development organization based in Huntington, I have been intimately involved in the city's comprehensive planning efforts and helping to organize the Hometown Improvement efforts as part of the State Office of Community and Rural Affairs

The proposed plan to create a trails system that includes a pedestrian bridge across the US 24 bypass is critically needed for the City of Huntington to expand "walkability" for all of its citizens, including not only the students from Huntington University, but those who depend on walking or riding a bicycle to work, shop or have fun.

As an organization that also serves people with disabilities, it is currently unsafe to cross over the US 24 bypass on foot or using a bike. This plan will open up the north side of Huntington and improve greatly the quality of life for all its citizens.

The recent census shows that the City of Huntington is losing population and our youth are not staying to raise their families like in the past. We need the progressive thinking of our City's officials as they vision the City as a place for easy access to recreation and shopping without depending on the automobile. This vision of "walkability" and recreational trails are paramount to developing a "place" that will attract youth to stay and our elderly/disabled folks to age in-place in a physical environment that provides full accessibility.

The City of Huntington is committed to investing local resources to improve its physical and social environment that will make the second largest City in Northeast Indiana a place of distinction where people want to relocate and stay because of its amenities. I feel that State and Federal resources are important to obtain when there is already a comprehensive plan for the future and a proven investment of resources locally to accomplish that plan. The City of Huntington meets that criteria and stands out as a premier place for being chosen for the IDOT grant.

Sincerely,



John Niederman
President



CITY OF HUNTINGTON

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Anthony Goodnight
Director of Public Works & Engineering Services
300 Cherry Street
Huntington, IN 46750

Tuesday, December 03, 2013

Mr. Goodnight,

The City of Huntington Redevelopment Commission is pleased to offer its overwhelming support for the development of a pedestrian bridge project over US Highway 24 and corresponding trail from Yeoman Park along the former Erie Railroad being proposed by the City of Huntington and Huntington University. In 2008, the Commission created its *Consolidated Economic Development Plan* in response to a new awareness related to the importance of economic development to the community at large and the need for economic development planning to be woven in the fabric of the entire community so that it may create both tangible and intangible benefits for many years to come.

This project would serve as a direct linkage between TIF areas #2 and #7, which are currently bisected by the US 24 corridor. The connection of these TIF areas by this type of public infrastructure improvement helps to enable Huntington to be competitive well into the 21st century. The 2008 Plan focuses on a development strategy that includes, among other things, “recognition that US 24 represents a major gateway to the City”, “to stimulate and capture new, high-quality economic development to the area, especially along the US 24 corridor”, “improving and extending a well-planned system of public infrastructure to support long-term, optimal development in the economic development area”, and “to design and deploy infrastructure systems which connect and integrate commercial and industrial development centers”.

The underlying goals of the plan seek to promote “general infrastructure planning, design and deployment to meet existing and future demands of full development/build-out for the entire area along the US 24 corridor”, “create enhanced public amenities for the economic development area” and “to enhance sufficient public service and infrastructure support to provide long-term, broad-based community growth along the US 24 corridor”. The Commission is highly supportive because this project would afford pedestrian access to Huntington’s largest and most successful commercial shopping area and employment locations to the campus of Huntington University and the greater community through a comprehensive trail network planned for the City. This project further helps to lessen the roadway demands to support new growth and help the City develop in more walkable manner that is safer for users of all modes of transportation.

The Commission looks forward to working with the City and its broad coalition of partners in making this project a reality for the benefit of the entire community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bryn D. Keplinger".

Bryn Keplinger, *President*



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing you today to express my adamant support of, and excitement for, a project that will help to satisfy a pressing need in the Huntington community. As the Executive Director of our local YMCA, I am surrounded by examples of the transformative change that can transpire when individuals make the decision to engage in a healthier, more active lifestyle. By approving our collaborative grant request, you will play a critical role in strengthening our community for generations to come.

Access to a trail that includes a pedestrian bridge across the heavily traveled US24 highway will provide a safe, efficient and effective exercise option for thousands within our community that might not otherwise choose to be active. As I mentioned in the preceding paragraph, this need is pressing. Huntington ranked 81st, out of 92 counties, in a 2012 Health Behaviors poll and has an obesity rate of 35%. While it's painful for me to admit, our Y cannot reach every individual in our county, which is why your investment in the proposed Huntington trail project will provide unparalleled returns that have the potential to reach far beyond Huntington.

Respectfully,

Ryan Lemon
Parkview Huntington Family YMCA