



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

KIRK T. STEUDLE
DIRECTOR

METRO REGION OFFICE

May 7, 2012

Dear Community Representative,

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has invested, over the past several years, more than \$10 million in rehabilitating and reconstructing the I-275 Metro Trail. The nonmotorized path that runs adjacent to the I-275 freeway generally has been improved from Novi to the Metroparks in southern Wayne County, although some additional work remains on the southern end.

This trail serves as a spine for the Region's nonmotorized network. The trail will soon connect Downriver communities in Wayne County to communities and trail systems in Oakland County. With the rehabilitation of the path, increased usage of the trail has been observed.

Your community is conveniently located on this recreational and transportation resource. Your residents can more easily access the facility for work commutes, family walks or rides, or long distance bicycle excursions. With its recent rehabilitation, the trail is a significant asset to your community.

As MDOT has worked to improve the trail, we have received the valuable assistance of a volunteer organization, known as the Friends of the I-275 Metro Trail. The Friends which may include volunteers from your community have worked to maintain the trail, clearing vegetation and debris. Also, the Friends have served as MDOT's "eyes on the trail," reporting to MDOT issues and problems that may affect users. It's a relationship that we hope will keep the trail maintained and viable for years to come.

With the significant investment and commitment to the trail by MDOT and the Friends, we are hoping that we can increase trail usage and gather additional community support. For this purpose, we will be hosting a meeting for community representatives and public officials on Tuesday, May 22, 2012 at 2 p.m., in the Canton Township Municipal Building, which is located at 1150 Canton Center South in Canton.

The purpose of this meeting is not to obtain maintenance agreements or commitments from the communities. MDOT and the Friends are maintaining the trail. Instead, we want to make you aware of the improvement efforts and future plans for the facility, and we are seeking your support for promoting and accessing the path in your community. Topics to be discussed are:

- Community promotion of the trail and trail activities to residents.
- Potential development of community "trailheads" (with automobile parking) and access points on and off the trail.

May 7, 2012

Page 2

- Assistance to the Friends group, such as providing additional community volunteers, picking up trash bags or loaning equipment.

We hope you can attend this important meeting and help us enhance this significant regional resource. If you believe other officials or representatives from your community should attend, please forward this invitation to them.

If you have any questions regarding the I-275 Metro Trail or the meeting, please contact Julie Edwards at the MDOT Metro Region, 248-483-5114, or Nancy Krupiarz at the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, 517-485-6022.

I hope you can attend the meeting on May 22nd.

Sincerely,



Tony Kratofil
Metro Region Engineer

cc: Nancy Krupiarz
Julie Edwards
Kim Avery
Sandy Montes
Diane Bancroft
Dave Duffield