



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor
Scott Hassett, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.
Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921
Telephone 608-266-2621
FAX 608-267-3579
TTY 608-267-6897

December 5, 2003

The Honorable John O. Norquist
City of Milwaukee Mayor
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Mayor Norquist:

The State of Wisconsin is committed to continuing our partnership with the City of Milwaukee in completing the Hank Aaron State Trail and associated greenway. The Department of Administration and the Department of Natural Resources want to recognize the City of Milwaukee's commitment in working with our state agencies to establish this recreational corridor. The Trail and associated greenway are located in the Menomonee River Valley extending from Milwaukee County's Doyne Park to Lake Michigan in the City of Milwaukee. This Trail will contribute to the success of the ongoing City effort to stimulate growth and promote redevelopment in the Menomonee Valley.

In an effort to solidify implementation of the Hank Aaron State Trail, we are committed to provide state appropriated funding to meet the 20% match requirement (\$146,000) for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Grant (CMAQ) held by the City for construction of the 44th Street Trail segment. We are also committed to provide state appropriated funding to meet the 20% match requirement (\$220,000) for the Miller Park to Emmer Lane CMAQ Grant held by the City. This does not include matching funds for the portion of this grant used for trail development in conjunction with the reconstruction and expansion of Canal Street. Once approval is granted by the State Building Commission to provide the local matching funds, we will expedite the transfer of funds to the City and request that the City be responsible for managing the CMAQ Grants. The state funding for these local grant matches will leverage over \$2 million in federal funding.

We recognize the City's commitment to donate all surface easements necessary to accommodate the Hank Aaron State Trail. We request that the City transfer these easements to the Department as soon as possible or provide written confirmation that these easements will be donated. This is necessary to obtain the release of the appropriated funding by the State Building Commission. We understand that the City will be responsible for acquiring surface easements on private property necessary to accommodate the Trail. Donation of certain easements by private parties directly to the Department of Natural Resources may be an exception.

We strongly support the City of Milwaukee's decision to include a separate, parallel Hank Aaron State Trail within the right-of-way of the proposed Canal Street expansion in the Menomonee Valley. This will provide the necessary linkage of the Hank Aaron State Trail across the Menomonee River and the rail tracks.

Lastly, we reaffirm our commitment to manage and operate the Hank Aaron State Trail. We will accomplish this through direct state operation or by contract for the necessary services and activities. We understand that the City is committed to the ongoing maintenance of the "on street" segments of the trail. We request your concurrence and support on these issues so that we can move forward together to develop the Hank Aaron State Trail. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Scott Hassett
Secretary
Department of Natural Resources



Marc Marotta
Secretary
Department of Administration

cc: Alderman Marvin Pratt
→ Alderman Michael Murphy
Mariano A. Schifalacqua
Laurie Osterndorf – AD/5
Gloria McCutcheon – SER