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**Mayor John M. Wirth**  
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January 28, 2022

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing in support of the grant request of M-T Trails Foundation.

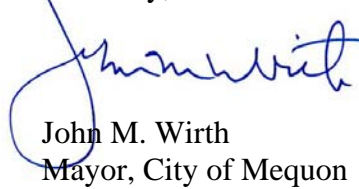
Mequon has a unique interest in bike paths and pedestrian ways. Paths are good in all communities. However, with over 46 square miles and a population of only about 25,000 people, people in Mequon are unusually spread out. Paths create connections and help build community.

Moreover, as a result of our low density, we have far fewer neighborhood streets that connect areas. Instead, bicyclists and pedestrians use arterial streets and highways to get from place to place. These higher traffic streets are often unsafe for bicyclists and pedestrians, including families with children. Paths resolve the safety concerns of those streets.

The M-T Trails Foundation hopes to first build a path along Highland Road, connecting the Ozaukee Interurban Trail with Rotary Park, Mequon's largest active park. Considering that the Ozaukee Interurban Trail bisects Mequon and Thiensville, much of the community will be able to take advantage of this connection to get to Rotary Park. Further, the 30-mile Ozaukee Interurban Trail connects Mequon and Thiensville to the rest of Ozaukee County. Therefore, the proposed Rotary Park/Highland Road connection will benefit bicyclists from multiple communities. There are a number of hurdles to get this path built, but a grant would go a long way to assist to make this happen.

I respectfully request that you give the M-T Trails Foundation request your greatest consideration.

Sincerely,



John M. Wirth  
Mayor, City of Mequon