

April 21, 2021

Jane Howington  
City Manager  
City of Hudson  
1140 Terex Road  
Hudson, OH 44236

RE: Metro RTA, Railroad Track Conversion to a  
Bike/Hike Trail

Dear Ms. Howington:

The City of Stow is actively pursuing conversion of the existing Metro RTA Railroad Track that runs through City of Cuyahoga Falls, Village of Silver Lake, City of Stow, and City of Hudson. The City of Stow has passed Resolution No. 2021-38 (attached) supporting the funding and construction of the Veteran's Trail Project in the City of Stow.

The City of Stow has been awarded by AMATS a \$700,000 TASA grant for a bike and hike trail on the Metro RTA tracks from the S.R. 8 pedestrian bridge in Silver Lake to Springdale Road. Metro RTA and Summit Metro Parks have worked out the land use and maintenance agreement and fully support the conversion of the railroad tracks to the bike/hike trail.

The final hurdle is submitting the request for converting the rail lines to a bike/hike trail to the Federal Transit Authority. Metro RTA is ready to submit once the County of Summit Economic Development office reaches out to all communities along this corridor to make sure that no community has a need to provide freight on these lines.

The City of Stow met with County officials yesterday and told them we do not have acreage or developments in Stow large enough to support a business requiring freight. The County said they would contact the City of Hudson next to set up a meeting with Hudson officials.

The City of Stow fully supports the conversion of the Metro RTA railroad track to a bike/hike trail as the best use of this abandoned property.

Sincerely,



Mayor John Pribonic

JDM/mb

Attachment

c: Nick Wren, Chief of Staff  
James D. McCleary, P.E., P.S., City Engineer  
Rob Kurtz, Planning Director  
Thom Sheridan, P.E. P.S., Asst. City Manager, City of Hudson  
Brad Kosco, P.E., P.S., City Engineer, City of Hudson



RESOLUTION NO. 2021-38

REQUESTED BY FIOCCA  
APPROVED BY PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS  
INTRODUCED BY FIOCCA

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE FUNDING AND CONSTRUCTION  
OF THE VETERANS TRAIL PROJECT IN THE CITY OF STOW, OHIO

WHEREAS, the Veterans Trail Project is an effort led by Trail Advocates of Summit County, and joined by Summit Metro Parks and Metropolitan Regional Transit Authority to construct a multi-purpose trail, known as Veterans Trail, running through the cities of Akron, Cuyahoga Falls, Silver Lake, Stow, and Hudson; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Trail was built in 1851 and used as a railway, which has been abandoned since 1996; and

WHEREAS, reconstruction for use as a railway would require tremendous investment in order to support rail traffic again and, as such, the owner of the railway, Metro Regional Transit Authority, has expressed an interest in re-purposing the right-of-way to be used as a multi-purpose trail; and

WHEREAS, it has long been recognized as an ideal multi-purpose trail opportunity and has been studied for more than 16 years; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Trail will provide recreational enjoyment for the residents of Stow, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Trail Advocates of Summit County has determined that a trail constructed on a railway is safer because it is level, generally straight and has far less interaction with vehicle traffic; and

WHEREAS, the right-of-way passes through a densely populated section of Summit County yet includes stretches that are quite secluded and very scenic; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Trail would connect with seven other existing or planned trails, ideal for recreational and commuter travel; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Trail Project will provide a safe place for recreational use by cyclists and pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stow passed Resolution No. 2019-113, authorizing the City to apply for financial assistance to fund the Veterans Trail Project, previously referred to in said Resolution as the "Stow-Silver Lake-Cuyahoga Falls Bike Connector"; and

WHEREAS, the AMATS Policy Committee awarded the City of Stow grant funding in the amount of \$700,000, to be shared with the city of Cuyahoga Falls receiving 3% of the grant, and



City of Stow, Ohio  
Resolution No. 2021-38  
Page 2

the Village of Silver Lake receiving 22% of the grant, which funds are to be used for the Veterans Trail Project; and

WHEREAS, the estimates cost of construction of the Veterans Trail Projects is anticipated to be \$920,000; and

WHEREAS, this Council desires to express its support for both the funding and construction of the Veterans Trail Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STOW, COUNTY OF SUMMIT AND STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Council hereby expresses its support for the construction and use of grant funds for the building of the portion of Veterans Trail to be located in the City of Stow, Ohio, as depicted in the attached Exhibit A and as set forth in the grant.

SECTION 2. That Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any committees or subcommittees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

SECTION 3. That this resolution was adopted pursuant to Section 4.11, Charter and, pursuant to Section 4.13, Charter, shall take effect upon its adoption by Council and approval by the Mayor, otherwise at the earliest period allowed by law.

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL 3-11-21

ATTEST

Lorree Villers  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

Sindi Harrison  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

FILED WITH MAYOR 3-12-21

FILED WITH CLERK 3-18-21

APPROVED

John Pribonic  
MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM

EFFECTIVE DATE 4-18-21

Jaime Syx, LAW DIRECTOR

I Lorree Villers, Clerk of Council, do hereby certify that copies of the foregoing were posted in accordance with Section 10,13 C.O.S.

