

# PRESSRELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

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## **\$950,000 Transportation Enhancement Grant Awarded to Michigan City**

**Michigan City, IN** (December 29, 2003) - Envision living in a city where you can step out of your house onto a safe route that provides you with a healthy way to live, work and play while connecting to parks, schools and other area attractions to residents of all ages... It will soon be here in Michigan City, your home town.

Governor Joe Kernan announced late last week that Michigan City will receive a \$950,000 transportation-enhancement grant for the first phase of planning, designing and constructing the multi-use Singing Sands Lighthouse Trail that will provide the link between the Calumet Trail in Porter and the LaPorte County Line at U.S. 12. The Singing Sands Lighthouse Trail will average 12 feet in width and will span approximately 8.5 miles in length. The eastern end of the trail will connect to trails currently under planning and development in St. Joseph County, Michigan. Phase 1 of the Trail will span from the Porter County trail head to Michigan City's Washington Park, a length of approximately 2.8 miles.

"Receiving the federal grant is huge," Trails Project Coordinator Laura New said, "because it gets officials started on paving the way for a trail system that eventually will connect to other trails within the city, making a big loop around town but also regionally on to the State of Michigan, South Bend, the City of LaPorte, Porter County, and the LaPorte County Bikeways System which is already in place."

There's no doubt about it, Laura New said of the grant's importance to the City's plans. "We couldn't build the trail without it."

The 12-foot wide trail will provide trail users with direct access to downtown Michigan City and the Lake Michigan shoreline into Washington Park. Bicycle racks, trash receptacles, benches, landscaping and bicycle racks will be added.

Michigan City is currently working on a master plan of multi-use trails for a full 27 miles. Laura New hopes the spot where the trails meet near downtown Washington Park becomes a destination point for trail users.

New said she sees the trail system as a quality-of-life issue that mean something to people more and more everyday and will attract economic development to Michigan City. “Our vision expands the bikeway concept to separated-path routes that will appeal to the widest possible range of participants such as walker, joggers, runners, roller-bladders, baby strollers and wheelchairs,” she said. “This trail’s “Vision,” if realized over the next 25 years, is to help provide the recreational and non-motorized transportation infrastructures that will make the city more attractive as a place to work, live, and visit.”

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**Contact:** Laura New  
**Phone:** 219/873-1506  
**E-mail:** [lnew@michigancityparks.com](mailto:lnew@michigancityparks.com)