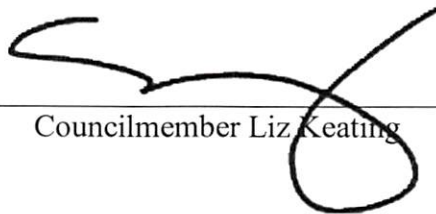




Liz Keating
Councilmember

Motion

WE MOVE that the Administration apply for a \$6,000,000 Surface Transportation Block Grant or Congestion Mitigation / Air Quality Grant from OKI Regional Council of Governments for the Ohio River Trail from Lunken Airport to Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park along the Oasis rail line, due June 4, 2021.



Councilmember Liz Keating

Statement

After over a decade of work, the City of Cincinnati, Great Parks of Hamilton County, Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA), and Indiana and Ohio Railroad Company recently signed a term sheet to allow for the Ohio River Trail to be built in the Oasis rail corridor from Lunken Airport to Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park.

The Ohio River Trail is a key corridor in the plan for the CROWN (Cincinnati Riding Or Walking Network), which is a bold vision to create a 34-mile multi-use trail loop around Cincinnati. When complete, the CROWN will connect 356,000 residents within 1 mile of the trail. This gap in the Ohio River Trail is the last 4.5 miles needed connect the 78-mile Little Miami Scenic Trail and 326-mile Ohio to Erie Trail to downtown Cincinnati. Building the trail will spur economic development opportunities, generate local tourism spending, and improve property values. It will also connect neighborhoods, enhance active transportation options, and improve public health.

Federal transportation funding from OKI Regional Council of Governments has been critical to building out other trail corridors in the CROWN, like Wasson Way and the Ohio River Trail West. Both the Surface Transportation Block Grant and Congestion Mitigation / Air Quality programs have funding available this year through OKI. The application deadline is June 4, 2021, and the maximum grant amount is \$6,000,000. CROWN Cincinnati, a partnership between Green Umbrella / Tri-State Trails, Ohio River Way, and Wasson Way has committed to privately fundraising a portion of the local match needed for this grant opportunity.

COMMITTEES

Member: Budget & Finance • Economic Growth & Zoning • Law & Public Safety