



March 18, 2026

**To:** Mayor and Members of City Council  
**From:** Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager  
**Subject:** **Emergency Ordinance – DOTE: Tri-State Trails 2026 Donation**

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Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

**AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to accept and appropriate a donation of up to \$2,185,000 from Tri-State Trails to assist the City in expediting the progress on several trail projects; and **AUTHORIZING** the Director of Finance to deposit the donated funds into City Trails Fund revenue account no. 437x8571.

This Emergency Ordinance authorizes the City Manager to accept a donation of up to \$2,185,000 from Tri-State Trails to assist the City in expediting the progress on several trail projects. The Director of Finance is authorized to deposit the donation into City Trails Fund revenue account no. 437x8571.

The City is managing the planning, design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of several trail projects that improve bicycle and pedestrian access across the City. The City successfully applied for and was awarded state and federal grants totaling over \$22,000,000 for trail construction since 2020.

Tri-State Trails has generously offered a donation of up to \$2,185,000 to assist the City in expediting the progress on several trail projects. After construction of the trails is completed, the City will be responsible for keeping the trails safe, accessible, functional, and in good repair throughout their useful life, with future operating costs to include vegetation control, trash removal and general upkeep, routine inspections, minor signage and markings maintenance, preventive pavement maintenance with spot repairs, and drainage corrections if necessary.

Developing trail projects is in accordance with the “Connect” goal to “[d]evelop an efficient multi-modal transportation system that supports neighborhood livability” as well as strategies to “[e]xpand options for non-automotive travel” and to “[p]lan, design, and implement a safe and sustainable transportation system” as described on pages 129-137 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to accept the donation and enter into any necessary agreements prior to May 1, 2026.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew Dudas, Budget Director  
Steve Webb, Finance Director



Attachment