

REQUEST FOR FUNDING SUPPORT

SHELBY-MIAMI COUNTY OHIO CONNECTOR GREAT MIAMI RIVER RECREATION TRAIL (SIDNEY, OHIO)

Need: An estimated \$3.9M is needed to construct a 10-foot-wide trail from Kuther Road in Washington Township to the Village of Lockington, where Miami County will complete the connection.

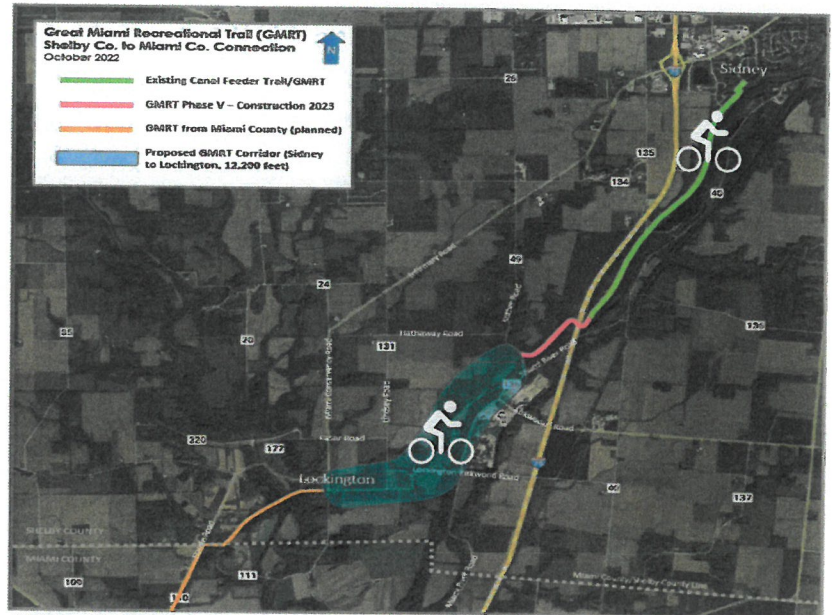
Readiness: The City of Sidney & Shelby County have contracted with a consulting engineer to complete the planning and design of the entire trail connection including this phase and future phases that are planned to make the final off-road connection. County has secured \$500,000 from a State Capital Bill grant.

Existing Partners: City of Sidney, Shelby County, Washington Township, ODNR, ODOT, National Park Service, State of Ohio, Miami Conservancy District/Great Miami Riverway Coalition, Northern Miami County Trail Implementation Committee, Cargill, Inc., Emerson, Inc., Sidney-Shelby County Chamber of Commerce, Sidney Visitors Bureau, Sidney-Shelby Economic Partners.

Overall Benefits: Climate resilience, Improvement in public transportation, Increased bicycle and walking paths and safety



City of Sidney
Duane Gaier, Dir., Parks & Recreation
937-498-8105
dgaier@sidneyoh.com



SHELBY COUNTY/MIAMI COUNTY CONNECTION: Figure 1. Expanding the Great Miami River Trail will satisfy objectives found in the 2018 Ohio State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The Sidney Canal Feeder Trail Connector and Great Miami River Trail is identified in the Ohio Resident Outdoor Recreation Survey 2017 Final Report, Trails for Ohioans publication, and is also mentioned in the US Army Corps of Engineers 2013 Great Miami Riverway Study.

The City of Sidney and Shelby County leaders are working to develop the final leg of the Great Miami River Recreation Trail, a **99-mile asphalt, off-street trail used by 90,000 trail users in the Miami Valley. The GMRRT's southern terminus is the City of Hamilton and stretches north along the Great Miami River to its current off-road terminus near Piqua in Miami County.**



Project partners are seeking funding to add 12,200 feet of trail to an existing portion of the City of Sidney's Canal Feeder Trail at Kuther Rd. Connecting this final segment from Piqua to Sidney, and extending the Great Miami River Recreation Trail to the 20,550 residents of Sidney. Future phases of this trail construction will extend along the indicated multicolor path from Piqua to Sidney, as easements are granted, funds raised, and future grants are solicited.

Shelby County
Tony Bornhorst, Commissioner
937-498-7226
tbornhorst@shelbyco.net



Choice One Engineering
Kaye Borchers, Funding Specialist
937-497-0200
kmb@choiceoneengineering.com



38 E. Monument Ave
Dayton, OH 45402
(937) 223-1271

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
William E. Lukens
Mark G. Rentschler
Beth G. Whelley

GENERAL MANAGER
MaryLynn Lodor

November 2, 2022

Shelby County Commissioners
129 East Court Street
Sidney Ohio 45365

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the Miami Conservancy District in support of the Shelby County Commissioners request to the Priority Dayton Region Priority Development and Advocacy Committee (PDAC), to fill in a key gap in the Great Miami River Recreation Trail from Kuther Road in Sidney to the Village of Lockington in Shelby County.

Connecting the almost 50,000 residents of Shelby County and Sidney to the entire Miami Valley Trail system, the nation's largest connected paved trail system, is important for several reasons: First, once this gap is filled, leaders from Piqua and Miami County have committed to working to connect Piqua to Lockington, which means that you will be able to ride, run, or walk uninhibited from Sidney to Middletown on the Great Miami River Recreation Trail.

Filling in this key gap also benefits every other community along the Great Miami River Recreation Trail, and many more people in SW Ohio who are currently part of the trail system. Each new mile of trail that we add to the entire system essentially makes the investment in the miles that were previously constructed all that more valuable and more miles of trail.

When Sidney and Piqua are connected, and a key gap between Middletown and Hamilton gets filled in, the Miami Valley Trail system will be even greater with connectivity to the Cincinnati and Ohio River trail system. This gives the Miami Valley the opportunity to market the region as a place where cyclists can spend four or five days on a world class trail system and do a loop from Sidney to Cincinnati and then back again, which can be economically significant to all of our communities.

Finally, with all of the investment that is occurring in Shelby County, Ohio's number one county per capita for manufacturing jobs, investing in outdoor recreation can help retain the existing workforce and serve as a way to attract even more job growth in the future. Public and private investments can go hand in hand.

This is an important project for the Great Miami Riverway and MCD is pleased to support Shelby County's efforts to add value to our regional trail network.

Sincerely,


MaryLynn Lodor
General Manager



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WARREN COUNTY, OHIO
 406 Justice Drive, Lebanon, Ohio 45036
www.co.warren.oh.us
commissioners@co.warren.oh.us

Telephone (513) 695-1250
 Facsimile (513) 695-2054

TOM GROSSMANN
SHANNON JONES
DAVID G. YOUNG

November 1, 2022

Shelby County Board of Commissioners
 129 East Court Street
 Sidney, Ohio 45365

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing in support of your request to the Dayton Region Priority Development and Advocacy Committee (PDAC) to prioritize the connection of an advantageous gap in the Great Miami River Recreation Trail from Kuther Road in Sidney to the Village of Lockington in Shelby County. I am eager to see this project move forward as you continue to gain momentum through support at local and state levels, having obtained a portion of funds from your county's capital budget request.

Representing one of the five counties that the Great Miami River runs through, I know the substantial benefit such an amenity is to its community. Not only does outdoor recreation add to the quality of life for residents, but it also invigorates the local markets that profit from the many cyclists who utilize the trail system. This strategic investment will support long-term economic development, maximize the existing assets of the communities along the trail, and create new opportunities for growth.

Please accept this letter of support for the expansion of the Canal Feeder Trail with the eventual goal of connecting to the Great Miami River Recreation Trail.

Sincerely,


 Shannon Jones
 Warren County Commissioner



Hamilton County
Board of County Commissioners

Stephanie Summerow Dumas
 Vice President
 Phone (513) 946-4409
 Fax (513) 946-4407

Alicia Reece
 Vice President
 Phone (513) 946-4401
 Fax (513) 946-4446

Denise Driehaus
 Commissioner
 Phone (513) 946-4405
 Fax (513) 946-4404

October 31, 2022

Dayton Region Priority Development
 & Advocacy Committee

1401 S Main St Ste 200
 Dayton, OH 45409

Dear PDAC representatives,

I am writing to express my support for Shelby County's State Capital Budget request for completion of a 2.3 mile section of the Sidney Feeder Canal Bike Trail. This section is from the terminus of the trail at Kuther Road, Sidney to the Village of Lockington, and will follow the former Sidney Feeder Canal to the former Miami Erie Canal. With completion of this section, the remaining 2.6 miles from Lockington to the northern terminus of the Great Miami Riverway Bike Trail at Piqua will allow cyclists to travel from Sidney to Hamilton, over 99 mile of paved off road trail. With east-west connections the trail possibilities cover more than 360 miles. The completion of the trail is important to recreational activities but is also part of economic development for all cities, villages and counties along the trail, as users of the trail stop for food and drink, possibly stopping overnight and enjoying other entertainment venues along the way. The completed trail also provides for place making, in regards to recruiting and retaining a high quality workforce.

The construction cost for the 2.3 mile segment is estimated by Choice One Engineering to be \$3.6 million and overall cost of \$4.5 million. The additional cost above construction is for real estate right of way acquisition, contingency, inflation till construction starts, and engineer/design costs. The Shelby County request of the State Capital Budget is \$2.5 million and the remaining funds will be from grant applications to Clean Ohio Trail Fund, Recreational Trails Fund, ODOT Transportation Alternatives Program, Nature Works, and Land & Water Conservation Fund. Additional funds will be contributed by Business and Industry contributions, Cycling enthusiasts and Shelby County. Shelby County has paid for the initial engineering costs to develop the planned route and cost of construction estimate by Choice One Engineering.

This is an exciting opportunity for the residents of Shelby County and for all of us who will benefit from the continued efforts to connect our Ohio communities through bike trails.

Sincerely,

Denise Driehaus

Todd B. Portune Center for County Government
 138 East Court Street, Room 603
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
www.hamiltoncountyoiohio.gov

Jeff Aluotto
 Administrator
 Phone (513) 946-4420
 Fax (513) 946-4444

Leslie Harvey
 Clerk of the Board
 Phone (513) 946-4453
 Fax (513) 946-4444



MONTGOMERY
C O U N T Y

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

451 West Third Street
P.O. Box 972
Dayton, Ohio 45422-1376

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Judy Dodge
Deborah A. Lieberman
Carolyn Rice

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Michael Colbert

October 31, 2022

Shelby County Commissioners
129 E. Court St., Ste. 100
Shelby County Annex Building
Sidney, Ohio 45365

RE: Completion of the Sidney Feeder Canal Bike Trail

To Whom It May Concern:

The Montgomery County Commissioners support the Shelby County Commissioners' Capital Budget funding request that would allow for completion of the 2.3-mile section of the Sidney Feeder Canal Bike Trail.

This section is one of two significant gaps in the Great Miami Riverway system, one from Sidney to Piqua, and the other from Middletown to Hamilton. If these gaps are filled in, the Dayton and Cincinnati bike trail systems would be connected and our 'nation-leading' 340 miles of connected trails would greatly expand, becoming an even more marketable tourism and economic development tool for our region.

The completion of the trail is important for all of the cities, villages, and counties along the trail, as users stop for food, drink, overnight stays, and other entertainment venues along the way. A 2017 study found that bicycling participants spend \$83 billion on trip-related sales each year in the US. The completed trail would also provide an attractive tool for recruiting and retaining a high-quality workforce to the state.

Thank you for your consideration of this funding request for this important regional amenity.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Rice
Carolyn Rice
Commission President

Deborah A. Lieberman
Deborah A. Lieberman
Commissioner

Judy Dodge
Judy Dodge
Commissioner

MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE



Gregory A. Simmons
Commissioner

Ted S. Mercer
Commissioner

Wade H. Westfall
Commissioner

November 2, 2022

Board of Shelby County Commissioners
129 East Court Street, Suite 100
Shelby County Annex Building
Sidney, Ohio 45365

Re: Letter of Support for the Sidney Feeder Canal Bike Trail

Dear Commissioners Bornhorst, Ehemann and Guillozet:

The Miami County Board of Commissioners supports the completion of the 2.3-mile section of the Sidney Feeder Canal Bike Trail, to promote recreational activities in the surrounding area and the public use of the trails from Sidney to Hamilton, Ohio. The project has a regional impact by joining the communities by further development and maintenance of the bike trails. The project will assist in marketing the trails to a wider range of users, will promote local recreation and tourism, and will assist in continued support for local improvements along the bike trail.

The Board will support and assist as needed as you proceed through the funding and site development process for this project. Please do not hesitate to contact the Board through Richard Osgood, Miami County Economic Development Director, at 937-440-8121, if there is any way we can assist.

Sincerely,

THE BOARD OF MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ted S. Mercer

Ted S. Mercer, President

Wade H. Westfall

Wade H. Westfall, Vice President

Gregory A. Simmons

Gregory A. Simmons, Member

cc: Richard Osgood, Economic and Community Development

web www.miamicountyohio.gov
visit 201 West Main St. • Troy, Ohio 45373
phone 937.440.5910
fax 937.440.5911

HOME. GROWN. GREAT.



Sidney
OHIO

October 31, 2022

Dayton Region Priority Development & Advocacy Committee
Dayton Development Coalition
1401 S Main Street, Ste 200
Dayton, OH 45409

RE: Great Miami River Recreational Trail (GMRRT) – Shelby County Extension

To Whom it May Concern:

The Sidney Visitors Bureau recognizes the economic, social, environmental and public health benefits of trails, bikeways and riverways. CVB's not only endeavor to grow tourism in their respective areas, but in the surrounding region as well.

The Sidney Visitors Bureau is fully supportive of the Shelby-Miami County Ohio Connector project proposal. We believe this project will supplement the quality of life currently enjoyed in the Shelby County community and serve as an engine to spur additional economic activity in the region.

The Sidney Visitors Bureau is a proud partner in the Great Miami Riverway of connected communities from Hamilton to Sidney and we look forward to the day this proposed trail connection becomes a reality for our region.

Sincerely,

Jeff Raible
President
Sidney Visitors Bureau
Sidney-Shelby County Chamber of Commerce

Sidney Visitors Bureau
101 South Ohio Avenue, Floor 2
Sidney, Ohio 45365
(937) 492-9122 or (866) 892-9122
www.VisitSidneyShelby.com



SIDNEY-SHELBY
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
technology. growth. progress.

101 S. Ohio Avenue, Floor 2, Sidney, OH 45365

October 28, 2022

Dayton Region Priority Development & Advocacy Committee
Dayton Development Coalition
1401 S Main Street
Dayton, OH 45409

RE: Great Miami River Recreational Trail – Shelby County Extension

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on the behalf of Shelby County's application to complete the recreational trail connecting Sidney to Lockington. With the \$500,000 in funding secured earlier this year, this project has good momentum to become a reality in the near future.

Completion of this 12,220 feet of trail and the Miami County portion would allow users to connect to more than 99 miles of recreational trail throughout southwestern Ohio. This project will enhance safety and economic development in the Sidney-Shelby County area.

This trail extension is an integral part of our Downtown and Riverfront Development Plan, so we strongly support this effort. If you have any questions, please contact me at 937-498-9554.

Sincerely,

James A. Hill
Executive Director



Mayor Robin I. Oda
mayor.robin.oda@troyohio.gov

Shelby County Commissioners
129 East Court Street
Sidney, Ohio 45365

October 31, 2022

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing in support of your efforts to obtain state funding to assist in constructing and completing a gap in the *Great Miami River Recreation Trail* from Kuther Road in Sidney to the Village of Lockington in Shelby County.

One of the key gaps in the regional trail system is the gap that still exists between Sidney and Piqua. Your funding initiative (seeking to connect Sidney to Lockington) will put us a step closer to connecting these two cities on the *Great Miami River Recreation Trail*. Sidney and Shelby County, as a whole, will certainly benefit economically and otherwise by being connected to our regional trail network.

Connecting the cities of Piqua and Sidney will benefit every other community along the *Great Miami River Recreation Trail*, along with providing access to more people in SW Ohio who are located all along the trail system and those who come from around the state. Each new mile of trail that we add to the entire system makes the investment in the miles previously constructed all that more valuable to SW Ohio.

The very first mile of trail in our regional trail system was built in 1972, fifty years ago, right here in downtown Troy. Since that time, this recreational trail system has grown to over 340 connected miles of paved trail, more connected miles of paved trail than anywhere in the entire nation. By filling in key gaps, like the gap between Sidney and Piqua, we make the entire trail system stronger and more accessible to everyone.

Thank you for your consideration and efforts in pursuing funding that will assist and connect Sidney/Shelby County to our nation's best trail system, thereby encouraging others to do the same. I believe that this connectivity for Sidney and Shelby County will continue to build economic and recreational vitality not only in Shelby County, but in all of SW Ohio, as we add more and more miles of connected paved trail.

I look forward to adding Sidney/Shelby County to the partners and cities of the *Great Miami River Recreation Trail*!!

Very sincerely,

Robin I. Oda
Mayor

RIO:arb





Ann Runner
Vice President – Human
Resources
Emerson Commercial &
Residential Solutions - HVACR
Technologies

Emerson
1275 W. Campbell Rd.
Sidney, OH 45365

T +1 937 498 3509
M +1 937 239 6752
Ann.Runner@Emerson.com

February 18, 2022

Shelby County Commissioners
129 East Court Street
Sidney, OH 45365

Dear Shelby County Commissioners,

Emerson believes in “driving innovation that makes the world healthier, safer, smarter and more sustainable”. We feel it is necessary to encourage growth and development wherever possible in our communities. We are in support of the ongoing efforts to connect the key gap in the Great Miami River Recreation Trail and request the completion of this project to be prioritized by the Dayton Region Priority Development and Advocacy Committee.

As one of the largest employers in Shelby County, Emerson is always looking for opportunities to attract and retain its employees. We want our employees to see their efforts have an impact on what is accomplished at Emerson and provide opportunities to familiarize themselves with their community. We encourage their overall feeling of health and well-being by offering programs to support their goals including our Vitality Health and Wellness program. Having the Great Miami River Trail right in our backyard would offer opportunities to stay active, explore and contribute to our local communities.

We want to encourage access to our towns so others can experience what our area has to offer and encourage them to want to stay and work here. By completing the trail gap that spans from Kuther Road in Sidney to the Village of Lockington in Piqua, residents and visitors will be able to utilize the 340-mile paved trail network from Sidney to Middletown! This will benefit our communities by stimulating their local economy after promoting this ever-growing tourism aspect that the bicycle routes will bring. Our community helps us feel connected in this world and to know that it shares the same interests that attracts the people who live and work there is something we should embrace.

On behalf of Emerson, and personally as someone who truly enjoys the parks and trail systems here in Sidney, Ohio, I strongly support the Shelby County Commissioners request for this economically sound improvement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ann Runner".

Ann Runner
Vice President - Human Resources, Emerson Commercial & Residential Solutions



2400 Industrial Drive
Sidney, Ohio
45365

Subject: Sidney Shelby County Feeder Canal Trail Support

Dear Commissioners,

Cargill, one of the largest privately held companies in the United States, has a mission to *Help the World Thrive*. One area of focus is in Enriching Our Communities. Our plant, located in Sidney, Ohio is growing and continuously looking to attract new talent. Having a strong community with healthy activities in the Shelby County area is important for Cargill's continued success. For this reason, Cargill has granted funds for prior sections of the trail system. Our organization intends to contribute to the upcoming bike path that will bridge the gap between the cities of Sidney and Piqua, allowing our community to connect to the extensive existing trail system.

Our Cargill Cares organization is looking forward to continuing the private public partnership enabling continued path construction, making important connections in our community.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Leslie Milligan".

Leslie Milligan

Facility Leader