



May 12, 2016

Ms. Jessica Horan-Kunco
Erie Area Council of Governments
150 East Front Street, Suite 300
Erie, PA 16507

Dear Ms. Horan-Kunco:

I am writing in enthusiastic support of the Erie Area Council of Government (EACOG)'s "Erie Area Trail Network" project. I am pleased that the EACOG is taking a leadership role in trying to identify opportunities to expand utilization of Erie County's existing trails, and seeking new ways to strengthen alliances among Erie County municipalities.

The process that led to Erie County's 2015 plan for sustainable development, entitled Destination Erie, involved the participation of thousands of residents over three years. Residents throughout Erie County clearly identified creating and linking trails and enhancing recreational facilities as a priority to improve quality of life, community health, and the region's environment. Emerge 2040 was launched following the completion of the plan to support and facilitate initiatives that further the recommendations of the plan.

The opportunity to build on existing collaborations that support use of local trails by bringing in additional partners and strategies will benefit residents throughout our region. The improved signage and marketing of Erie County trails that will result from this program will increase use of our trails by resident, and it will enhance opportunities to market these assets as part of a regional tourism strategy. Most importantly, this will strengthen relationships among members of the COG around a goal that is shared by member municipal governments as well as by the residents they serve.

I welcome the opportunity for Emerge 2040 to support the work of the Council of Governments on the Erie Area Trail Network project and on future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Anna Frantz,
Executive Director