



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Betsy
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Coffia
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
n/a.
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
TART Trails
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
148 East Front, Suite 201 P.O. Box 252 Traverse City, MI 49685
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
n/a.
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Betsy Coffia - House District 103
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution. The Three Mile Trail and Safe Routes to School projects will increase the public's nonmotorized access to nearby amenities including seven schools, a branch of the Traverse Area District Library, grocery stores, neighborhoods, natural areas, nature preserves, and the beautiful East Grand Traverse Bay beaches. More than 4,000 students will have the option to bike, walk, or roll safely to school in an area currently reliant on personal vehicles and school district bussing.

The Three Mile Trail will navigate through the Mitchell Creek Meadows, a former golf course transformed into a public conserved space that celebrates environmental stewardship and land protection. In order to create safe and scenic trails throughout the Mitchell Creek Meadows, the Three Mile Trail will utilize a mix of asphalt and concrete boardwalk to properly protect the wetland areas. Contributions from state funding mechanisms will ensure that the correct construction materials can be utilized as we create long-lasting community connections.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

3000000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["State","Private","Federal"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Non-profit organization

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Yes

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Yes

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Yes

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

Meg A. Thomas Ackerman, Jessica Alpers, Ross Hammersley, Linda Cline, Heather Jordan, Nan Ray, Paul Bussey, Tara Hochstetler, Matt McDonough, Rick Simonton, Russ Soyring

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:
2026-2027

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."
Yes

FY 25-26 Appropriations Request

Date: 12/13/2024

Name of project: Three Mile Trail and Safe Routes to School Projects
Project location: East Bay Township
Counties served: Grand Traverse County
Funding recipient(s): TART Trails, East Bay Township
(include any associated lobbying, consulting, or public relations firms, if applicable)
Requestor type of organization: Nonprofit organization and local unit of government
(nonprofit, local unit of government, etc.)

Amount of state funding requested: \$3,000,000
Total cost of project: \$15,000,000
Boilerplate section: _____
State Department to disperse funds: _____

Primary contact: Brian Beauchamp
Position/relationship to the project: Director of Strategic Engagement at TART Trails
Phone number: 231-401-1135
Email address: brian@traversetrails.org

Project description and funding proposal purpose:

The Three Mile Trail and Safe Routes to School Projects, two vital yet unfinished efforts, will fill critical gaps in East Bay Township's nonmotorized infrastructure. With enthusiastic support and engagement during project planning stages, community members, landowners, and visitors alike recognize the importance of linking Township neighborhoods, schools, and businesses to a 100+ mile regional trail system and the newly established Mitchell Creek Meadows Nature Preserve. This investment will support the health, well-being, economic vibrancy, and population retention in one of the fastest-growing regions in Michigan.

The Three Mile Trail and Safe Routes to School Projects are phased, multi-year projects. As indicated on the attached project map, each independent segment will significantly improve the mobility and accessibility within East Bay Township. The combined, completed segments will create a transformative multi-modal corridor that this community so deserves.

If given the opportunity and the funding, TART Trails and East Bay Township make major progress within this nonmotorized transportation corridor in the **next two years**.

Description of the funding proposal's public benefit and the need for state funding:

The Three Mile Trail and Safe Routes to School projects will increase the public's nonmotorized access to nearby amenities including **seven schools**, a branch of the Traverse Area District Library, grocery stores, neighborhoods, natural areas, nature preserves, and the beautiful East

Grand Traverse Bay beaches. More than **4,000 students** will have the option to bike, walk, or roll safely to school in an area currently reliant on personal vehicles and school district bussing. The Three Mile Trail will navigate through the Mitchell Creek Meadows, a former golf course transformed into a public conserved space that celebrates environmental stewardship and land protection. In order to create safe and scenic trails throughout the Mitchell Creek Meadows, the Three Mile Trail will utilize a mix of asphalt and concrete boardwalk to properly protect the wetland areas. Contributions from state funding mechanisms will ensure we can utilize the correct construction materials as we create long-lasting community connections.

Please provide a description of any research or evidence backing the project's approach to its stated goal (include any attachments):

In the fall of 2020, all project partners facilitated a community engagement process to garner community feedback and priorities. Survey participants shared they are most interested in the **access** provided by the Three Mile Trail, the opportunity for a **bike trail**, and improved **safety**. 91% of participants intend to use the Three Mile Trail for recreation, 82% for exercise, 54% for transportation, and 16% for outdoor education.

Support and interest were reiterated through the East Bay Township Master Plan finalized in 2023. Through their public survey, 75% of township respondents **supported sidewalks** along collector roads like Three Mile and 72% of respondents were in **support of more bike lanes** throughout the Township and nonmotorized trails along roads such as Hammond Road. A multi-use nonmotorized trail addresses both of these interests.

Have you sought any community input on this project? If so, please provide a brief description:

We have sought community input at multiple points along this project process. In September 2020, project partners hosted an Open House to share the preliminary map with a proposed route. We provided a public survey to gather feedback and created an associated survey report in November 2020. In January 2021, with the help of Parallel Solutions, we conducted stakeholder engagement. In August 2023, we held another well-attended Open House with a survey to gather public input.

Has this project or requesting entity received state funding in the past? If so, please provide a brief description, including previous state funding sources, fiscal years, and amounts:

The project has not received state funding in the past. East Bay Township was recently awarded \$400,000 through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund in December 2024.

How long has funding been sought for this project? How long has state funding been sought for this project?

Funding for this project has been sought since 2019. State funding for this project has been sought since November 2024.

Will this project be receiving other funding? If so, how much and what are the funding sources?

- Three Mile Trail received \$900,000 in Congressionally Directed Spending
- East Bay Township contributed \$1,000,000 toward the Three Mile Trail.
- East Bay Township was awarded a \$400,000 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant for Phase I of the Three Mile Trail.
- Safe Routes to School has committed \$1,500,000 through the Michigan Fitness Foundation for the Township's new pathways along Three Mile and Hammond roads.
- Request for \$3,000,000 from the MDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) for Three Mile Trail
- Requesting second \$400,000 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant for Three Mile Trail

If the funding for this project is granted, will the funds be matched? If so, how much and what are the funding sources?

Funding for this project will be matched. Project partners currently agree on a 60% public funding and a 40% private funding split. This means \$9,000,000 in public funds will be matched with \$6,000,000 in private funding.

Please describe any potential opposition, including organizations or arguments, to the project or funding proposal:

Consistent with other trails that involve boardwalk traversing wetlands, cost is a potential concern. Building responsibly with long-lasting materials costs more at the outset, yet lasts much longer than the cheaper, less sustainable alternative. To address the community's interest in safer, more scenic, and more separated nonmotorized pathways, concrete boardwalks and asphalt sections are the most responsible and sustainable facilities for this trail corridor.

Please list any other supporting organizations regarding this funding request (attach any letters of support):

East Bay Township,
Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy,
Norte Youth Cycling,
Northwest Michigan Community Development Coalition

Please list any other government officials that you have engaged with regarding this funding request:

Senator John Damooose
Senator Jeff Irwin
Representative John Roth

Please share any information on your operations plan:

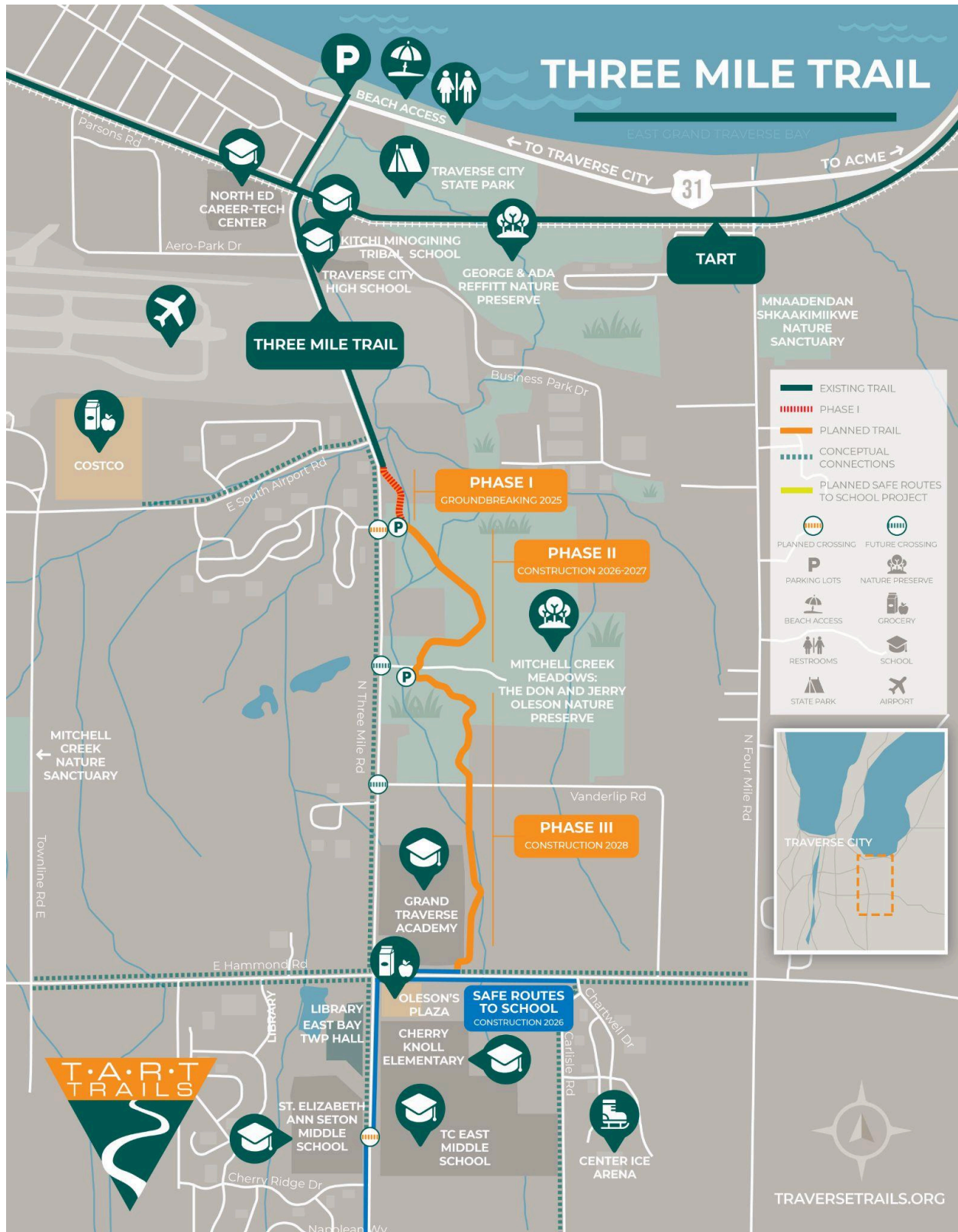
A plan identifying anticipated operational and preventative maintenance tasks, frequency, and cost has been developed for the trail. East Bay Township will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the completed project. TART Trails will extend its Trail Ambassador program to include the Three Mile Trail. A Trail Maintenance Endowment of \$500,000 will be established to fund annual maintenance costs.

Please share any information on similar projects:

The proposed maintenance endowment is used successfully by TART Trails and municipal partners on two other regional trail projects – the Boardman Lake Trail with an \$800,000 maintenance endowment and the Acme Connector Trail with a \$130,000 maintenance endowment.

Please share any other relevant information that our office should know regarding this request:

We have funding for the first phase.





December 3, 2024

Speaker Tate
Representatives Coffia and Roth
Senator Damoose

On behalf of the members of the [Northwest Michigan Community Development Coalition](#), I am writing to express support for the TART Trails' essential funding request for the Three Mile Trail and Safe Routes to School projects. These two vital, yet unfinished efforts will fill gaps in East Bay Township's non-motorized infrastructure and connect our community members directly to the 100+ mile regional trail system. This \$3 million request would leverage over \$8 million in public and private funding including a long-term maintenance fund.

Our Coalition has a shared set of community development goals that prioritize economic vitality, social equity, and environmental sustainability. The Three Mile Trail and Safe Routes to School projects exemplify these goals by:

- Providing non-motorized access to our vibrant local job market and businesses
- Enhancing mobility in a well-utilized corridor, ensuring safer and more convenient transportation options
- Promoting health and wellness by encouraging active lifestyles and outdoor recreation
- Reducing our reliance on carbon-emitting vehicles while fostering deeper connections with the natural environment.

The Three Mile Trail and Safe Routes to School projects will enable more than 4,000 students to safely and confidently bike, walk, and roll to school and other community destinations. These efforts have been envisioned in partnership with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, and once constructed, Norte Youth Cycling is ready to deliver educational programming to help ensure ensure a safer, healthier, and more connected future for East Bay Township and the Grand Traverse region.

We strongly support TART Trails' request and believe that funding this project will deliver lasting benefits to our community. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or for additional information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Mengebier, President and CEO
Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation