



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Jennifer
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Wortz
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:
Village of Union City
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
101 S. Broadway St. Union City, MI 49094
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:
Jennifer Wortz 35
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. Titled "River's Path: Connecting Parks, Bridging Communities" this project was designed to connect two parks in downtown Union City over the historic water trail along the St. Joseph River. It brings ADA compliant walkways to both parks and builds a pedestrian bridge that connect Riverview Park and Heritage Cultural Park - both Village owned parks.
The project opens up two green spaces - encouraging outdoor activity, and to spur economic growth to downtown Union City businesses. With a new feature at a downtown

park and additional accessibility, it will attract visitors and foot traffic to the downtown area and revitalize the local community, while encouraging outdoor activity and expanding uses for the community funded amphitheater located at Heritage Cultural Park. The project has received widespread attention and support, with letters of support written around Branch County - including from Maple Lawn Medical Care Facility (Coldwater), BATA (Branch Area Transit Authority), Union City Schools, and others. All recognizing the impact to both health and the local economy. The project has received community support and has been discussed in various public meetings and hearings since 2016. The project has been fully engineered and is in the late stages and received a Spark grant from the DNR in the amount of \$850,000. Initial bids for the project came in at over \$1.9 million, far exceeding the initial engineering estimates and grant amount, due to increasing material and contractor costs. The Village is unable to cover the gap in funding and is in risk of losing the project altogether, seeking this additional funding.

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.

1000000

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

["State"]

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

Local unit government

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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.'

n/a

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:

2025 - completed in March 2026

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

Yes