



Michigan Air Line Trailway Council

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Commerce Township, MI 48390

www.miairlinetrail.com

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MICHIGAN AIR LINE TRAIL CELEBRATES START OF CONSTRUCTION *Trail Surfacing and Road Crossing Improvement Under Way*

Commerce Township, Michigan: The Commerce, Walled Lake and Wixom Trailway Management (CW2) Council announced the start of construction of 5.5 miles of the Michigan Air Line Trail with a ceremonial groundbreaking ceremony on the Trail (*photo attached*). The construction of this phase of the Trail, extending from Wixom Road east to Haggerty Road, is anticipated to last for five to six months, with completion anticipated in early fall, 2019.

“Our municipalities are elated knowing that this linear park will be open in just a few months. This demonstrates the value of thinking outside the box by sharing a vision, partnering as a team, and involving entrepreneurs. We can't forget to thank the DNR and MDOT, along with Mr. Mike Levine, the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, and private citizens,” said Commerce Township Supervisor and CW2 Council President David Scott.

The project is a public-private partnership, with funding from the Federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), as well as the Ralph C. Wilson Jr., Foundation, the Levine Family Foundation, The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trails Program (RTP), as well as the citizens of Wixom, Walled Lake and Commerce Township. Construction for this phase of the project is budgeted at \$3.2 million.

“SEMCOG is proud to contribute to this project which fills a significant gap in our region's trails network and helps implement Southeast Michigan's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan,” said SEMCOG Deputy Executive Director, Amy Mangus. “Projects like this provide opportunities for recreation, mobility, health and fitness, tourism and economic development. We look forward to continuing to assist and work with communities on projects that further connect our region's bikeways, pathways, and trail towns.”

In addition to surfacing 5.5 miles of trail in Wixom, Walled Lake and Commerce Township, eight trail/roadway intersections will be enhanced with signalized crossings. Efforts are under way to educate the municipalities as to how these road crossing safety devices operate, both for trail users and motorists.

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About The Michigan Air Line Trail: The Michigan Air Line Trail will provide a much-needed local and regional connection between the West Bloomfield Trail to the east, the Huron Valley Trail to the west, as well as the M-5 & I-275 Metro Trails to the south. A pedestrian bridge for the Trail over M-5 was constructed last year in Commerce Township. Further information about the Trail, including periodic construction updates, can be found at www.miairlinetrail.com

PHOTO CAPTION: A ceremonial ground-breaking ceremony on the Michigan Air Line Trail was held this week. Pictured left to right are CW2 Council President and Commerce Township Supervisor David Scott, Wixom City Councilperson Thomas Rzeznik, and CW2 Council Treasurer and Walled Lake Councilperson John Owsinek.

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