

# CLINTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Diane Zuker

**2005-22**

## RESOLUTION APPROVING ACQUISITION OF THE CENTRAL MICHIGAN RAILROAD CORRIDOR (under certain conditions)

WHEREAS, the counties of Clinton, Ionia, and Shiawassee appointed a trail study committee, consisting of 3 representatives each, for the purpose of exploring issues related to the acquisition of the Central Michigan railroad corridor of 41.3 miles and conversion to a multi-use trail/linear park for public non-motorized use and to arrive at a recommendation whether to proceed with the acquisition and eventual development of the trail; and

WHEREAS, the trail study committee held 8 meetings since October, 2004, and studied the following critical trail issues: adjacent property concerns, including hunting, agricultural operations, property values, crime and security, and legal property title issues and trail operations issues, including management and maintenance, and the financial aspects of trail acquisition, development, and maintenance; and delivered a recommendation to the counties that they pursue acquisition of the trail; and

WHEREAS, the trail would provide a quality asset for non-motorized recreation and transportation because of its diverse environment and scenic natural areas, separation from automobile traffic, and convenient spacing of towns every 7-10 miles or so; and

WHEREAS, the county views this trail as a potential economic asset because spending by trail users would directly and indirectly benefit businesses along the way; and

WHEREAS, the county views this trail as an encouragement for healthy lifestyles, an antidote for the health problems stemming from physical inactivity, while encouraging family fitness and togetherness; and

WHEREAS, a sizeable financial donation for up to 75% of the acquisition plus expenses to complete the sale and get the trail into usable shape has been offered to Clinton, Ionia, and Shiawassee counties provided they secure at least a 25% acquisition grant match and assume the obligation to maintain the trail; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation is willing to put dollars towards the 25% acquisition balance in exchange for an easement for road improvement projects at crossing points that will fully accommodate trail users; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Trail and others are committed to assist in fundraising for both match dollars for acquisition and maintenance funding; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Clinton County will join with Shiawassee and Ionia counties in a formal agreement to accept The Meijer Foundation's offer of funding for up to \$1.125 million for trail acquisition, development and establishment of a maintenance endowment, provided that the following conditions are met:

1. A deed analysis shows that the corridor is legally intact enough for conversion to a trail;
2. An endowment fund for trail maintenance is started and a strategy is put in place to cover maintenance expenses for the 24 miles in Clinton County;
3. The Meijer Foundation grant is available as a match to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund or other matching funds that provides money for trail acquisition
4. The Meijer Foundation grant is available as a match for Transportation Enhancement grant funding or other grant dollars for development (including engineering) of the trail;
5. The Meijer Foundation grant is available as seed money for a maintenance endowment to help fund trail maintenance and management once the trail is in operation
6. A suitable agreement between the 3 counties for management and operation of the trail has been negotiated;
7. A satisfactory attempt to address adjacent landowner concerns has been made.

However, should one or both of the other counties be unwilling or unable to participate in acquisition, development and management of the trail, Clinton County would request that The Meijer Foundation grant would be prorated by trail mile (\$25,568/mile or \$613,632 for the 24 miles in Clinton County) and Clinton County should proceed with acquisition, development and management of the railroad right of way and development and operation as a trail based on the Clinton County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan approved by the County Board of Commissioners in 2002.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF CLINTON

I, DIANE ZUKER, Clerk of the County of Clinton do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Clinton County Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting held August 30, 2005 and is on file in the records of this office.

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Diane Zuker, Clinton County Clerk