Peoria Pekin Urbanized Area Transportation Study
Transportation Alternatives Program
Fiscal Years 2015 & 2016
Application Form

Revised December 21, 2015

Provision of on-road and off-road facilities for pedestrians, bicycles, and other non-motorized forms of transportation are eligible to apply. See TAP guidelines for full list of eligible project types.

Submittal Date	1/4/16
Project Name	Duryea Trail Stop
Project Sponsor	Village of Peoria Heights
Co-Sponsor (if applicable)	Peoria Heights School and Peoria Heights Library
Type of Project	Construction of trail stop facility.
Description of Project as it relates to MAP-21 and Envision HOI goals (see guidelines for full listing)	MAP-21 addresses the federal highway system. As such, a trail stop has little direct relation to specific MAP-21 goals. However, the proposed Duryea trail stop does indirectly address several MAP-21 goals including: *Safety - trail users will have a safe place to stop and easier access to the downtown on residential streets. *Infrastructure condition - following trail stop construction, Duryea Avenue pavement improvements will be programmed. *Congestion reduction - by making the existing trail more accessible, people will be encouraged to bike and walk vs. driving. *System reliability - main arteries such as Glen and Prospect will be more efficient for vehicular traffic by encouraging pedestrians and bikers to use the trail instead. *Economic vitality - the downtown will be directly linked to the trail. *Environmental sustainability - encouraging more trail users, will reduce vehicle miles traveled. *Reduced project delivery delays - the Village is committed to beginning and finishing construction during the summer of 2016.

Project Qualifications

Location

Municipality: Village of Peoria Heights
County: Peoria
Roadway: Duryea Avenue
Termini: Rock Island Trail
Intersection of: Duryea Avenue and Rock Island Trail

Please attach a map of location.

Contact Person

Name: Matt Fick
Agency: Village of Peoria Heights
Address: 4901 N. Prospect Rd.
City: Peoria Heights
State: Illinois
Zip Code: 61616
Phone: 3096862385
Email: matt.fick@peoriaheights.org

Funding - *$282,987 Available for FY 2015*
$282,987 (estimated) Available for FY 2016

Please indicate preferred fiscal year of funding in drop-down box to the right
FY 2015 funds must be obligated by September 30, 2018

Project Budget	Federal	Local	Total
Engineering	28,298	7,075	
Right of Way	0	0	
Construction	240,539	60,135	
Utilities	14,149	3,537	
TOTAL			

Fiscal Year: 2015

Please refer to pages 3 -6 in the instructions for eligible project activities and local match requirements

Total TAP Funds Requested 282,986
(cannot exceed Federal total)

Utilities

Please note what utility relocations are involved with the project.

No utility relocations are required. The utilities budget noted above for a total of $17,686 addresses the new water, sewer, and electrical connections that will need to be made as part of the trail stop construction process.

Right of Way

Please note what types of right of way acquisition are involved with the project.

No right of way acquisition is required. The Village is the sole owner of all parcels and roadways necessary for trail stop construction.

Project Evaluation Scoring Criteria

(100 Points Maximum)

Scores will be divided into two sections:

General Scoring Process: All applicants will complete this section in full, up to **60** points total. The project scores in this section are based upon general grant information that is requested of all applications.

General Scores:

Consistency with Envision HOI: Heart of Illinois Long Range Transportation Plan	Max 10 Points
Jurisdiction's Long Range or Comprehensive Plan	Max 10 Points
Co-Sponsorship	Max 10 Points
Documented Public Involvement	Max 10 Points
Documented Community Support	Max 10 Points
Intermodal Connections	Max 10 Points
	Max 60 Points Total

Project Scores:

Infrastructure and Facilities	Max 10 Points
Safety Factors	Max 15 Points
Public Benefits	Max 15 Points
	Max 40 Points Total

General Conditions

(60 Points Maximum)

All projects may receive up to **60** points by answering all questions in this section. For additional information, see page four, under general scoring process.

Envision HOI: Heart of Illinois Long Range Transportation Plan

Max 10 Points

Is the project consistent with the goals and objectives of Envision HOI: Heart of Illinois Long Range Transportation Plan? Please provide a narrative and identify which goals and objectives best relate to this project.

Consistency with Envision HOI	The proposed Duryea trail stop supports numerous goals of the Envision HOI plan including: improve safety for all transportation system users, facilitate active, healthy living, improve and expand pedestrian and bicyclist accommodations, improve air quality, and reduce VMT. Presently, trail users (many of which are coming from the north) are forced to cross the busy five lanes of Prospect Rd. at Marietta (already past the downtown) where there is no traffic light. The proposed Duryea Trail Stop addresses both of these concerns. Users can get off of the trail at Duryea, ride two blocks down a safe, quiet, residential street into the heart of the downtown where it is much more comfortable and safe to cross Prospect Rd. and they will have better access to local amenities to improve the overall trail and biking experience.

☒ Project is consistent with the goals and objectives outlined in Envision HOI. 10 points

☐ Project is NOT consistent with the Envision HOI goals and objectives . 0 points

Score: 10

Co-Sponsorship

Max 10 Points

Is more than one municipality or organization involved with the planning and application process? Please identify the municipalities and organizations involved with the planning and application process of the project. Attach as a separate file from each co-sponsor indicating their interest in the project.

Municipality #1 _____ AND Municipality #2 _____

Organization #1 Peoria Heights Library AND Organization #2 Peoria Heights School

☐ Does not involve any other municipality and no organizations. 0 points

☐ Involves one other municipality or one organization. 5 points

☒ Involves more than one other municipality or organization. 10 points

Score: 10

Jurisdiction's Long Range or Comprehensive Plan

Max 10 Points

Is the project consistent with the goals and objectives of the jurisdiction's long range or comprehensive plan? Please identify the goal and objective from the specified planning document(s) that best relates to the project.

Primary Goal

The Village of Peoria Heights is well under way with a comprehensive corridor planning initiative. Staff and elected officials have had multiple meetings with the consulting team. Additionally, the first of three public events was held on December 16th, 2015. The proposed Duryea Trail Stop has been discussed extensively and well received by both the general public and elected officials garnering unanimous support. The Duryea Trail Stop will be an important piece of the corridor plan when it is complete in a few months time.

Primary Objective

☒ Project consistent with goals and objectives in the Jurisdiction's Long Range or Comprehensive Plan. 10 points

☐ Project is NOT consistent with the goals and objectives in the Jurisdiction's Long Range or Comprehensive Plan. 0 points

Score: 10

Documented Public Involvement

Max 10 Points

Has a documented public involvement process been completed for the project? Please provide a brief summary of the documented public involvement process that was used for the project and attach as a separate file any public notices related to the public involvement process.

Public Involvement Process: As previously detailed, the Duryea Trail Stop was extensively discussed and scrutinized during the corridor plan open house and workshop on December 16th, 2015.

☐ No documented public involvement. 0 points

☐ Project discussed at an open city, county, or other board meeting. 5 points

☒ Project discussed at an advertised public hearing, community forum, or other public outreach session. 10 points

Score: 10

Community Support

Max 10 Points

Did the project receive letters of support from other entities such as neighboring communities, community organizations, individuals, businesses, etc? Please attach any letter (s) as a separate file received for the project and identify below what entity wrote each letter.

Letter #1: US Congressamn Darin LaHood

Letter #2: Peoria County

Letter #3: Richwoods Township

Letter #4: Park District of Peoria

Letter #5: Sherman's

☐ No letter of support from community organizations, individuals, businesses, etc. 0 points

2 points for each letter of support received for the project, with a maximum of 10 points per project.

☒ Letter #1 ☒ Letter #2 ☒ Letter #3 ☒ Letter #4 ☒ Letter #5

10

Connectivity:

Max 10 Points

Does this project achieve, facilitate, or promote the use of alternative modes or the interconnection of different modes of transportation? Does the project provide connections with employment centers, shopping areas, or schools? Please provide narrative and list all types of connections that will be made available from the project.

Connectivity Narrative	The Duryea Trail Stop is so important to the Village because of its central location. As proposed, it would help strengthen and reinforce the link between the school and the library to the neighborhoods south of Glen Avenue. The project will incorporate a playground, bike racks, seating areas that are shaded and protected from the weather, along with restrooms and drinking fountains. The site will be safe with proper lighting and video monitoring directly linked to the police dispatchers. Along with serving students and library patrons the main goal is to give trail users a refuge on a long stretch of the trail that doesn't currently have one. Once stopped, we plan to entice trail users to make the short and safe journey to the downtown where they can experience our merchants and cross Prospect more safely to continue their journey down the trail to Peoria. Also, Sherman's recently relocated their distribution facility to Peoria Heights. Mr. Sherman is very interested in a link to the trail stop for his employees and has expressed interest in a partnership with the Village to utilize a portion of the Sherman's site for additional trail parking. Once into the downtown, there is easy and convenient access to multiple bus stops to make this proposed project truly multi-modal.

Two points will be awarded for each type of connection made available from this project, with a maximum of 10 points possible. Please check all the boxes below that apply.

☐ Project does not achieve any type of connectivity. 0 points

☒ Connection Type #1 ☒ Connection Type #2 ☒ Connection Type #3

☒ Connection Type #4 ☒ Connection Type #5

Score: 10

General Score Total 60

Project Scoring

(40 Points Maximum)

Infrastructure and Facilities

Max 10 Points

Does this TAP project provide the following bicycle, pedestrian, or transit infrastructure and facilities?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Project will not include any of the following factors. 0 points
- ☒ Project will connect to an existing bicycle, pedestrian, or transit network. 6 points
- ☑ Project will connect to a future bicycle, pedestrian, or transit network. 3 points
- ☒ Project will include any of the following enhancements or support facilities: trail head parking, rest rooms, lighting, crosswalks, bicycle racks, bike lockers, signs, trees, flowers, transit shelter, etc. 1 point

Score: 10

Safety Factors

Max 15 Points

Does this TAP project improve safety conditions in the regional transportation system?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ The project does not address any of the following factors. 0 points
- ☒ Project is a separate path not adjacent to a roadway; ie. multi-use bike path, rails-to-trails, etc. 5 points
- ☒ Project provides connections to locations that were previously inaccessible by bicycle, foot, or transit examples include; neighborhoods, schools, shopping, employment, municipal facilities, park and ride lot, etc. 5 points
- ☒ Project identifies and corrects a public safety problem/situation at a specific location. 5 points

Score: 15

Public Benefits

Max 15 Points

Usage

How many users will there be? For example, the number of bicyclists or pedestrians on a trail, residents/visitors walking through the community, and so on. The PPUATS Scoring Committee will assign a score of 1 thru 10 based on the projected usage of the facility.

Raw trail user numbers are hard to come by. Anecdotally, the trail is quite busy, particularly of course in the warmer months. Appropriate signage, advertising, and safety measures will be put in place at the proposed Duryea Trail Stop to attract users. Along with those previously discussed target users, another of the Village's main goals with respect to the trail stop is to encourage new trail users to patronize our facility. As such, the Village is anticipating heavy usage and is already planning accordingly for cleaning, maintenance, and facility upkeep.

Public Value

What will the project bring into the community or general area and the value of it? For example, tourists spending money, improving the quality of life, etc. The PPUATS Scoring Committee will assign a score of 1 thru 5 based on the projected public value of the facility.

The Duryea Trail Stop is very much being viewed as a catalyst project for the surrounding area. It will be immediately adjacent to the Village's biggest and only empty parcel within the downtown.

Most trail users are choice or recreational users. Consequently, many of them have disposable income. The Village intends to stop those users and direct them into the downtown (many trail users don't yet realize how close they are to the downtown) which will benfit the merchants and restaurant owners.

Finally, existing users and residents should experience a dramatic jump in quality of life with respect to the trail as it is currently hard to access and without amenities.

Score:

Total TAP Project Score: 0

Project Scoring

Project Number

General Score Total 0

Project Score Total 0

Total Score 0

Email complete form and attachments to Ryan Harms at rharms@tricountyrpc.org

OR

Print Form

Mail form and all attachments to: 456 Fulton Street, Suite 401
Peoria, IL 61602

MOHR & KERR ENGINEERING & LAND SURVEYING, P.C.
5901 N. Prospect Road, Suite 6B
Peoria, Illinois 61614
www.mohrandkerr.com

Duryea Trail Stop

Peoria Heights, IL

RICHWOODS TOWNSHIP

Michael E. Phelan
Supervisor

Roger A. Larson
Assistant to the Supervisor

TRUSTEES

Fred Carrell
Town Clerk

Laurie Epkins
Assessor

Barbara Furkin
Tax Collector

Earl J. Carter
Trustee

R. Donald Furkin
Trustee

Don Gorman, Jr.
Trustee

Cherine Sank
Trustee

December 29, 2015

Honorable Mark Allen, Mayor
Village of Peoria Heights
4901 N. Prospect
Peoria Heights, IL 61616

RE: Transportation Alternatives Program Grant Application

Dear Mayor Allen,

Thank you for your message regarding the Village's application for a Transportation Alternatives Program grant. It is my understanding the proceeds from this grant will be used to develop a Trail Stop along Duryea Avenue.

My primary reason for support of this project is that it has the potential to put both the Village of Peoria Heights and Richwoods Township in a position to provide a respite for "Trail Enthusiasts" and an opportunity to highlight our diverse, downtown business district.

Another reason for my support of this project is that it will allow both the Village and the Township to precipitate future growth. The attraction of the "uniqueness" which is Peoria Heights and Richwoods Township will be enhanced by those using the Trail Stop.

It is my desire that Peoria Heights and Richwoods Township are positioned for future growth. This Trail Stop will assist with that growth.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Phelan, Supervisor
Richwoods Township

4901 North Prospect Road • Peoria Heights, Illinois 61616-5389
Phone 309/688-2822 • Assessor 309/688-2122 • Fax 309/688-2955 • www.toi.org/richwoodstownship

PLEASURE DRIVEWAY and PARK DISTRICT of PEORIA, ILLINOIS
Bonnie W. Noble Center, 1125 West Lake Avenue
Peoria, IL 61614-5935 ▪ Phone (309) 682-1200 ▪ Fax (309) 686-3352

Mr. Matt Fick
Village Administrator
Village of Peoria Heights
4901 N. Prospect Road
Peoria Heights, IL 61616

RE: PPUATS TAP funding application for trail stop

Dear Mr. Fick:

The Pleasure Driveway and Park District of Peoria enthusiastically supports the proposed TAP funding application for a trail stop along the Peoria Park District Rock Island Greenway as presented by the Village of Peoria Heights to the Peoria-Pekin Urbanized Area Transportation Study Committee.

The Peoria Park District Rock Island Greenway, a multi-use walking and biking trail, bisects the Village of Peoria Heights and provides an off-street walking and biking connection from the Illinois River through the Village to the State of Illinois Rock Island Trail. The Greenway functions as an alternative traffic corridor and brings residents and tourists of all ages to and through the Village of Peoria Heights commercial areas.

Trail amenities such as those included in this TAP funding application are an important part of serving the public's non-motorized transportation needs. The proposed location of this trail stop fits nicely into the current gap in publically available services along the Greenway, and trail facilities have been envisioned in this area from the earliest design stages.

The Peoria Park District supports the application presented by the Village of Peoria Heights, and we look forward to working with the Village to integrate these improvements into the Greenway.

Sincerely,

Bonnie W Noble/egc

Bonnie W. Noble
Executive Director
The Pleasure Driveway and Park District of Peoria Illinois

PEORIA PARK BOARD

TIMOTHY J CASSIDY, President
KELLY A CUMMINGS, Trustee
WARREN E RAYFORD, Trustee
ROBERT L JOHNSON SR, Trustee
JACQUELINE J PETTY, Trustee
MATTHEW P RYAN, Trustee
NANCY L SNOWDEN, Trustee

BONNIE W NOBLE - Executive Director of Parks and Recreation

SHERMAN'S

December 24, 2015

Mr. Mark Allen, Mayor
Village of Peoria Heights
4901 N. Prospect Rd
Peoria Heights, IL 61616

Dear Mr. Allen,

I was excited to hear your plans for constructing a trail stop located at Duryea. Since we acquired the nearby Marietta Ave. property with its extensive trail frontage, we've been thinking of how we could participate in enhancing the trail in the Heights.

I use the trail myself, and though I am a life-long Peoria resident it's often difficult to know how to access nearby businesses while on the trail. It is very helpful to have a stop with restroom facilities and a map to local restaurants, etc. The improvements you propose would clearly be a benefit to both trail users and the Heights Central Business District.

After my conversation with Matt Fick I would like to explore ways Sherman's could help with this redevelopment effort. I would be open to discussing public parking in the Northwest corner of our lot for trail users, as well as sponsoring any useful improvements near our property that would complement the Duryea stop.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or ideas you have regarding Sherman's involvement in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Paul Sherman

1215 West Glen Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61614
Tel: (309) 691-4100
FAX: (309) 272-1475
www.shermansinc.com

Greater Peoria Mass Transit District ~ 2105 NE Jefferson Avenue ~ Peoria, IL 61603
Phone: 309-676-4040 Fax: 309-676-8373 website: www.ridecitylink.org

January 4, 2016

Mr. Matt Fick
Village Administrator
Village of Peoria Heights
4901 N. Prospect Road
Peoria Heights, IL 61616

RE: Trail Stop Grant Application Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Fick:

The Greater Peoria Mass Transit District (GPMTD) is writing this letter to support the Village of Peoria Heights' Transportation Alternative Program application. The GPMTD supports interonnectivity and the objectives of TAP.

The GPMTD believes the proposed project will be beneficial for the area and the users of the Trail Stop.

If you need further information or assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at 679-8158 (office) or astanek@ridecitylink.org.

Sincerely,

Al Stanek
General Manager

Board of Trustees

Sharon McBride	Maxine Wortham	Art Bell	Joan Krupa	James Polk
Chair	Vice Chair	Treasurer	Secretary	Trustee

Al Stanek, General Manager

SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892
Heart of Illinois Group P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61612
http://illinois.sierraclub.org/hoi

2419 E. Reservoir
Peoria, IL 61614-8029
December 30, 2015

Mayor Mark B. Allen
Village of Peoria Heights
4901 N. Prospect Road #3
Peoria Heights, IL 61616

Dear Mayor Allen,

This letter is to let the Village of Peoria Heights know that Heart of Illinois Group Sierra Club strongly supports your efforts to seek funding for the Peoria Heights Trail Stop along the Rock Island Greenway.

Heart of Illinois Group Sierra Club encourages the Peoria / Pekin Urbanized Area Transportation Study to approve the Village of Peoria Heights Transportation Alternatives Program funding application for the Trail Stop. We have supported the idea of a Trail Stop in the Heights since it was proposed years ago as we think this is a great addition to the trail. The public will benefit from having the amenities the Trail Stop will provide. We see this feature as encouraging more trail use and also attracting more people to local businesses.

The Rock Island Greenway is a great asset for the area for hiking, jogging, bicycling, roller blading, cross country skiing and other recreation. It provides essential off-street north-south non-vehicle travel and is a real benefit for local residents and visitors.

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club has over 900 members across 15 counties in central Illinois, with most of our members in the greater Peoria metropolitan area. We support efforts to make bicycling more convenient and safe in the greater Peoria area and we hope this project will be approved.

Sincerely,

Joyce Blumenshine
Chair

December 28, 2015

Mayor Mark Allen
4901 N. Prospect Rd.
Peoria Heights, IL 61616

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR TRAIL STOP TAP APPLICATION

Dear Mayor Allen,

This letter is written in support of the Village of Peoria Heights grant application for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). As a nonprofit organization that represents and advocates for hundreds of cyclists in the Greater Peoria region, Bike Peoria NFP welcomes and supports improvements and upgrades to the local cycling infrastructure.

The project as stated is to construct a trail stop within the village along the Rock Island Trail for the recreational and commuting cycling community. There are many positive benefits of this project. Among those benefits are: clean and safe restroom facilities, way-finding to the nearby commercial corridor, and an enhanced cycling experience while traveling along the trail within Peoria Heights.

Bike Peoria NFP believes that the dedication of the Village of Peoria Heights efforts in making its infrastructure more bike-friendly will profit the residents in the community immediately and in the long-term future. As such, we strongly recommend this project for approval and urge for financial support in the matter.

Sincerely,

Erik Reader
President, Bike Peoria NFP

612 West Main Street | Peoria, Illinois 61606
Phone: (309) 621-1706 | Email: BikePeoria@gmail.com | www.BikePeoria.org

December 23, 2015

To:
Mayor Mark Allen
cc: Administrator Mr. Matt Fick
Village of Peoria Heights
4901 N. Prospect Rd
Peoria Heights, IL 61616

Dear Mark,

The IVW was informed by Mr. Fick that the Village of Peoria Heights is applying for a grant through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) in order to have the funding for the construction of a Trail Stop adjacent to Duryea Avenue. As an avid bicyclist and hiker who uses the Rock Island Greenway (RIG) extensively, I fully support this plan. The IVW board of directors and I have had discussion with the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) regarding adding restrooms and drinking fountains along the RIT/RIG to better accommodate trail users.

The IVW board of directors and I truly feel this project will potentially benefit the downtown businesses due to the proximity of the trail stop location. If combined with way finder signage and kiosks along the trail/greenway, it can potentially bring tourists to the area businesses as well as draw more local residents who wish to use bicycles instead of vehicles to reach the local businesses. On behalf of the IVW board, I thank you for leading this effort to improve the Village of Peoria Heights and the RIG.

Kind regards,

Fai Mok
IVW President
Email: Ivwheelmn@gmail.com
Website: www.ivwheelmn.org

Illinois Valley Wheelm'n Bicycle Club
P.O. Box 9129
Peoria, IL 61612

The Illinois Valley Wheelm'n is a non-profit organization consisting of members throughout the Tri-County area. The purpose of IVW is to foster an environment in which people can enjoy bicycling by 1. Promoting & encouraging recreational as well as utilitarian cycling activities. 2. Supporting members in the sport of bicycle racing. 3. Promoting safe cycling. 4. Encouraging public facilities for bicycling including bicycle paths, trails, and roadways. 5. Cooperating with public authorities in the observance of all traffic regulations and the education of the cycling public to such regulations. 6. Advocating the rights and privileges of bicyclists.

Peoria Heights Chamber of Commerce

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 9783
Peoria, IL 61612-9783
309-282-7733

2016 Board Members

Hugh Higgins, *President*
HeartH Restaurant
309-686-0234

Peter Riley, *President Elect*
Prudential
309-839-8682

Carolyn G. Catton, Past *President*
Resident Member
309-966-3955

Shawn Edwards, *Secretary*
Peoria Heights Public Library
309-682-5578

Emiel J. Michelet, *Treasurer*
Resident Member
Global Village, Volunteer
309-369-3353

Carolyn G. Catton, Past *President*
Resident Member
309-966-3955

AT LARGE:

Bo Cheeseman
Lucky's Modern Dive
309-839-1839

Kathryn Fife
Harp & Thistle
309-688-5668

Dennis Merkley
Merkley & Shields, LLC
309-723-8585

Cheryl Schlumpf
N2 Publishing
309-253-4686

Jacob Sexton
OSF Healthcare Foundation
309-566-5672

Street Address:
1203 E. Kingman Avenue
Peoria Heights, IL 61616
peoriaheightschamber.com

Mr. Matt Fick

Administrator, Peoria Heights Village

Dear Matt,

On behalf of the Peoria Heights Chamber of Commerce, we would like to extend our whole hearted supporter: the potential Transportation Alternatives Program grant application. In addition, as a Peoria Heights business owner, I am personally and excited at the opportunity this presents to further enhance our business district and our community.

The Peoria Heights chamber of Commerce would like to offer our support, and applaud your efforts and vision. Let us know if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Hugh Higgins

President

Peoria Heights Chamber of commerce

Peoria Heights
Community Unit School District 325
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

500 E. Glen Avenue | **Peoria Heights, Illinois 61616** | **Eric M. Heath, Superintendent**
Telephone 309 / 686-8800 | FAX 309 / 686-8801 | eric.heath@ph325.org

December 30, 2015

Dear TAP Grant Administrators:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Peoria Heights Community Unit School District #325 in support of the Village of Peoria Heights' application for the Transportation Alternatives Program Grant. The school district is tremendously supportive of a trailhead project that would give the community another park and green project for students and families of Peoria Heights.

The addition of this trailhead project would serve many purposes. It would give commuters of the Rock Island Greenway a safe place to stop, rest, and enjoy the park and amenities. There is not currently a trial stop in Peoria Heights that offers this to the patrons of the trail. We also believe that the new trail head would help with the communities revitalization efforts in many of our neighborhoods by adding another valuable green space.

The school district is specifically supportive of this project because it allows for our students to access the greenway as another method of transportation to and from school. The trail is centrally located in our community and is used by many students as a route to and from school. We encourage our students to use the trail when available either for walking or riding their bikes to school. Providing amenities on the trail for students and families to use is a valuable benefit to them. Adding the trail stop will encourage our students and families to use the trail as much as possible.

We fully support the Village's efforts in this project. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at 309-686-8800.

Sincerely,

Eric M. Heath

Eric M. Heath
Superintendent
Peoria Heights CUSD #325

PEORIA HEIGHTS
PUBLIC LIBRARY

816 E Glen Avenue
Peoria Heights, IL 61616
309.682.5578

December 30, 2015

Mayor Mark Allen
Village of Peoria Heights
4901 N. Prospect Rd.
Peoria Heights, IL 61616

Dear Mayor Mark Allen,

As Director of the Peoria Heights Public Library, I would like to convey the enthusiastic support of myself and the Library Board for the Transportation Alternative Program grant that is sought by the Village to build a Trail Stop along the Rock Island Trail.

Located next to the trail, the Library is only a short distance from the Trail Stop's intended location. Not only would the Trail Stop draw users to the Village's Central Business District, but I believe that it would draw them to the Library. The trail already serves a valuable link to Peoria Heights and the proposed Trail Stop would further enhance this connection while making our community even more attractive to trail users.

The Library fully supports the efforts of the Village of Peoria Heights in seeking funding to create a Trail Stop. We are excited about the economic and recreational possibilities that the Rock Island Trail presents in Peoria Heights. The Trail Stop is a promising step toward recognizing the trail's potential benefits to the community.

Sincerely,

Shawn Edwards
Director, Peoria Heights Public Library