

TO: The Honorable Eric Greitens, Governor of Missouri
Carol S. Comer, Director, Department of Natural Resources

FROM: Eric Rogers, Executive Director, BikeWalkKC

DATE: July 7th, 2017

RE: Rock Island Trail Project Interim Use Agreement

BikeWalkKC enthusiastically supports the Rock Island Trail Project and urges the Department of Natural Resources to approve the Interim Trail Use Agreement with the Missouri Central Railroad.

Missouri has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build on the success of the Katy Trail State Park and build a world-class destination for bicycle tourism, economic development, and outdoor recreation. As the Katy Trail State Park approaches its 30th anniversary, it is clear the trail has been a huge success with:

- 400,000 annual visitors
- 18:1 return on investment
- Revitalization of small towns across the state
- Economic development through bicycle tourism, supporting numerous lodging, restaurant, retail, and tourism businesses
- Established reputation as an international tourist destination

The Rock Island Trail Project is an opportunity bring these benefits to many more towns across the state. Here in the Kansas City area, our communities are investing local resources for our own segment of the Rock Island Trail. We are eager to connect to the rest of the state and look forward to future corridor connecting the Country Club Plaza to the Gateway Arch. We are excited for the opportunity for Kansas City to become a hub of bicycle tourism by connecting the Katy and Rock Island Trails to growing trail systems in Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa.

The Rock Island Trail project is an important investment in Missouri's future. I urge Director Comer and Governor Greitens to approve the Interim Trail Use Agreement and move this project forward.

About BikeWalkKC

BikeWalkKC is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit that partners with neighborhoods, businesses, and government to improve walking and biking in Greater Kansas City through public policy, education, and community-building.

Our mission is to redefine our streets as places for people to build a culture of active living.