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Greenways Foundation 2019 Legislative Platform

The Greenways Foundation (GF), Inc., an Indiana statewide not-for-profit corporation, supports the following legislative initiatives to promote the development, enhancement and use of our state's trails and greenways:

I. PRIORITY

1) **Recreational Trail Maintenance Fund (RTMF) Appropriation***

In 2014, Governor Pence signed Public Law 219 (IC 14-19-10.3) establishing the RTMF. However, to date there has not been a source of funding created for this fund. Today, approximately 3,800 miles of trail are open to the public in Indiana, but a majority of these routes are in need of regular maintenance from advocate groups and volunteers. The cost to maintain a trail averages between \$3,500 to \$6,500 per mile per year. The GF supports a \$2 million per year appropriation to the RTMF to begin adequately addressing this need.

2) **Adoption of Three-Tiered Electric Bike and Scooter Law**

Electric bicycles and scooters are beginning to proliferate throughout Indiana. These are generally allowed as stated in the Indiana Recreational Use Statute IC 8-4.5-1-16 (E). However, the GF supports a well-defined three-tiered law based on vehicle speed as enacted in both Illinois and Michigan to provide needed guidance for these emerging travel options. The GF also supports their use on paved trails and granting municipalities the authority to enact stricter operator regulations.

II. RECOMMENDATION

3) **Adoption of State Complete Streets Policy at Legislative Level**

The GF supports Complete Streets (CS) Policies to aid in safe travel for pedestrians and bicyclists. INDOT adopted a CS Policy in 2014, but it lacks sufficient legal strength. To date, 21 state legislatures have adopted CS Policies, and the GF supports similar action by the Indiana General Assembly.

4) **Establish New Trails Grant Fund***

The Greenways Foundation thanks Gov. Holcomb for his recent \$90 million commitment for trails from the Next Level Connections Program. However, an annual state fund is needed to distribute to both municipalities and trail nonprofits to advance the development of local and regional trails. This would be in-line with a number of neighboring states who have developed similar programs. The GF requests such a fund be administered by the Dept. of Natural Resources.

**The GF encourages legislators to consider using funding options as reviewed by the Bicycle Trails Task Force. These include:*

- sporting goods sales tax (diversion from existing sales tax)
- state gas tax (from existing revenue for off-road vehicles or set-aside)
- real estate transfer tax (new – IN one of 11 states without it)
- sin tax (from existing sources or sports betting if legalized)
- general appropriations
- waste tire fee (currently low @ \$0.25 per tire– bring up to \$0.50)
- tipping fee/environmental penalties (low compared to other states @ \$0.60 per ton – bring to \$1.00 per ton)
- cigarette tax (increase from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per pack)

For additional details on these initiatives for 2019, please visit our fact sheet on our website at: www.greenwaysfoundation.org/2019LegFactsheet



Find a trail. Find yourself.