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January 4, 2012

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is to add my endorsement in support of the Transportation, Community, and System Preservation Program (TCSP) grant application for a 2.5-mile bike/ped segment of the Ohio River Trail in PA.

The Ohio River Trail (ORT) project is a partnership project between the Ohio River Trail Council and the 27 municipalities along the 41-mile proposed trail that follows the shores of the Ohio River, just downstream from Pittsburgh. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA-DCNR) has supported this vision through grants for two Feasibility Studies – the North Shore and the South Shore sections. For this application, the focus is to start implementation of the ORT South Shore Trail Feasibility Study.

This first section of trail is identified in the Feasibility Study, and is only 2.5 miles long, but will make a major link to existing trail systems from Pittsburgh to Washington DC, following the Montour Rail-Trail, the Great Allegheny Passage, and the C&O Canal Towpath. When completed, the ORT will continue the linkage to the northwest, to the "Great Ohio Lake-to-River Greenway" in Columbiana County, Ohio, forming a mega-trail from the great lakes region to our nation's capitol. This grant application requests funds for design and engineering drawings and construction specifications for implementation of the first phase of the Feasibility Study.

The Ohio River Trail project is part of the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, and is located in a metropolis of 27 linked municipalities, working to recover from the economic downslide of the industrial era and to rebuild the riverfronts to a point of pride. The Ohio River Trail will provide a safe route for alternative transportation on foot and on bicycles.

I urge your favorable review of TCSP's application and thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my support for this Ohio River Trail project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Marshall".

JIM MARSHALL
State Representative
14th Legislative District