

# Memo

**To:** City Council  
**From:** Bryan Myrkle, Community Development Director  
**Date:** December 22, 2020  
**Re:** Regional trail initiative

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I was recently asked to join a loose coalition of representatives from nearby organizations and local government jurisdictions, including the City of Eaton Rapids, Eaton County, Eaton Township, CharlotteRising, Eaton Community Health and others to seek funding opportunities for the planning, design and potentially the development of a walking and biking trail between Charlotte and Eaton Rapids. The trail, which is in the early stages of conception, would connect our two communities and have Crandell Lake as a way-point.

The early work has been making sure we have the necessary stakeholders represented, so that every regional entity and potential partner can participate from the very first stages.

There are several grant prospects being explored. The first opportunity with the earliest deadline would be a USDA Rural Development grant, due on January 25<sup>th</sup>. It may be possible to develop a reasonable grant submission by that date for planning and design funds in support of this project.

Either I, or another member of the coalition, will make a presentation to you at your meeting on Monday, December 28 to talk more about the project and the potential funding sources thus far identified.