

Another note of support to accepting
the City of Rapid's visionary plan
to keep the Federally Rail-banked and
State-Owned Rail to Kadoka OPEN and
continuous!

The greater public good + SD economy
is served best with this plan!

A simple look to the Midelson Trail
success is nearly all that is needed!

Tim Rangitsch
ACME Bikes

Dear State Leaders,

I'm writing in support of Rapid City's proposal to turn the old rail line along Highway 44 between Rapid City and Kadoka into a new bike path.

I would like to point to the work of Dr. Thomas Power, an economist at the University of Montana, who lays out a strong case that new economy of the American West is based in recreation.

A bike path along this rail line, similar to the beloved Mickelson Trail, would draw recreational tourists from around the world—by allowing the connection, via bicycle, from the Rapid City Regional Airport to both the Black Hills and the Badlands.

This bike path would be a boon to both the Ag economy and the tourist economy in western South Dakota. Landowners and small towns along the line could set up bed and breakfast type lodging and have a second source of income when and if the ag economy becomes difficult.

Like the Mickelson Trail, small fees charged to access this bike path could pay for its maintenance and upkeep. Like the Mickelson Trail, this path will pay for itself over and over again for generations to come in tourism revenue.

I hope the authorities with power over this decision will have the vision to see the potential for a bike path along this rail line for the next century and beyond.

Sincerely,

Charles Michael Ray

324 Saint Andrew

Rapid City, SD

I live on Dunn Road, and every day I wish for a trail. Why? Safety.

I am an equestrian, mountain biker, hiker, cross country skier, and an overall outdoor enthusiast.

I no longer walk, bike, or cool out my horse on any pavement due to safety. I've nearly been run off the road, a road that has no shoulders, and for that reason I don't have a safe place to play less than 30 minutes from home (not in city limits).

It would be a luxury to be able to go that short distance on pavement to enjoy a trail.

The way I would give back? I would be happy to volunteer to help keep it clean and maintained. I have been waiting for an opportunity like this.

Please keep me in the loop on additional developments.

Thank you!

Leanne Olson

[605-484-0841](tel:605-484-0841)

Cabbage Bros. Bikes
2308 Crane Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

January 30, 2020

• Dear Mr Cope:

I am a small business that services our local rail trails with a fleet of rental bicycles. Our trail brings hundreds if not thousands of visitors a year, for trail use. The trail also host snowmobiles in the winter, and many small towns have benifitted from "off season" tourists.

I strongly hope South Dakota sees the possibilities of revenue from a proposed trail. I can provide you with additional contacts and organizations who can show you the great results of our state wide trail systems.

If you need any more information,
Please contact me.

Thank you.

Sincerely!

Bob

Robert Kennedy
Cabbage Bros. Bicycles
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

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