Press Release

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For Immediate Release

TRAIL 2 UPDATE

Collaboration between governmental units brings optimistic progress.

Wakefield, MI. (09NOV23)- Wakefield, Michigan - The City of Wakefield and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have made significant progress towards finalizing a temporary snowmobile route along OLD US 2 within the City of Wakefield for the 2023/2024 season. Following several productive weeks of discussions, the DNR has made assurances to increase law enforcement patrols, enhance signing, and limit negative impacts on vehicle traffic.

Robert A. Brown Jr, City Manager of Wakefield, emphasized the importance of safety as he stated, "The health and safety of the residents of Wakefield and our visitors is paramount. Through close collaboration with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, we are confident a temporary and possible permanent solution may be found." The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Upper Peninsula Trail Coordinator, Ron Yesney, stated, “the DNR continues to engage with our municipal partners and stakeholders to find safe and long-lasting solutions to ensure the success of this vital trail connector.”

The City of Wakefield is expected to receive a formal proposal from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in the coming days. The proposal will be discussed at a Special Meeting of the Wakefield City Council that is yet to be scheduled but is anticipated to occur before Thanksgiving.

In addition to the short-term solution, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the City of Wakefield have initiated preliminary discussions for a permanent motorized and non-motorized trail along OLD US 2. However, further surveys, engineering, and public input are required before making any final decision.

The City of Wakefield and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources have acknowledged the existence of social media posts spreading misinformation regarding this matter. We urge the public to remain optimistic and monitor reliable and authoritative sources of information such as www.cityofwakefieldmi.gov or https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/about/newsroom/release. The City and DNR continue to work on complex issues and ask for patience and cooperation from the general public and business community.

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