



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
1100 N. Mineral Springs Road
Porter, Indiana 46304-1299

August 20, 2015

Ms. Jeanette P. Wilson
Transportation Planner, Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator
Office of Asset Planning & Management
Indiana Department of Transportation
100 N. Senate Ave., Room N955
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Wilson:

The National Park Service/Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore would like to offer our support for the designation of proposed U.S. Bicycle Route 36 (USBR 36). We recognize that bicycle tourism is a growing industry in North America, contributing \$47 billion a year to the economies of communities that provide facilities for such tourists. As a community, we stand to benefit from this opportunity both economically and from the health and environmental related benefits of encouraging bicycle travel in our region.

The U.S. Bicycle Route System is a bicycle based transportation system sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). I'm very excited to help advance a terrific project that will connect the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to the City of Chicago and beyond as a major component of a local, regional and national network of trails.

The proposed route for USBR 36 will provide a benefit to our residents and businesses and we endorse having the route mapped and signed, thereby promoting bicycle tourism in our area, Therefore the National Park Service hereby expresses its support for USBR 36, and requests that the appropriate officials nominate the route for AASHTO designation as soon as this can be achieved.

Sincerely,

Paul Labovitz
Superintendent, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore