

STATE SENATOR · JIM BARCIA · 31ST DISTRICT

Barcia Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jan 11, 2008

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SENATOR BARCIA APPLAUDS TUSCOLA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT FUNDING

City of Vassar to benefit from motorized trail

LANSING- Jim Barcia today applauded the announcement of \$135,505 in Transportation Enhancement (TE) road improvement funding which will fund construction of a non-motorized trail along M-15, a state designated Heritage Route. The trail will originate at the southern city limits and extend north to the end of Vassar's existing system. The funding is being provided in partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Federal Department of Transportation. The project budget of \$135,505 includes \$97,564 in TE funding and \$37,941 in matching funds from the city of Vassar. The project includes signage and lighting.

This project follows a major 2007 TE project to pave six-foot shoulders on M-15 for non-motorized use from Emerson Street in Vassar to M-46 in Tuscola County.

“This is great news for Tuscola County, as well as for the state,” Sen. Barcia said. “The federal funding means jobs, improved infrastructure, and an enhanced quality of life. In light of our current fiscal challenges, this provides a tremendous boost for Tuscola County.”

Under federal law, ten percent of transportation funds are set aside for TE projects. The grants allow communities to invest in landscapes, streetscapes, and bike path development. Administered by MDOT, the TE funds provide a maximum of 80 percent of required funding for each project, with the remainder coming from state and local governments and the private sector.

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Sen. Barcia represents Senate District 31 that includes Arenac, Bay, Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties. He is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee where he serves as Minority Vice Chair of the State Police & Military Affairs and Higher Education subcommittee as well as on the Department of Community Health and the Department of Human Services subcommittees.