

**City Council Member
Allison Patton
District 6**



July 27, 2023

Dear Community Connectors Grant Review Committee:

As a member of the Pensacola City Council representing District 6, an area that encompasses downtown Pensacola and some of the diverse neighborhoods impacted by the proposed Bluffline multi-use trail, I am writing to voice my support for this project. I'm a passionate advocate for an inclusive and prosperous Pensacola and I believe that the Bluffline project will help achieve these goals for our community.

Bluffline's vision of a 10-mile public greenway stretching from Scenic Heights to West Pensacola offers an opportunity to connect our community and encourage our residents and visitors to experience all aspects of Pensacola. It will provide a safe route to access our downtown by those without vehicles and promote healthy living and sustainability. In addition to creating an equitable transportation infrastructure, the Bluffline project will provide more useable green space and create economic development in and around its corridor (particularly in Brownsville and other lower income communities). I have seen the impact of this type of project in Atlanta, Dallas, and other cities, and I believe that it is one of the most effective ways to revitalize and spur economic development in lower income communities.

The individuals behind this project have demonstrated the creativity, passion, and organization to turn their big vision into reality. As a member of the regional Transportation Planning Organization, the Emerald Coast Regional Council, and our local economic development council, I believe that the Bluffline is an excellent opportunity to bring together our historically divided community and collaborate on a project that will have significant impacts for all of us.

I ran for City Council to make Pensacola an even better place to live and to create opportunity for all residents of our community. I have also been lucky enough to travel extensively over the years and have seen the impact of well-designed urban development in communities. I want to see that happen for Pensacola and I believe that working with Smart Growth America through a Community Connectors grant on Bluffline, Inc. will help us create a project that will have a significant positive impact on our community. I believe that the Bluffline concept fits squarely within the Community Connectors objectives and goals and I hope that you will agree and consider awarding this grant to Bluffline Inc. We look forward to working with you!

Thank you for your consideration.

Allison Patton

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