Northern Michigan University

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February 26, 2016

Mr. Dennis M. Stachewicz
Director of Planning and Community Development
City of Marquette
300 W. Baraga Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855

RE: Early Coordination Notification
City of Marquette-Hospital Relocation Study-Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Stachewicz:

In response to your request and to help support the planning efforts of the Early Preliminary Engineering (EPE) study associated with the relocation of the hospital, Northern Michigan University (NMU) has several concerns for consideration as you evaluate the various roadway improvements.

Of the items noted in your letter, NMU is most interested in any proposed changes to the Grove/Seventh Street intersection or any impact to the Seventh Street corridor. As you know, the development process for the 2008 NMU Campus Master Plan included the identification of designated access routes and key entry points to NMU's Campus. In cooperation with the City of Marquette, the Seventh Street corridor was identified as the primary access route to campus. The intent was to provide an easily identifiable and accessible route from US 41, through city streets to campus with a very pronounced front door to the university. This was done not only to provide a direct and easy access route for all campus patrons, but also to relieve traffic on Third and Fourth Street and in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Since the adoption of the 2008 Campus Master Plan, NMU has worked with the Michigan Department of Transportation to identify and sign routes along US 41 directing visitors to Seventh Street and with the City of Marquette to direct visitors through streets. NMU has also installed campus entry signs to coincide with the designated access routes and reconstructed the campus entry at Seventh Street to be the primary portal to our campus.

This effort has been very successful and one that has had benefits to both NMU and the City of Marquette. NMU would like these points taken into consideration during the EPE study and offer to meet and work with the City of Marquette on ways to preserve or enhance the Seventh Street access route.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the EPE study, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Jim Thams
Director of Facilities and Campus Planning