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**Union Street Dam Modification and FishPass Project Awarded \$6.4 MM  
from Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**

Traverse City, MI, April 7, 2020 – The City of Traverse City, in partnership with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, announced a \$6.4 MM funding award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).

The Union Street Dam Modification and FishPass project is the capstone of a 15+ year process to restore the Boardman/Ottaway River, known as the Boardman River Dams Ecosystem Restoration Project. FishPass is designed to solve one of the world’s most difficult fishery management challenges: how to pass fish around barriers and dams while still blocking harmful invasive species like sea lampreys. The GLRI funding will be used to construct and implement the FishPass bi-directional selective fish passage system utilizing an acoustic telemetry observing system with the goal of restoring and managing fish species within the Great Lakes basin ecosystem.

“This project represents some of the greatest collaboration our community has ever seen,” said Marty Colburn, City Manager, Traverse City. “We are grateful to our federal partners including U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Senator Gary Peters and Congressman Jack Bergman as well as our long list of partners including the State of Michigan and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.”

“When I visited the Boardman River Watershed Restoration Project last year, I saw firsthand how the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is working effectively to keep our Great Lakes safe and clean for future generations,” said Senator Peters. “I’m pleased that this funding will take further steps to revitalize Northern Michigan’s ecosystem. I secured an increase in GLRI funding because it is a proven success, and I’m going to continue working to ensure this program has strong federal support in the future.”

"I've seen first-hand the ongoing partnership over the past few years to restore the Boardman River. It's one of the many examples of why the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has been such a major success story for our state," said Senator Debbie Stabenow. "I thank the City of Traverse City, the Grand Traverse Band, and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission for working closely with our local community to implement the best technology that will support our native fish populations while keeping invasive species out of our Lakes."

"The Great Lakes are our most treasured natural resource. The FishPass project in Traverse City is yet another example of positive investments in our communities through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative," said Congressman Jack Bergman. "I'm proud to continue my support for this project, and the GLRI."

Funding for FishPass has been coordinated by the binational Great Lakes Fishery Commission. "Dams and barriers pose both challenges and opportunities" said Robert Lambe, Executive Secretary of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. "They thwart movement of desirable species like sturgeon and walleye but they also block harmful species like sea lamprey. FishPass is designed to have it both ways--to use smart technology and methods to pass the good and block the bad. We have been thrilled to be a part of the larger Boardman River restoration project and very much appreciate how the GLRI has made FishPass a reality."

A groundbreaking for the project is set to take place later this summer with project completion anticipated in 2021.

To learn more about FishPass and the full project, visit: <http://www.glfc.org/fishpass.php>

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