

February 23, 2023

Ms. Kimberly Bradley, Trails & Greenways Program Coordinator  
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

**Re: DEEP Connecticut Recreational Trails Program 2023 Grant Application**

Dear Ms. Bradley:

The Capital Region Council of Government (CRCOG) is pleased to support the Town of South Windsor's application submitted under the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's 2023 Recreational Trails Grant Program for the construction of the South Windsor Crosstown Trail.

The Crosstown Trail, designated as a Connecticut Greenway in 2017, serves as an important link in the region's network of multi-state trails. It provides access for residents of South Windsor to the Charter Oak Greenway in Manchester, part of the multi-state East Coast Greenway. This regional network of trails is an important policy recommendation in CRCOG's 2014 Plan of Conservation and Development. Under the plan's Transportation Section, policy recommendation number 11 calls for the region to: "Work with local and state officials to develop new, dedicated bicycle and pedestrian trails and connect existing trails to form regional and interregional trails, with a particular focus upon completing the East Coast Greenway through the region."

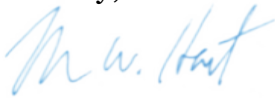
This proposal would also help the region implement goals found in its 2019 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. That plan calls for expanding the region's multi-use path system with a particular focus on linking greenways. Much of the region's primary trail system is complete, or nearing completion. The bulk of the work now is providing access to these trails and connecting them to commercial and residential areas.

Finally, this proposal would serve as an example of innovative trail development for others to follow. In a time of fiscal instability and increasingly scarce resources, the project would leverage a partnership with Eversource to build the trail within the utility's right of way. Not only would this reduce overall costs for the project, but it would also help preserve maintenance access for the utility.

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The Capital Region Council of Governments strongly supports this project and I urge the Department to give strong consideration to this application. I am happy to address any questions you may have regarding our letter of support.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart  
Executive Director

cc: Town Manager M. Maniscalco, South Windsor  
CRCOG Policy Board & Transportation Committee  
R. Aloise, Director of Transportation Planning  
C. Radzins, Deputy Director of Transportation Planning