

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 Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is writing in support of the 2023 CT Recreational Trails Grant application prepared by Goodwin University in East Hartford, CT. If awarded this grant, the University would use the funding for Phase VI of the South Meadows Trail Expansion. This project will create a new natural trail along the CT River past the south end of the Putnam Bridge connection and continue the bituminous paving in Glastonbury from the Wethersfield line to the southern terminus. A paved picnic area will be created at the southern terminus and a picnic table will be installed for visitors to sit and decompress. Additionally, equipment will be purchased for trail maintenance and field improvements near the Pavilion. When completed, this project will provide a continuous trail/walkway system from the Putnam Bridge to the Riverwalk trail network.

The proposed improvements to the South Meadow trail align with regional policies and planning documents, including our Regional Plan of Conservation & Development and our Metropolitan Transportation Plan. In addition, the trail expansion is designed to eventually link up with larger trail systems. Goodwin University previously participated on the advisory committee for the Putnam Multimodal Trail Connections Feasibility Study, along with representatives of the Towns of East Hartford, Wethersfield, and Glastonbury, the Connecticut Department of Transportation, and others. Goodwin's trails are an important element of CRCOG's Bike Ped Plan to complete a multi-use path system in the region.

The Capitol Region Council of Governments fully supports the proposed effort to expand the Goodwin University South Meadows trail as part of an ongoing effort to provide a network of recreational trails throughout the region.

For the reasons mentioned above, 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: Mayor Mike Walsh, East Hartford
CRCOG Policy Board & Transportation Committee
R. Aloise, Director of Transportation Planning
C. Radzins, Deputy Director of Transportation Planning