

February 12, 2019

Members of the Transportation Committee:

Thank you very much for considering public comment on S.B. 775 establishing the Central Connecticut Loop trail. As an educator, a member of the Portland Board of Education, and an avid cyclist, the prospect of this trail is exciting. Your support of this transportation initiative is vital to supporting local communities.

People want to live in communities with viable and affordable options for transportation and recreation. This proposed trail provides the perfect opportunity to help establish communities where people want to live and work. It is exactly the sort of project that makes many regions throughout the country places where people make their homes, places like Burlington, Vermont and Northampton, Massachusetts.

Locally, many taxpayers and voters have dedicated a great deal of time to establishing links of this trail already, most recently the Airline Trail extension in East Hampton and Portland, as well as ongoing efforts in other communities throughout the proposed corridor. State backing of this project would serve to strengthen these efforts.

In short, I urge you to support this legislation. Our state needs this kind of project to lead the way in grassroots efforts to revitalize our local communities. Thank you again for your consideration of this important project.

Chris Darby
Portland, CT