



Statement of Rick Dunne, Executive Director, Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments,
on Senate Bill 775, An Act Concerning The Creation Of The Central Connecticut Loop
Trail.

February 13, 2019

Senator Leone, Representative Lemar and members of the Transportation Committee

Thank you for accepting my testimony in support of Senate Bill 775, An Act Concerning
The Creation Of The Central Connecticut Loop Trail.

The recent completion of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail (FCHT) in Cheshire, part
of the East Coast Greenway (ECG) trail, has greatly benefitted residents of, commuters
through, and visitors to our region.

Creating connections to and from the FCHT and other multiuse trails is critical to fully
realize the potential of the investments made to date. Connecting the FCHT with the
Airline State Park Trail through Cheshire, Meriden, Cromwell, Middletown and Portland
would present substantial new opportunities for residents of all of those communities to
access both trails. Linking the two trails would increase the accessible miles on the
network and create a long distance loop in Central Connecticut that would be very
attractive to visitors, helping drive bicycle tourism to the state.

A well thought out and safe multiuse trail and bicycle route network in Connecticut will
present real alternatives to motorized transportation, improve the health and quality of
life of residents, support and help drive local economies, and attract visitors and
tourists. A connection between the FCHT and Airline Trail is an excellent step toward
realizing that vision. NVCOG fully supports this endeavor.

We would be happy to share our experience with multiuse trails and non-motorized
transportation initiatives at your convenience.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rick Dunne
Executive Director
Naugatuck Valley COG