

Testimony on Proposed S.B. No. 775
An Act Concerning the Creation of the Central Connecticut Loop Trail

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I am a recreational and commuting bicyclist who rides 2000-3000 miles a year. As well I consider myself an advocate of cycling within the state, my region, and city.

I see this bill as providing an opportunity for:

- Expanding the growing number of commuting cyclist (and recreational & family bicyclist), in part because two dense urban areas (Meriden and Middletown) will connect to; long established greenway systems that are well loved and used year-round—the Farmington Canal Trail in Cheshire to the west and the Air Line Trail in Portland to the east.
- Inspiring the use of multi-modal transportation options. The bill provides for a greenway connection to the rail road station in Meriden allowing for combinations of bus/train, bike and walk trips to a much more expansive radius of destinations.
- Helping to solve some of the transportation woes within the state; as even a 5% increase in travel mode between home, work, school, shopping, ect by bicycle and walking can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, roadway congestion and parking woes especially within the urban centers the loop will connect.
- Significant positive economic impacts. There are in state studies and many examples from around the country that highlight positive economic impacts: 3 links are embedded below.
 - [Naugatuck River Greenway: Pathway to Revitalization](#)
 - [Trail Town Program Economic Resources](#)
 - [DEEP Benefits of Trails and Greenways](#) Compendium of studies and reports
- Continuing to stimulate tourism from out of state for weekend loop bike trips. And more in state recreational tourism with cyclist perhaps choosing to leave the car at home and ride the trails to get to more destinations.
- Kindling further creation of local connecting trails in the adjacent communities and within the towns, thereby continuing to increase travel mode share by bike. If people reduce by just 50% their number of car trips under 3-5 miles and use a bike or walk instead, significant improvement will be made to the environment and human health.
- Place-making and creation of destination nodes, whereby the trail leads to great places, and improved quality of life where residents of CT want to live, work, play, and stay!

In conclusion proposed S.B. No. 775 An Act Concerning the Creation of the Central Connecticut Loop Trail, helps to pave the way for many of the goals the state has outlined in its newly published [CTDOT 2019 Active Transportation Plan](#) and supports the intent of [Connecticut's Complete Streets Law](#) enacted in 2009. The bill engages and encourages communities to participate in the process of connecting with the towns that border them and to work collaboratively to create more great spaces for people of all ages and abilities to walk, bike, and enjoy the out-of-doors.