



## The Jonah Center for Earth and Art

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### Testimony on Proposed S.B. No. 775 An Act Concerning the Creation of the Central Connecticut Loop Trail By John C. Hall, Executive Director



The [Central Connecticut Loop Trail](#) will be a **111 mile mostly off-road bicycle route in the center of our state**. The route passes through Cheshire, Southington, Plainville, Farmington, Avon, Simsbury, Bloomfield, Hartford, East Hartford, Manchester, Bolton, Andover, Columbia, Willimantic, Lebanon, Amston, Colchester, East Hampton, Portland, Middletown, and Meriden.

A loop trail of this length, passing through a variety of scenic environments, will be a **strong attraction for cyclists from in-state and out-of-state**. Importantly, the trail also passes the commuter rail stations in Meriden and Hartford, so it would facilitate **transportation by bicycle and train** from all of the listed communities to New Haven, Hartford, and Springfield.

**Major sections of this loop trail already exist** in the form of the Farmington Canal Trail, Air Line Trail, Hop River Trail, and other short trail sections in various municipalities. The primary “gap” that PSB775 addresses is the 23.5 mile section from the western terminus of the Air Line Trail in Portland to the Farmington Canal Trail in Cheshire. This is called the [ALT-FCT Connector](#). Within that 23.5 mile section, only about 16 miles (10 miles on-road; 6 miles off-road) need to be funded and constructed. The leaders of Portland, Middletown, Meriden, and Cheshire are in agreement as to the desirability of this route.

Because this project basically requires 16 miles of construction in 4 municipalities, within the jurisdiction of 3 Councils of Government, and because the 111-mile loop offers benefits to the entire state, the Jonah Center is asking for support from the Connecticut General Assembly designating the Central Connecticut Loop Trail and directing coordination between CT DOT and DEEP prioritize its design and construction. [Link to map of the trail is here.](#)

*Our mission: to foster sustainable relationships among people, other creatures, energy resources, and the environment and to promote interdisciplinary community partnerships in scientific, artistic, and other cultural endeavors.*