

I am writing in support of PSB775 to establish the Central CT Loop Trail. Connecting the Air Line Trail and the Farmington Canal Trail will bring many benefits to our state, including the following:

- Facilitate bicycle access to the commuter rail station in Meriden from high density residential neighborhoods east and west of the station. Many of these neighborhoods within easy bicycling distance are home to low and moderate income residents. Combining bicycle and rail transportation is key to reducing our dependency on single-passenger motor vehicles, reducing highway congestion, and addressing climate change.
- Provide greater recreational opportunities for residents who live in East Hampton, Portland, Middletown, Meriden, and Cheshire, along with the health and quality of life benefits enjoyed by residents who live near such facilities.
- Bring tourism and economic development to central Connecticut by attracting visitors who seek out such loop trails. Increased property values resulting from construction of multi-use trails is well documented.
- Connect the 2 longest multi-use trails in Connecticut, the Air Line Trail and the Farmington Canal Trail, thereby making it possible to bicycle in both east/west and north/south directions in central Connecticut.

Thank you for your consideration of this important opportunity to close the 16-mile gap that will add so much to our bicycling and walking opportunities in Connecticut.

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