

November 24, 2025

Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto
Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
P.O. Box 317546
Newington, CT 06131-7546

Subject: Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program

Dear Commissioner Eucalitto:

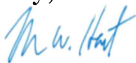
On behalf of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), I want to express our sincere appreciation to the Connecticut Department of Transportation for its continued leadership in managing and supporting the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP). We want to especially acknowledge the Highway Design – Local Roads Unit, including Mr. Michael Cherpak, Mr. Vitalij Staroverov and their dedicated team of engineers. Their professionalism, responsiveness, and collaborative approach have been instrumental in ensuring the program's success. They consistently demonstrate adaptability, inclusivity, and a commitment to delivering innovative, equitable, and efficient transportation solutions.

Since its inception, LOTICIP has provided \$946 million to date for local projects. Through this investment, the program has supported 347 projects across Connecticut municipalities. More importantly, LOTICIP has transformed project delivery by offering clear advantages over federal funding sources. Projects are typically completed in just 2 to 3 years, compared to 5 to 6 years under federal programs, while adhering to all current safety standards. This expedited timeline, combined with cost savings and streamlined administration, makes LOTICIP a highly effective and efficient alternative for municipalities.

At CRCOG alone, 143 projects have advanced through LOTICIP as of the end of the fiscal year 2025. Despite inflation and rising material costs, bid prices have remained close to cost estimates, averaging about 3% above final construction and commitment to value funds. Administrative costs remain minimal at just 4% of total expenditures (1% for CTDOT and 3% for CRCOG). Since the program launched over a decade ago, our municipalities have embraced LOTICIP as a streamlined, flexible, and cost-effective alternative to traditional funding sources.

We greatly appreciate the Department's ongoing support and look forward to working together to deliver impactful transportation improvements—efficiently, cost-effectively, and on schedule.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart,
CRCOG Executive Director

cc: Ms. Laoise King, CTDOT Deputy Commissioner
Ms. Karen Kitsis, CTDOT Deputy Commissioner
Mr. James Fallon, P.E., CT DOT Chief Engineer
Mr. Bartholomew Sweeney, P.E., Assistant Chief Engineer
Mr. Michael Calabrese, P.E., Division Chief of Highway Design
Mr. Robert Aloise, P.E., CRCOG Director of Transportation Planning

November 25, 2025

Ms. Kimberly Bradley
Trails and Greenways Program Coordinator
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Re: Letter of Support – Recreational Trails Grant Application by Hop River Trail Alliance - Road Crossing Safety Assessment & Parking Review, Hop River State Park Trail

Dear Ms. Bradley:

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is pleased to express its strong support for the Hop River Trail Alliance's (HRTA) application to the Rec Trails Grant Program seeking funding for a road crossing safety assessment and parking review for the crossings and parking areas along the 20-mile length of the Hop River State Park Trail.

The project's approach to evaluating road crossings, parking capacity, and user behavior along the 20-mile corridor between Windham and Manchester will provide the data and engineering analysis needed to enhance safety for all trail users and motorists. The commitment of HRTA volunteers to partner with an experienced consulting engineer, collect local traffic and parking data, and engage with municipal stakeholders underscores the strength and community support behind this initiative. The resulting assessment report will give towns and the State valuable guidance to prioritize safety improvements, advance low-cost fixes, and plan for larger infrastructure enhancements.

The proposed project aligns with regional policies and planning documents, specifically our Regional Plan of Conservation & Development's goal to expand transportation options for all users and our Metropolitan Transportation Plan's support of multi-use trails within the region. CRCOG strongly supports this project, and I urge the Department to give strong consideration to this application. I am happy to address any questions you may have regarding our letter of support.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

CC: CRCOG Policy Board
Rob Aloise, Director of Transportation Planning, CRCOG
Caitlin Palmer, Director of Regional Planning & Development, CRCOG

December 5, 2025

Community Investment Fund Review Committee
Department of Economic and Community Development
450 Columbus Boulevard
Hartford, CT 06103

Re: Town of Enfield Application for Community Investment Fund 2030

Dear Members of the Review Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Town of Enfield's application to the Community Investment Fund 2030 for the Enfield Annex Community Center Upgrades.

This project represents a reinvestment in one of Enfield's critical public facilities. The Enfield Annex serves as a cornerstone for community recreation, cultural programming, and public gatherings. By restoring and modernizing the building's infrastructure and outdoor amenities, the Town will ensure that residents of all ages have access to a safe, energy-efficient, and fully functional facility for arts, recreation, and civic engagement.

The planned upgrades will extend the life of this major municipal asset and expand its use as a regional destination for community events and youth sports. The project reflects the Town's commitment to maintaining and improving existing public infrastructure, rather than constructing new facilities, an approach that is both fiscally responsible and environmentally sustainable.

Equally important, this investment supports the quality of life and economic vitality of Enfield. A functioning community center encourages participation, attracts visitors, and reinforces local pride. The Annex's reactivation will allow the Town to continue offering inclusive programming that benefits residents from across our neighborhoods.

Enfield is home to one of the Capitol Region's few low income and disadvantaged communities (LIDAC). Proposed improvements to this important public facility will improve quality of life for residents of Enfield, a goal that is consistent with CRCOG's regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). I strongly endorse this project and urge the Committee's full consideration of Enfield's application.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

Cc: The Honorable Gina Cekala, Town of Enfield, Mayor; M. Coppler; A. Marcavitch
CRCOG Policy Board

December 12, 2025

Mr. Cameron Clegg
Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Re: FY2025 Urban Green & Community Garden Grant Program - Great River Park Improvement

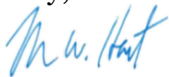
Dear Mr. Clegg:

I am writing to express CRCOG's support for Riverfront Recapture's application to fund the amenities associated with the Great River Park Improvement project including signage, refurbishment of the stairs and ADA ramp connecting the park to the Founders Bridge, and the Bulkeley Bridge overlook with installation of an exhibit focused on the historic stone arch bridge.

Extending the East Coast Greenway is a major focus of CRCOG's comprehensive transportation plan for the Capitol Region. Our study of the East Coast Greenway proposes a major expansion of the trail network in East Hartford and Hartford that will significantly increase bike and pedestrian access to Great River Park. We applaud Riverfront Recapture and the Town of East Hartford's work to refurbish this popular regional park, especially the work being done to improve accessibility of the park's infrastructure such as the fishing pier and boat ramp. These improvements alongside the natural beauty of the river and the opportunity for active and passive recreation will draw thousands of visitors each year from East Hartford, Capitol Region and beyond. Amenities such the refurbished overlook, Bulkeley Bridge exhibit and new signage will enhance this community green space and encourage the public to return to time and time again.

Improvements to Great River aligns with CRCOG's regional Plan of Conservation and Development's (POCD) goal to cultivate spaces that connect people to nature and their community. We encourage CT DEEP's Urban Green & Community grant program to support this application to further the development of these important amenities.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

Cc: The Honorable Connor Martin, Town of East Hartford
Mike Zaleski, Riverfront Recapture, Executive Director
CRCOG Policy Board