

January 18, 2023

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

Dear Ms. Bradley:

The Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is pleased to support the Hop River Alliance's application for the Connecticut Recreational Trails Program Grant. The Hop River Alliance is working to improve lives and strengthen communities throughout the region, a goal that is certainly shared by CRCOG.

The Hop River Trail plays a critical role in the state's bicycle/pedestrian trail system and serves as an important route for connecting to Willimantic and Bolton via the East Coast Greenway network. The proposed funding would be used to install signage every quarter mile along this stretch - a safety precaution that is immensely valuable in supplying crucial emergency reference points for riders. Importantly, these signs would adhere to American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) bike trail design standards, ensuring that visitors always have clear directions while also allowing first-time users easy navigation throughout their journey.

Furthermore, the addition of these markers would enable people who use this connector to access not only the Hop River Trail but ultimately reach other trails like Farmington Valley Heritage Trail – connections something we strongly advocate here at CRCOG. We are happy to provide our full endorsement of the Hop River Alliance's application for this grant opportunity.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

cc: J. Hankins, Hop River Trail Alliance; CRCOG Policy Board