



Naugatuck River Greenway Steering Committee

Torrington • Harwinton • Litchfield • Thomaston • Watertown • Waterbury • Naugatuck • Beacon Falls • Seymour • Ansonia • Derby

September 5, 2019

Mark Nielsen
Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor
Waterbury, CT 06702

Dear Mark:

This letter is being submitted in support of the Borough of Naugatuck's application for Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program funds for extension of the Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG) in Naugatuck. The section of trail will link the popular section of NRG already constructed in Naugatuck with Waterbury's Phase I that is in final design and slated for construction next year.

When complete, the NRG will stretch 44 miles along the Naugatuck River from Torrington South to Derby. The NRG Steering Committee (NRGSC) consists of representatives from all 11 municipalities along the NRG route along with regional, state and federal representatives, and serves to promote, support and help guide the development of the NRG. We recognize the NRG trail as not only a recreational facility, but a means for alternative transportation, a way for residents and visitors to connect to the revitalized Naugatuck River, and ultimately, as a driver of local economies. In fact, an economic impact study commissioned by the NRGSC and published by NVCOG in 2017, estimated that if the entire NRG Trail is completed by 2031, the Naugatuck section of the Trail would drive \$3.8 million in annual spending and more than \$22.9 million in cumulative health benefits.

The NRGSC and Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) published "*Naugatuck River Greenway Project Priorities*", in 2015 (<http://bit.ly/2iIsGeM>) that identifies the top priorities along the trail. The proposed project "Naugatuck: Pulaski Walk to Waterbury TL at Platts Mill Road" is listed as a top priority because it links two communities, provides a real non-motorized transportation alternative between Naugatuck and Waterbury, and will help capitalize on the investments that have already been made in the NRG. We hope to see this crucial project funded with the next round of federal transportation program funding.

If you have any questions about the NRGSC or our support for Naugatuck's proposal, please do not hesitate to contact NRGSC Co-Chairs Rista Malanca at Rista_Malanca@torringtonct.org, or Jack Walsh at johnwalshderby@comcast.net.

Sincerely,
NRGSC Co-Chairs:

Rista Malanca

Jack Walsh

*"The Naugatuck River from Torrington to Derby is rich with history, stunning scenery and wildlife. Just as the river built and shaped our towns and cities, the Naugatuck River Greenway will be a driving force for the next century and beyond.
Our mission is to harness the vitality and protect the health of the river for economic development and quality of life for all."*



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Waterbury, CT 06702

Dear Mark:

This letter is being submitted in strong support of Oxford's application for funding to develop pedestrian improvements along route 67.

The Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG) Steering Committee, consisting of representatives from all 11 municipalities along the NRG route along with regional, state and federal representatives, serves to promote, support and help guide the development of the NRG and connections to other transportation facilities and amenities. We recognize trails as not only recreational facilities, but a means for alternative transportation, and ultimately, as a driver of local economies. When complete, the NRG will stretch 44 miles along the Naugatuck River from Torrington South to Derby. While the project in Oxford is not officially part of the NRG Trail, it is part of a regional vision of a bicycle and pedestrian friendly Route 67 corridor which would connect the NRG Trail in Seymour to destinations throughout the corridor and to the Larkin State Bridle Trail. Oxford is actively working to make this vision a reality, understanding that it will improve the health and quality of life for residents and help draw businesses, visitors and new residents to the area. We welcome all efforts to expand and enhance our growing bike and pedestrian network, and we hope that Oxford's project will be reviewed favorably.

If you have any questions about the NRGSC or our support for Oxford's proposal, please do not hesitate to contact NRGSC Co-Chairs Rista Malanca at Rista_Malanca@torringtonct.org, or Jack Walsh at johnwalshderby@comcast.net.

Sincerely,
NRGSC Co-Chairs:

Rista Malanca

Jack Walsh

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Waterbury, CT 06702

Dear Mark:

This letter is being submitted in strong support of Thomaston's application for funding to construct a section of the Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG) Trail from Seymour to Toby's Pond in Beacon Falls.

When complete, the NRG trail will stretch 44 miles along the Naugatuck River from Torrington South to Derby. The NRG Steering Committee (NRGSC), consisting of representatives from all 11 municipalities along the NRG route along with regional, state and federal representatives, serves to promote, support and help guide the development of the NRG and connections to other transportation facilities and amenities. We recognize multiuse trails as not only recreational facilities, but a means for alternative transportation, and ultimately, as a driver of local economies. In fact, an economic impact study commissioned by the NRGSC and published by NVCOG in 2017, estimated that if the total NRG Trail is completed by 2031, the sections of trail in Seymour and Beacon Falls would drive \$1.9 and \$1.3 million in annual direct spending respectively, and more than \$11.4 and \$8.2 million respectively in cumulative health benefits.

The proposed project to construct a section of multiuse trail between Seymour and Toby's Pond recreation area in Beacon Falls will provide an important link between the two communities, and will also reconnect residents and visitors to the revitalized Naugatuck River. Seymour and Beacon Falls have both worked hard in recent years to develop portions of the NRG trail. Seymour connected Bank Street to the new Pawlak Dam Bypass Park last year. Beacon Falls recently opened the new Riverbend Park featuring a trail network, and river access along with a NRG Trail section. The proposed project will be a major step in making connections between open and popular sections of the NRG trail. We fully support this next step in the development of the NRG Trail between Beacon Falls and Seymour represented by this proposal.

If you have any questions about the NRGSC or our support for Seymour and Beacon Falls' proposal, please do not hesitate to contact NRGSC Co-Chairs Rista Malanca at Rista_Malanca@torringtonct.org, or Jack Walsh at johnwalshderby@comcast.net.

Sincerely,
NRGSC Co-Chairs:

Rista Malanca

Jack Walsh

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Waterbury, CT 06702

Dear Mark:

This letter is being submitted in strong support of Thomaston's application for funding to construct a section of the Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG) trail from East Main Street to Watertown Road.

When complete, the NRG trail will stretch 44 miles along the Naugatuck River from Torrington South to Derby. The NRG Steering Committee (NRGSC), consisting of representatives from all 11 municipalities along the NRG route along with regional, state and federal representatives, serves to promote, support and help guide the development of the NRG and connections to other transportation facilities and amenities. We recognize multiuse trails as not only recreational facilities, but a means for alternative transportation, and ultimately, as a driver of local economies. In fact, an economic impact study commissioned by the NRGSC and published by NVCOG in 2017, estimated that if completed, the Thomaston section of NRG would drive \$2.6 million in annual spending and more than \$15.9 million in cumulative health benefits by 2031.

The proposed project to construct a section of multiuse trail and improve pedestrian and bicycle access on Elm Street will directly benefit residents and businesses in downtown Thomaston. The proposed improvements will make connections to the sidewalk network and provide non-motorized access to residential and commercial areas, and to the municipal center. It will also reconnect residents and visitors to the revitalized Naugatuck River. Thomaston has been working hard to make the NRG trail a reality. Construction is expected to begin early next year on a trailhead and trail on Old Waterbury Road connecting to the NRG Trail in Watertown with a new pedestrian bridge. We fully support the next step in the development of the NRG Trail in Thomaston represented by this proposal, bringing the benefits directly to the downtown area.

If you have any questions about the NRGSC or our support for Thomaston's proposal, please do not hesitate to contact NRGSC Co-Chairs Rista Malanca at Rista_Malanca@torringtonct.org, or Jack Walsh at johnwalshderby@comcast.net.

Sincerely,
NRGSC Co-Chairs:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Malanca".

Rista Malanca

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Walsh".

Jack Walsh

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Dear Mark:

This letter is being submitted in support of the Town of Watertown's application to the Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program for the funding for work toward the expansion of the Steele Brook Greenway Trail. Extension of the Steele Brook Greenway Trail will greatly enhance trail user experience, draw more utilitarian and recreational users, and will be one more step in developing a safe, convenient, and enjoyable bicycle and pedestrian network that will make non-motorized transportation in the Naugatuck Valley a real option.

While the Steele Brook Greenway Trail is not officially part of the Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG) Trail, plans do call for it to connect to the NRG in the future. When complete, the NRG will stretch 44 miles along the Naugatuck River from Torrington South to Derby. The addition of a spur connection to a completed Steele Brook Greenway will effectively extend access from the NRG to downtown Watertown. The NRG Steering Committee, consisting of representatives from all 11 municipalities along the NRG route along with regional, state and federal representatives, serves to promote, support and help guide the development of the NRG and connections to other transportation facilities and amenities. We recognize multiuse trails as not only recreational facilities, but a means for alternative transportation, and ultimately, as a driver of local economies. Looking to successful examples of trail development around the country, trail usage, especially by cyclists, is closely related to trail length. We welcome all efforts to expand and enhance the growing non-motorized transportation network in the region and across the state.

If you have any questions about the NRGSC or our support for Watertown's Transportation Alternatives Program submission, please do not hesitate to contact NRGSC Co-Chairs Rista Malanca at Rista.Malanca@torringtonct.org, or Jack Walsh at johnwalshderby@comcast.net.

Sincerely,
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