**Bristol Downtown Trail Study - Project Advisory Committee Meeting Report**
2/9/23 - 10:30 AM

Attendees:
Ray Rogozinski (City of Bristol), Patrick Krajewski (City of Bristol), Diane Waldron (City of Bristol), Justin Malley (City of Bristol), Joshua Medeiros (City of Bristol), Desira Blanchard (NVCOG), Aaron Budris (NVCOG), Richard Donovan (NVCOG), Eyitayo Olayele (NVCOG), Elliot Wareham (NVCOG)

Meeting Purpose

This meeting was to initiate a study for a trail connecting the West End neighborhood to downtown Bristol. The PAC discussed the project’s concept, as well as initial goals, routing, and design elements.

Presentation and Discussion

NVCOG presented relevant background information, the study area, the project’s scope and timeline, multi-use path design standards, and a preliminary public participation plan.

The PAC discussed the project’s goals and ideal design standards. The goal of the trail project is to create a destination or a community asset (like a park or destination amenity) rather than simply a way to get from point A to point B. The trail project is not linked to the City of Bristol’s Route 72 project, but these projects will complement each other.

In general, the PAC was in favor of exceeding minimum materials and design standards (e.g. wider trail widths, shoulders where possible, lighting for commuter segments of trail, and winter maintenance). The PAC and study team will look at mirroring the design standards of nearby trails, such as the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Plainville. The routing will ideally be as close to the Pequabuck River as possible to provide access and reconnect residents to the river.

There was also a discussion of the City of Bristol’s intent to apply for a CT DEEP Recreational Trails grant for trail design.

There will be a first public meeting related to this study in late February or early March, held at the Bristol Library.