2026 CT Trail Symposium

BENEFITS of GREENWAYS

Recreational, Economic & Community Building

LET'S TALK:
HOW COLLABORATION IS CONNECTED TO FUNDING

- Sheila Dravis-Cosgrove…my presentation stems from my personal and professional experience(s). I am an advocate for multi-use trails, Bike/Ped safety programs, Active Transportation infrastructure improvements, and recreational open space.
- I am a member of the Quinnipiac River Linear Trail Advisory Committee, community volunteer, environmental steward, and a Small Business Owner-Manager.
- I am a former municipal employee with 27+ years experience in Grant & Project Management in the field of Economic & Community Development.
- After a short presentation attendees are invited talk about why they attended, make a comment and/or ask questions.

Reasons for ***collaboration*** between CT Trail Practitioners, Local Leaders & Businesses

- *To build & maintain multi-use trails & recreational open space*
- *To support bike/ped safety programs & initiatives*
- *To support active transportation street & pedestrian infrastructure improvements*
- *To increase mobility & economic opportunities for residents*

What is the advantage to public/private ***collaboration*** & ***funding?***

- *It can <u>offset</u> the downstream effect of changes in federal & state funding levels & priorities to the project budget by…*
  - *Broadening financial & fundraising opportunities*
  - *Expanding funding eligibilities & source types i.e. non-profit, fundraising, loans, municipal grants*
  - *Promoting public engagement, a criteria for a competitive application*

Proposed outcomes of ***collaboration*** between CT Trail Practitioners, Local Leaders & Businesses

- *Foster community pride & connection*
- *Support & improve economic, recreational, and public health outcomes*
- *Drive reinvestment in the local economy*
- *Leverage competitive funding application(s)*
- *Build coalitions & community trust*

Other benefits of public/private ***collaboration***

- *Amplifies voices & draws attention of local community leaders*
- *Broadens ability to complete a mutually beneficial & viable project*
  - *Economic Impact Analysis of the New Haven to Northampton, MA Canal Greenway(NHNCG) 2025 Cambridge Econometrics study https://www.camecon.com/reports/economic-impact-analysis-of-the-new-haven-northampton-canal-greenway-nhncg*
- *Pooling resources increases outreach potential & reduces overall burden*
  - *Meetings, Finance, Marketing, Exhibiting, Data, Technology*
- *Expands connections & opportunities*
  - *A town advisory committee can access municipal grants*
  - *Pursue business sponsorships, relationship with economic development committee or mayor, non-profit status to fundraise, and dialog with state and federal officials*

Thank you for attending my session and the CT Trail Symposium this year.

The event partner/co-sponsors, CT Greenways Council, CT DEEP, UCONN Trails Program and the Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) organized another successful CT Trail Symposium!

Will email the presentation or additional information if you add your email address to the contact list. *Please take a complimentary League of American Bicyclist Tip Marker.*

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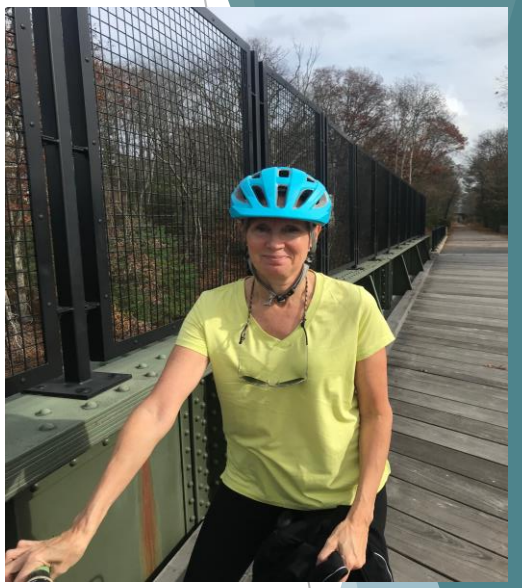
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Discussion




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