



Justin Elicker
Mayor

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

City of New Haven
200 Orange Street, Rm 503
New Haven, CT 06510
www.newhavenct.gov



Giovanni Zinn, P.E.
City Engineer

March 17, 2025

Honorable Tyisha Walker Myers
President - Board of Alders
City of New Haven
165 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510

RE: RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT FUNDING FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AS PART OF THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM GRANT AND ACQUIRE PROPERTY INTERESTS REQUIRED FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE MILL RIVER TRAIL NORTH PROJECT

Dear Honorable Tyisha Walker Myers:

Since at least the 2004 New Haven Greenways plan, the City has been planning an off-road trail network on the Mill River from Orange St to Grand Avenue and beyond. This has come to be known as the Mill River Trail, and this project seeks to connect and make continuous the trail from Orange St to Grand Avenue.

The first major section planned stretches from Orange st to Blake Field behind the Ralph Walker Ice Rink. This section will help unify the East Rock Sports Complex, and improve students' ability to get to and from school and athletic fields. Crucially, this section contemplates a short tunnel under Willow St to eliminate conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles.

The second section unifies the section built as part of the District and the existing section built previously behind the businesses on John Murphy Drive. This section anticipates using an old railroad right-of-way next to the Amtrak right-of-way behind 370 James St.

The project will require acquisition of interests in real property, including from the CT DOT, the private owner of the defunct rail right-of-way, and possibly Amtrak or 370 James St. The interests may be either acquisition of title or easements/encroachments permits.

It is exciting to see the Mill River Trail receive such support to move forward towards the network planned in the 2004 New Haven Greenways plan. These sorts of facilities, such as the Farmington Canal for example, not only provide connectivity within and between New Haven's neighborhoods but also create a destination unto themselves, where residents can enjoy New Haven's nature and built environment in ways unique from the roadway network for motor vehicles.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 203-946-8105.

Respectfully submitted,

Giovanni Zinn, PE
City Engineer