



Concord Greenspace Coalition  
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The Honorable Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington DC 20590

Concord Greenspace is pleased to express support for the City of Concord RAISE grant application for the Merrimack River Greenway Trail.

Concord Greenspace advocates for smart growth, equitable development, and local climate action here in Concord, New Hampshire. The Merrimack River Greenway Trail (MRGT) and this RAISE grant will advance all three of these causes.

Building the MRGT is part of local climate action by encouraging safe, accessible, and enjoyable non-motorized transportation that connects neighborhoods, work places, services, and recreation. The City of Concord's Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory reports that transportation and mobile source emissions are higher than any other category, at 56%. The trail is part of the City's strategy for reducing transportation emissions.

The trail supports equitable development by connecting into the underserved Heights neighborhood, and offering a low cost, safe and accessible transportation and recreation option to a population where many do not drive. The trail is a notable early step in retrofitting this historically auto-oriented space. The boardwalk portion of the trail spans a forested wetland, which will provide residents a rare opportunity to experience a natural setting in their own neighborhood.

The trail supports Smart Growth by complimenting land use patterns that support bicycling and walking as a sustainable way to get around. The northern and southern end of the project connects to mixed-use development sites that are expected to provide much needed housing in livable, walkable environments. It also connects into our beautiful downtown with its mix of housing types and concentration of jobs and amenities people need in their daily lives.

Smart growth, equitable development, and local climate action are all consistent with the RAISE program, and this trail supports each. Concord Greenspace believes the City of Concord RAISE application for the Merrimack River Greenway Trail is worthy of your support.

Gratefully,

Meredith Cooley  
Board President