Please complete the Nathan Hale Greenway Questionnaire!

(Paper & Electronic Versions available)

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NathanHaleGreenway
Meeting Agenda & Goals

Agenda
• Brief Overview of Multi-Use Paths & Greenways
• Project Background and Goals
• Project Components and Process
• Initial Findings and Design Considerations
• Feedback / Q&A

Public Meeting Goals
• Provide Project Information
• Solicit Feedback
• Answer Questions
• Build Project Support
What is a Greenway?

Corridors of protected open space managed for conservation and recreation purposes.
- Often follow natural land or water features
- Link reserves, parks, cultural features, historic sites with each other and with populated areas such as downtowns, neighborhoods, community centers and schools
Greenway Goals

- Increase Community Health & Wellness
- Provide a safe experience for all users to enjoy the trail
- Provide Recreational Opportunities
- Promote Local Economy
- Preserve Cultural & Environmental Resources
- Enhance Sense of Community – “Sense of Place”

- Connectivity / Link points of interest
  - Environmental Resources
  - Cultural / Historic Resources
  - Open Spaces
  - Additional trail spurs that link points of interest
  - Scenic Vistas

- Educational Opportunities
  - Environmental Resources
  - Cultural Resources
  - Historical Resources
Greenway Benefits

- Increased property value
- Strengthening local economy (tourism)
- Promote healthy living
- Improve air and water quality
- Transportation alternative - pedals and feet
- Hands on environmental classrooms
- Connects people and places

"Trails and greenways provide what many Americans seek — close to-home recreational areas, community meeting places, historic preservation, educational experiences, natural landscapes and beautification. Both trails and greenways help communities build pride by ensuring that their neighborhoods are good places to live, so that children can safely walk or bike to a park, school, or to a neighbor’s home. Trails and greenways help make communities more attractive and friendly places to live. " CT DEEP
History of the Project

• ConnDOT originally purchased land for the relocation of Route 6 in Bolton, Coventry, and Andover in 1986.

• When CTDOT abandoned the project it was decided to give most of the land that was purchased back to the Towns.

• The only condition was that this land needs to be utilized as “open space” and not sold.
The proposed Nathan Hale Greenway will utilize a portion of the land purchased by the State to relocate Route 6. The ROW purchased from the State was transferred to the respective towns.

This trail will create further opportunities to link the Nathan Hale Greenway with the Hop River Trail / East Coast Greenway and would establish a recreational facility network of such substantial magnitude that it would attract users from outside the region, promoting local tourism.

Part of a Bigger Network
- East Coast Greenway
- Hop River Trail
- Charter Oak Greenway
- “Missing Link”
- Bolton Greenway Extension
National – East Coast Greenway

- **Bike Route from Maine to Florida**

- **The East Coast Greenway vision** is for a long-distance, urban, shared-use trail system linking 25 major cities along the Eastern Seaboard between Calais, Maine, and Key West, Florida.

- It will serve non-motorized users of **all abilities and ages**. A 2,900-mile long *spine route* will be accompanied by 2,000 miles of *complementary routes* that link in key cities, towns, and areas of natural beauty. This green travel corridor will provide cyclists, runners, walkers, and other active-transportation users with a low-impact way to explore the Eastern Seaboard.

- “In December 2017, our Greenway Council approved 22 new segments as official stretches of East Coast Greenway. The segments total nearly 40 miles and include pieces of trail in nine states, from half-mile additions in Connecticut and Massachusetts to an eight-mile stretch in Titusville, Florida.” [ECG website](https://www.eastcoastgreenway.org)
Bolton • 1.8 miles

Coventry – North • 2.8 miles

Coventry – Nathan Hale Forest • 2.4 miles

Coventry – South • 3.3 miles
Goals of the Nathan Hale Greenway Study

- Establish existing conditions / base mapping
- Determine likely right-of-way needs and impacts
- Determine likely environmental impacts
- Estimate construction costs
- Link points of interest
  - Scenic Views / Vistas
  - Provide Educational Opportunities for Cultural / Historical / Environmental Resources
- Establish a preferred route alignment for the Trail
- Provide concept plans and drawings
- Facilitate the ability to pursue and obtain funding
Project Process

Vision/Initiation

- Data Gathering
- Feasibility / Routing
- Preliminary Design
- Final Design
- Permitting
- Funding
- Construction
- Trail Opens

Current Contract

We Are Here
Project Stakeholders

Town of Bolton

Town of Coventry

CTDOT

BSC

CTDEEP

Utility Companies

ACOE

The Public
Data Gathering
• Analyze existing plans / Compile GIS
• Investigate and review existing conditions and possible routes
• Perform a site walk along the entire corridor / GPS Data collection

Feasibility / Routing Study
• Analyze practicability of potential routes / Prepare Initial Layout Plans
• Perform an opportunities and constraints analysis
• Determine amenities (kiosks, benches, signs, bike racks, trash cans)
• Define a preferred route based on constraints and input from the community

Preliminary Design
• Survey as required
• Prepare Preliminary Design Plans
• Provide a Cost Estimate
Project Approach

Site Walk / GPS Data collection

- Real time data collection
- Cloud based / Shareable
- Identify & Record:
  - Historic and natural resources
  - Points of interest
  - Existing trails
  - Points of potential conflict
Local – Project Limits

Bolton
- 1.8 miles – Off-Road
- 2 segments

Coventry – North
- 2.8 miles – Off-Road
- 4 Segments

Coventry – Nathan Hale Forest
- 2.4 miles
- Route TBD
- Mix of Off & On Road

Coventry – South
- 3.3 miles – Off-Road
- 2 Segments
Route Selection Criteria

- Construction Cost
- Constructability
- Right of Way Concerns
- Environmental Constraints
- Potential Permitting Impacts
- Stakeholder Concerns
- Public Concerns

- Cultural and Natural Resources
- Recreational Opportunities
- Scenic Value
- Accessibility
- Proximity to Points of Interest
  - Inside corridor
  - Within close proximity
- Safety
- Security
Route Selection

- Unique Project since the corridor is predefined
  - It is the most Feasible Alternative!
- Determination of segments to aid in analysis
- Review of Points of Interest or Constraint within each Segment
- Determine alignment alternatives within corridor
  - Challenging topography
  - Balancing environmental impacts with scenic value
- Determine construction costs
Route Selection

Bolton
- 1.8 miles – Off-Road
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Coventry – North
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Coventry – South
- 3.3 miles – Off-Road
- 2 Segments
Project Corridor

Establishing Corridor Theme & Texture
Off-Road Option

- Similar to Hop River Trail & Airline Trail
- Approximate Cost: $350,000 / mile to $500,000 / mile
On-Road Options

Option 1
Bike - Shared Road
Pedestrian - Bituminous Sidewalk

Option 2
Bike & Pedestrian – Shared Use Side Path

Option 3
Bike – Road Widening / Dedicated Bike Lane
Pedestrian - Bituminous Sidewalk
On-Road Options

Shared Lanes
- Bike may be operated on all roadways except where prohibited by statue.
- There are no bicycle specific designs for shared roadways but various features can make shared lanes more compatible for bicycling.

Shared Lane Marking – “Sharrow”
- The shared lane marking is not a facility type, it is a pavement marking with a variety of uses to support a complete bikeway network.
- Not appropriate on roads with speeds over 35 mph

Benefits
- Road markings used to indicate a shared lane environment for bicycles and automobiles.
- Reinforce the legitimacy of bicycle traffic on the street,
- Recommend proper bicyclist positioning
- May be configured to offer directional and wayfinding guidance.
Conventional Bike Lane

- Bike lanes are most helpful on streets with $\geq 3,000$ motor vehicle average daily traffic.
- Bike lanes are most helpful on streets with a posted speed $\geq 25$ mph.
- Designated for Bike Use Only – Bike Travel Lane - No Parking Allowed

Conventional Bike Lane Benefits

- Increases bicyclist comfort and confidence on busy streets.
- Creates separation between bicyclists and automobiles.
- Increases predictability of bicyclist and motorist positioning and interaction.
- Visually reminds motorists of bicyclists' right to the street.
On-Road Options

**Shared Use Side Path**

- Minimum 10’ wide path recommended
- Minimum 5’ separation distance recommended
- Minimum 2’ lateral offset from obstacles (e.g. mailboxes, utility poles)
- Maintain consistent path width and features
- Follow existing road alignment
On-Road – Potential Roadways

Nathan Hale Road

Bunker Hill Road
Access & Safety

- Coordination with Fire, Police, & Maintenance to understand protocols and access needs for equipment
- Mix of Off-Road & On-Road Facilities
- Pavement Markings, Signage, Pedestrian Activated Signals
- Need for Rail / Fencing
Typical Trail / Roadway Crossing
Typical Trail / Roadway Crossing
Trailhead – Major

- 10+ Parking Spaces
- Dedicated drive
- Gathering location / destination
- May include additional amenities such as picnic area

Potential Locations

- Route 44 – Connection to Missing Link / Hop River Trail
- Route 6 - Vicinity of Munson’s Chocolate
- Nathan Hale Forest - TBD
- Pucker Street – Connection to Hop River Trail
Trailhead – Minor

- 3-6 Parking Spaces
- Pull-in Parking
- Convenient access
- Limited amenities

Potential Locations
- South Road
- Brewster Street
- Swamp Road
- South Street
- Woodbridge Road
- Bunker Hill Road
- Hop River Road
Enhancements and Amenities

- Benches
- Bike racks
- Bike repair stations
- Gates
- Trash and recycling
- Interpretive signing
- Informational kiosks
- Wayfinding
- Docks
- Landscaping
- Trailheads
- Parking areas
- Seating nodes
- Corridor consistency for ease of maintenance
Wayfinding Options

Metal Sign Family

Wood Sign Family

Town of Bolton

Nathan Hale Homestead 1.2 Miles

Nathan Hale Greenway

Town of Coventry

1.0 Miles

BSC GROUP
Informational/Educational Signing
Water & Wetland Crossings
Stone Walls & Split Rail Fences
Feedback / Question & Answer
Thank You!

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