

September 14, 2017

To Regional Plan Association,

As open space and trail stewards, land trust managers, hiking, biking, health and economic development advocates, utility managers and supporters of alternative modes of transportation, we enthusiastically endorse Regional Plan Association's vision for a regional trail network of biking, hiking and walking trails that connect the region's treasured open spaces to each other and to our communities.

We believe that a regional network of trails:

- Can and should be developed building on existing and planned trails in combination with the permission for recreational use of rights-of-way for pipelines, transmission lines, railways, roadways and natural features, such as beaches and shorelines;
- Will increase access to the region's open and green spaces, advancing equity for all of the region's residents and reducing the use of automobiles; and
- Will boost economic activity for more of our region's urban, suburban and rural places, connecting trail users to them and connecting places to other places;
- Will facilitate greater connections to nature and recreation, promoting health, well-being and a stronger sense of stewardship for our natural environment;
- Will provide additional routes for habitat migration in the face of climate change; and
- Will promote additional use of existing trails and engender support for their maintenance and expansion;

In order to develop, construct and maintain a regional trail network, collaborations between federal, state, and local governments, transit agencies, utility authorities and land trusts, trails groups and other open space and recreation partners will be necessary. Trail segments will need to be prioritized, funds raised, acquisitions of rights-of-way carried out, and maintenance plans developed and implemented.

We call on federal, state and local governments as well as philanthropic foundations to budget funding for the acquisition of new space for trails and the maintenance of existing trails.

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We call on private and semi-public entities that own rights of way identified in the regional trail network to grant greater access to these rights-of-way for recreational use.

Finally, we commit to the vision of a Regional Trail Network and will align our goals, objectives and advocacy with the efforts to implement the network.

Signed,

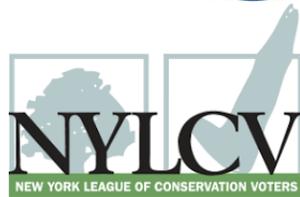
*(List in formation)*



TPL- New York  
TPL- New Jersey  
TPL- Connecticut



The Nature Conservancy – New York



Bike Tarrytown