Bike West Hartford.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - 16 January 2026

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A Perfect Pairing: West Hartford Secures State Funding to Connect Trout Brook Trail to Town Center

West Hartford - Like peanut butter and chocolate, the popular Trout Brook Trail and Bike West Hartford's Center Streets Festival were meant to be together.

Bike West Hartford's annual open streets festival attracts thousands of participants to enjoy live music, patronize local businesses, and walk and roll on Town Center streets closed for one August morning to car traffic. Meanwhile, and only a block away, the 3.6-mile-long Trout Brook Trail has proven an active transportation revelation in West Hartford, attracting 1,800 walkers and bicyclists on Mother's Day in 2025 alone.

But a critical gap between the Town Center and the Trout Brook Trail persisted.

"Historically, many families felt they had to put their bikes in their cars and drive to a car-free open streets festival," said Ethan Frankel, a member of the Bike West Hartford Board who leads the Center Streets organizing committee. "We wanted to change that narrative."

A temporary pop-up collaboration between the Town and Bike West Hartford in 2024 made a bike lane on Farmington Avenue using traffic cones and support from police officers. Hundreds of families, more than 400 people all told, took advantage of the opportunity to attend Center Streets without driving (and parking) their cars.The pop-up was repeated in 2025, funded by Bike West Hartford, the Town, and grant support.

Two years of collaboration between the Town of West Hartford and Bike West Hartford will now be celebrated and amplified by state leaders.

The Town of West Hartford's successful application to the Community Connectivity Grant Program (CCGP) will now turn this temporary success into a permanent fixture of the town's infrastructure. The $384,552 project, known as the Farmington Avenue Bicycle Connection, will feature a 10-foot-wide, two-way separated bike lane on the north side of Farmington Avenue.

These improvements will strengthen multimodal connections between West Hartford Center and the Trout Brook Trail as part of the West Hartford Center Infrastructure Master Plan.

"We're thrilled the Town partnered with us to take Center Streets to the next level," said Jay Stange, a new Bike West Hartford board member who worked on the project as a community volunteer. "This is a great model for how community and town collaboration can build affordable, active transportation projects with the support of state leaders."

Please join us for a formal announcement of the State of Connecticut Community Connectivity grant award to West Hartford to fund permanent Farmington Avenue improvements.

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Bike West Hartford, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is proud to join Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, Mayor Shari Cantor, CTDOT Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto, and State Senator Derek Slap for the formal announcement.

WHAT: Community Connectivity Grant Award Announcement
WHEN: Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 11:00 AM
WHERE: West Hartford Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 341

About Bike West Hartford, Inc. Bike West Hartford is a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to improving biking, walking, and transit for all residents and visitors in West Hartford.