

## 2015 CT Greenways Council Award Recipients:

1. **CTDOT Commissioner James P. Redeker;** Transportation Award. Under Commissioner Redeker's leadership, CTDOT is demonstrating a top down commitment to bicycle, pedestrian and active transportation policies, practices and infrastructure as an integral part of their overall plan. For example, CTDOT is the first state in New England to adopt Complete Streets. Further, CTDOT is proposing significant investments targeted to complete missing trail links, complete the East Coast Greenway, and initiate a new urban walkability and safety program. The Let's Go CT 30 Transportation plan calls for a \$780 million investment in bicycle and pedestrian investments, including investments in not just building, but also maintaining and preserving these systems. In the short term, the 5 Year Ramp-Up Transportation Plan would jump start bicycle and pedestrian investments by \$100 million.
2. **CT State Senator Beth Bye, 5th Dist, Deputy Majority Leader** – Legislative Award. In her first year as Senate Chair of the Appropriations Committee, Beth helped revise Connecticut's \$19 billion General Fund budget for the 2015 Fiscal Year, ending June 30th. She was commended for her commitment to preserving or increasing state funding for various non-profit groups that serve thousands of Connecticut's neediest residents. But her commitment to forming the bipartisan leadership that led to passage of SB 502 "An Act Concerning Bicycle Safety" known as the Bike Bill, has found her additional fame in 2015. The bill finally gets rid of the last constraints on world-class bicycle facilities in our state. In particular, the outdated belief that cyclists must ride as far right as possible is now abolished - allowing for legal passing of slower cyclists and other road users. Along with the 3-Foot law this adds substantially to the safety of cyclists. Critically, it finally allows two-way bicycle lanes, buffered bike lanes, and cycle tracks to be designed in CT.
3. **Joseph Merritt** – Municipal Award; Bloomfield Town Council, for tirelessly championing the Tariffville to Hartford spur of the East Coast Greenway through Bloomfield. Very soon a 2.2-mile section will begin construction as the first completed piece of this important connection from the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, the major spine trail in the state, to our capital.
4. **Mark E. Moriarty, P.E, Director of New Britain Public Works** – Planning Award; Mr. Moriarty has been New Britain's champion in creating their network of bike facilities within the City. He is also leading the planning efforts for all of the bike network improvements.
5. **Northwest CT YMCA's Torrington Trail Network** – Volunteer Organization Award given for their grass roots community efforts to develop an interconnected, accessible trail system throughout the City of Torrington for various recreational purposes. This trail system is being developed in accordance with the Open Space and Greenways chapter of the Torrington Plan of Conservation and Development. This plan will serve to guide the TTN along with the City's representative who will serve as liaison to City departments and commissions.
6. **Molly Henry** – Advocacy Award; New England Trail Coordinator, East Coast Greenway Alliance. Based in Providence, RI, Molly covers the 750 miles of East Coast Greenway regional spine and 300 miles of complementary routes spanning from Greenwich, Connecticut to Calais, Maine. With the bicycle and her own two feet being her primary mode of transportation and a long-time source of enjoyment, Molly is continually inspired by the dedication and support the volunteers and partners who helped advance the ECG in Connecticut to 34% completion. During her tenure, she has enhanced communication between these partnerships and celebrated many newly completed miles of greenway in Connecticut.
7. **Sylvia Ounpuu** – Volunteer Award; is a user of multi-use trails internationally, a bike to work participant, a tireless advocate for the Charter Oak/Hop River trail gap closure, a constant contact with CONNDOT, Bolton officials. She is the point person on the Rte 44 multi-use trail from the Bolton Post Office east to park. She is a great listener.
8. **Lisa Fernandez** – Special Recognition; President, Farmington Canal Rail to Trail Association (FCRTTA) and original member of the CT Greenways Council. By day, Lisa is the Associate Director of the Yale Project on Climate Change Communication (YPCCC) at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. In the world of bicycle and pedestrian advocacy, Lisa has been the President of the FCRTTA for more than a decade. In that time, the FCRTTA has proven itself as one of the finest such groups in Connecticut advancing the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in New Haven, Hamden, Cheshire and Southington. For most of that decade, Lisa has also been on the board of the Connecticut Greenways Council, providing leadership and expert council to the board.