

Attachment F: Letters of Commitment

1. City of Providence, RI
2. Conservation Law Foundation (CLF)
3. Garden Time
4. Groundwork Rhode Island
5. Groundwork Southcoast
6. University of Massachusetts (UMass) Dartmouth
7. City of New Bedford, MA, Department of Resilience and Environmental Stewardship
8. Providence Neighborhood Planting Program (PNPP)
9. Providence Parks Department
10. Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM)
11. Town of Swansea, MA, Planning Board
12. Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (WRWC)
13. City of Taunton, MA



MAYOR BRETT P. SMILEY
CITY OF PROVIDENCE

March 29, 2024

Danica Belknap
Environmental Planning Manager
Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District
88 Broadway, Taunton, MA 02780

Dear Ms. Belknap,

The City of Providence is committed to supporting the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) on their Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application for the Providence-Warwick Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The City is excited to work with SRPEDD in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a regional tree planting effort and implementation of strategies to encourage more walking and biking in place of driving.

In the *Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts* CPRG proposal, SRPEDD has proposed thorough and effective strategies that address how to achieve significant Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions. Transportation is the largest sector of GHG emissions in the Providence-Warwick MSA, accounting for 43% of emissions within the region. Through the implementation of the strategies identified in SRPEDD's CPRG application, these emissions will be significantly reduced. This will be accomplished by working with partners across the region to (1) identify, design and implement roadway safety improvements for pedestrians and bikers, and (2) implementing an equitable tree planting strategy to expand urban tree canopy.

The City of Providence is the capital and largest city of Rhode Island. Both the expansion of green infrastructure and the expansion of safe mobility options are priorities of the City, which is affirmed by our recent actions. In 2023, we released the PVD Tree Plan, an ambitious roadmap for increasing our urban forest to improve equity and resilience in the face of ever-increasing high temperatures. During the winter of 2023-24, I also signed both an amendment strengthening the Green and Complete Streets Ordinance and a Vision Zero policy, committing to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries by 2030. The scope of this grant proposal is closely in line with all of these initiatives.

Office of the Mayor
City of Providence
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903

The PVD Tree Plan establishes a vision and strategic pathway to a healthy, just, and resilient urban forest in Providence. It is a community-led initiative and the product of a multi-year collaboration among many individual, community, nonprofit, and City stakeholders, guided by a Steering Committee of climate justice frontline community representatives and urban forestry practitioners. Its vision would create 221 jobs, remove 38,228 pounds of air pollution, prevent 10.4 million gallons of polluted stormwater runoff, and provide \$437,336 in combined environmental benefits.

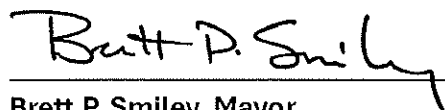
The City is also responsible for the configuration and maintenance of the majority of roadways within its limits, and our recent commitments to Vision Zero have enhanced the safety lens through which the City evaluates and improves its intersections. The City's 2019 Climate Justice Plan established a goal of reducing vehicle miles traveled, and the 2020 Great Streets Plan identified priority intersections for improvement. The City's crash analyses are even further refined in 2024, enabling targeted safety interventions that will enable more people to choose low-carbon walking, bicycling, and transit modes of travel. The City of Providence has a proven track record implementing similar safety improvements.

The City of Providence is committed to supporting this application through partnering on the application as a sub-awardee, analyzing relevant data to determine locations, and implementing the projects. As the local partner on the grant, the City would conduct community outreach, manage design, installation, and construction contracts, and help with other administrative components.

Additionally, SRPEDD has a proven track record of implementing region-wide plans which reflect the needs of their communities and improves their quality of life, such as with the Regional Transportation Plan (updated every four years) and Transportation Improvement Program. As such, the City of Providence believes SRPEDD has illustrated their ability to manage the CPRG grant, if awarded.

In closing, the City of Providence is thrilled to provide our support of the *Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts* application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett P. Smiley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Brett P. Smiley, Mayor
City of Providence

Office of the Mayor
City of Providence
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903

Via Electronic Mail

March 28, 2024

Danica Belknap
Environmental Planning Manager
Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District
88 Broadway
Taunton, MA 02780

Re: CLF **Supports** SPREDD's CPRG Application

Dear Mrs. Belknap:

On behalf of the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), I am writing to express our commitment to supporting the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) on their Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application for the Providence-Warwick Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). CLF is excited to work with SRPEDD in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a regional tree planting effort and implementation of strategies to encourage more walking and biking in place of driving.

Founded in 1966, CLF is a member-supported non-profit advocacy organization working to protect public health and the environment and build healthy communities in Rhode Island and throughout New England. Through our advocacy work with legislators, state agencies, and community members, CLF supports policies and programs that find just ways of fighting the climate crisis.

In the *Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts* CPRG proposal, SRPEDD has proposed a set of thorough and effective strategies that address how to achieve significant Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions. Transportation is the largest sector of GHG emissions in the Providence-Warwick MSA, accounting for 43% of emissions within the region. Through the implementation of the strategies identified in SRPEDD's CPRG application, these emissions will be significantly reduced. This will be accomplished by working with partners across the region to (1) identify, design and implement roadway safety improvements for bikers and pedestrians, and (2) implementing an equitable tree planting strategy to expand urban tree canopy.

CLF is committed to supporting the work as a member of our regional municipal steering committee and help to share outreach messages with your community.

Additionally, SRPEDD has a proven track record of implementing region-wide plans which reflects the needs of their communities and improves their quality of life, such as with the [Regional Transportation Plan](#) (updated every four years) and [Transportation Improvement Program](#). As such, CLF believes SRPEDD has illustrated their ability to manage the CPRG grant, if awarded.

In closing, CLF is thrilled to provide their support of the *Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts* application. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.A. Brown", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Darrèll Brown
Vice President, Rhode Island
Conservation Law Foundation



Danica Belknap
Environmental Planning Manager
SRPEDD
88 Broadway
Taunton, MA 02780

March 28, 2024

Dear Mrs. Belknap,

On behalf of Garden Time, Inc. I am writing to express our commitment to supporting the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) on their Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application for the Providence-Warwick Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Garden Time is excited to work with SRPEDD in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a regional tree planting effort and implementation of strategies to encourage more walking and biking in place of driving.

In the *Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts* CPRG proposal, SRPEDD has proposed a set of thorough and effective strategies that address how to achieve significant Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions. Transportation is the largest sector of GHG emissions in the Providence-Warwick MSA, accounting for 43% of emissions within the region. Through the implementation of the strategies identified in SRPEDD's CPRG application, these emissions will be significantly reduced. This will be accomplished by working with partners across the region to (1) identify, design and implement roadway safety improvements for bikers and pedestrians, and (2) implementing an equitable tree planting strategy to expand urban tree canopy.

Garden Time prepares incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals for the plant-based green industry workforce, equipping traditionally underserved populations with the skills, self-confidence and support they need to successfully transition to long-term employment and a productive life in the community. Garden Time implements a two-pronged training approach; we provide prison-based educational programs that teach incarcerated men and women to cultivate gardens and grow food, integrating job readiness skills and reentry support. Additionally, we provide community-based green industry job training for formerly incarcerated Rhode Islanders. Our programs foster education, inspiration, and empowerment, and help trainees translate new hard and soft skills into opportunities that enable their successful and permanent reentry into society.

Garden Time is committed to supporting this application through:

- Training formerly incarcerated men and women for green industry jobs with a focus on tree stewardship skills and environmental justice;
- Employing six program graduates as part of the Canopy Crew, who receive advanced technical tree training and plant trees in collaboration with partners Providence Neighborhood Planting Program and Groundwork Rhode Island;
- Maintaining 6,000 young street trees in low-canopy neighborhoods over the five-year proposal period.



Additionally, SRPEDD has a proven track record of implementing region-wide plans which reflects the needs of their communities and improves their quality of life, such as with the [Regional Transportation Plan](#) (updated every four years) and [Transportation Improvement Program](#). As such, Garden Time believes SRPEDD has illustrated their ability to manage the CPRG grant, if awarded.

In closing, Garden Time is thrilled to provide their support of the *Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts* application. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at kate@gardentime.us or (401) 996-4922.

Sincerely,

Kate Lacouture, Executive Director
Garden Time, Inc.



1005 Main Street #1223
Pawtucket, RI 02860

401.305.7174
info@groundworkri.org
www.groundworkri.org

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Urban Greening Projects

Coordinator

Lacey Kohler

Danica Belknap
Environmental Planning Manager
SRPEDD
88 Broadway
Taunton, MA 02780

March 29, 2024

Dear Mrs. Belknap,

On behalf of Groundwork Rhode Island, I am writing to express our commitment to supporting the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) on their Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application for the Providence-Warwick Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Groundwork Rhode Island is excited to work with SRPEDD in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a regional tree planting effort and implementation of strategies to encourage more walking and biking in place of driving.

In the *Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts* CPRG proposal, SRPEDD has proposed a set of thorough and effective strategies that address how to achieve significant Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions. Transportation is the largest sector of GHG emissions in the Providence-Warwick MSA, accounting for 43% of emissions within the region. Through the implementation of the strategies identified in SRPEDD's CPRG application, these emissions will be significantly reduced. This will be accomplished by working with partners across the region to (1) identify, design, and implement roadway safety improvements for bikers and pedestrians, and (2) implementing an equitable tree planting strategy to expand urban tree canopy.

Groundwork Rhode Island (GWRI) is a community-based organization helping build healthier, more resilient, and more equitable urban communities in Rhode Island by improving the physical environment and creating economic opportunities for local residents through job training, employment, and social venture programs. GWRI started as Keep Providence Beautiful in 1982 and joined the Groundwork USA network in 1999. GWRI achieves our mission by leading a variety of urban stewardship programs and projects that train and employ lower-income Rhode Islanders, including those with past conviction records and youth. At the same time, GWRI works to physically improve our shared urban environment, especially in predominantly communities of color and lower-income communities in Providence, Pawtucket and Central Falls. Our four core programs are: 1) Adult Job Training focusing on the environmental services sector (lead abatement, hazardous waste handling, wastewater treatment, sustainable landscaping); 2) GroundCorp, a landscaping social venture that hires graduates of the training program; 3) Harvest Cycle, a composting social venture that collects food scraps from paying customers and processes the scraps into compost, a nutrient-rich soil amendment, to grow food; and 4) Green Team, a year-round high school youth employment program in Providence, Pawtucket, and Central Falls.

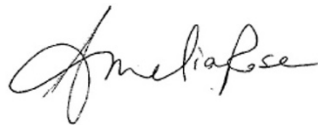
GWRI is committed to supporting this application by continuing our strong track record of successful tree planting and stewardship initiatives in Providence and across the state of Rhode Island. We have worked closely with all of the local partners included in this proposal for many years to implement the PVD Tree Plan planning process as well as plant hundreds of trees every year in Providence and seven other RI communities. Our adult and youth job training and employment program participants are involved in all aspects of the tree planting process from initial planning and visioning to community outreach to prepping pits and planting, then watering and other stewardship for three years after planting. We continue to create new, full-time tree,

landscaping, and stormwater-related jobs within our organizational structure to meet the needs of new funding and accomplish our goals.

We are pleased that SRPEDD has a proven track record of implementing region-wide plans which reflects the needs of their communities and improves their quality of life, such as with the [Regional Transportation Plan](#) (updated every four years) and [Transportation Improvement Program](#). As such, GWRI believes SRPEDD has illustrated their ability to manage the CPRG grant, if awarded.

In closing, Groundwork Rhode Island is thrilled to provide our support of the *Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts* application. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amelia Rose". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amelia" being more prominent than the last name "Rose".

Amelia Rose
Executive Director
arose@groundworkri.org



GROUNDWORK
Southcoast

WWW.GROUNDWORKSOUTHCOAST.ORG

Danica Belknap
Environmental Planning Manager
SRPEDD
88 Broadway
Taunton, MA 02780

March 29, 2024

Dear Mrs. Belknap,

On behalf of **Groundwork Southcoast** (GWSC), I am writing to express our commitment to supporting the **Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District** (SRPEDD) on their Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application for the Providence-Warwick Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Groundwork Southcoast is excited to work with SRPEDD in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a regional tree planting effort and implementation of strategies to encourage more walking and biking in place of driving.

In the *Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts* CPRG proposal, SRPEDD has proposed a set of thorough and effective strategies that address how to achieve significant Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions. Transportation is the largest sector of GHG emissions in the Providence-Warwick MSA, accounting for 43% of emissions within the region. Through the implementation of the strategies identified in SRPEDD's CPRG application, these emissions will be significantly reduced. This will be accomplished by working with partners across the region to (1) identify, design and implement roadway safety improvements for bikers and pedestrians, and (2) implementing an equitable tree planting strategy to expand urban tree canopy.

Working at the intersection of community and climate resilience, [Groundwork Southcoast](http://WWW.GROUNDWORKSOUTHCOAST.ORG) (GWSC) was founded in 2017 to be a part of the transformation of two [Gateway Cities](#) and [Justice40](#) communities in southeastern Massachusetts: **New Bedford** and **Fall River**. Our mission is to bring about sustained regeneration, improvement, and management of the physical environment by developing community-based partnerships that empower people, businesses, and organizations to promote environmental, economic, and social well-being.

GWSC is committed to providing our partnership on this project through implementation and outreach and engagement. Additionally, SRPEDD has a proven track record of implementing region-wide plans which reflects the needs of their communities and improves their quality of life, such as with the [Regional Transportation Plan](#) (updated every four years) and [Transportation Improvement Program](#). As such, GWSC believes SRPEDD has illustrated their ability to manage the CPRG grant, if awarded.

In closing, GWSC is thrilled to provide their support of the *Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts* application. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Maura Valdez', with a stylized, flowing script.

Maura Valdez

Executive Director, Groundwork Southcoast

mvaldez@groundworksouthcoast.org

Danica Belknap
Environmental Planning Manager
SRPEDD
88 Broadway
Taunton, MA 02780

April 1, 2024

Dear Mrs. Belknap,

On behalf of University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, I am writing to express our commitment to supporting the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) on their Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application for the Providence-Warwick Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). UMass Dartmouth is excited to work with SRPEDD in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a regional tree planting effort and implementation of strategies to encourage more walking and biking in place of driving.

In the *Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts* CPRG proposal, SRPEDD has proposed a set of thorough and effective strategies that address how to achieve significant Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions. Transportation is the largest sector of GHG emissions in the Providence-Warwick MSA, accounting for 43% of emissions within the region. Through the implementation of the strategies identified in SRPEDD's CPRG application, these emissions will be significantly reduced. This will be accomplished by working with partners across the region to (1) identify, design, and implement roadway safety improvements for bikers and pedestrians and (2) implement an equitable tree planting strategy to expand urban tree canopy.

As the only research University in southeastern Massachusetts, UMass Dartmouth produces world-class research, serves students from the region and around the world, and works with the local communities. UMass Dartmouth, with Prof. Kathryn Wassel as lead PI, is committed to supporting this application by partnering with SRPEDD to complete the following tasks:

- Market research on tree industry in the region to understand supply and demand in the face of new waves of federal funding with feasibility study for siting possible nurseries or “incubator” locations if demand will greatly outstrip supply.
- Technical assistance to SRPEDD, partners, and municipalities on policy and program design and evaluation over the course of the implementation period.
- Technical assistance on data gathering and analysis for SRPEDD, partners, and municipalities - including community and stakeholder engagement and engagement of other educational institutions through partnerships and companion programming, where appropriate.
- Program evaluation and assistance with reports and research required by EPA - including continued research on impacts to LIDAC communities and any potential benefits and disbenefits of the proposed actions. Examples: Paired studies with public transit and local employment/commuting numbers for walkability improvements and Paired studies with heat island, env hazards, storm water, etc. and health conditions for canopy increases, fulfilling the EPA's request for continued assessment and reporting of program impacts.

Additionally, SRPEDD has a proven track record of implementing region-wide plans which reflects the needs of their communities and improves their quality of life, such as with the [Regional Transportation Plan](#) (updated every four years) and [Transportation Improvement Program](#). As such, UMass Dartmouth believes SRPEDD has illustrated their ability to manage the CPRG grant, if awarded.

In closing, the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth is thrilled to provide its support of the *Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts* application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Balasubramanian' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ramprasad Balasubramanian, PhD
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



MAYOR
JON MITCHELL

City of New Bedford Conservation Commission • Department of Resilience and Environmental Stewardship

133 William Street • Room 304 • New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

Telephone: (508) 991.6188

Conservation • Energy • Environmental Stewardship • Resilience

March 26, 2024

Danica Belknap
Environmental Planning Manager
SRPEDD
88 Broadway
Taunton, MA 02780

Dear Mrs. Belknap,

On behalf of New Bedford's Department of Resilience and Environmental Stewardship, I am writing to express our commitment to supporting the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) on their Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application for the Providence-Warwick Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The Department of Resilience and Environmental Stewardship is excited to work with SRPEDD in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a regional tree planting effort and implementation of strategies to encourage more walking and biking in place of driving.

In the Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts CPRG proposal, SRPEDD has proposed a set of thorough and effective strategies that address how to achieve significant Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions. Transportation is the largest sector of GHG emissions in the Providence-Warwick MSA, accounting for 43% of emissions within the region. Through the implementation of the strategies identified in SRPEDD's CPRG application, these emissions will be significantly reduced. This will be accomplished by working with partners across the region to (1) identify, design and implement roadway safety improvements for bikers and pedestrians, and (2) implementing an equitable tree planting strategy to expand urban tree canopy.

New Bedford's Department of Resilience and Environmental Stewardship developed [NB Resilient: the City's Climate Action and Resilience Plan](#) in 2020. Priority Actions of NB Resilient include the creation of walkable and bikeable routes through the city, increasing the tree canopy, particularly street trees, and a commitment to net zero emissions by 2050. These initiatives are in complete alignment with SRPEDD's CPRG strategies and we are committed to supporting this application through:

- Working with SRPEDD on tree locations that are consistent with the City's Tree Planting Plan and [Green Infrastructure Master Strategy and Implementation Roadmap](#) (GIMSIR);
- Sharing best practices developed for the GIMSIR;
- Sharing planned roadway improvements and community input and relevant priority actions from the 2023 Comprehensive Plan;
- Boosting awareness of process through City social media; and
- Co-hosting meetings with SRPEDD for projects in New Bedford.

Additionally, SRPEDD has a proven track record of implementing region-wide plans which reflects the needs of their communities and improves their quality of life, such as with the Regional Transportation Plan (updated every four years)



133 William Street-Room 304, New Bedford, MA 02740 - Telephone 508-991-6188

and Transportation Improvement Program. As such, [insert entity name] believes SRPEDD has illustrated their ability to manage the CPRG grant, if awarded.

In closing, New Bedford's Department of Resilience and Environmental Stewardship is thrilled to provide our support of the Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts application. Please don't hesitate to call my office at 508-979-1487 or michele.paul@newbedford-ma.gov with any questions. Thank you for your consideration of this worthy project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Paul', written over a horizontal line.

Michele Paul, LSP

Director, Resilience and Environmental Stewardship, City of New Bedford





Danica Belknap
Environmental Planning Manager
SRPEDD
88 Broadway
Taunton, MA 02780

March 26, 2024

Dear Mrs. Belknap,

On behalf of the Providence Neighborhood Planting Program (PNPP), I am writing to express our commitment to supporting the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) on their Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application for the Providence-Warwick Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). PNPP is excited to work with SRPEDD in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a regional tree planting effort and implementation of strategies to encourage more walking and biking in place of driving.

In the *Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts* CPRG proposal, SRPEDD has proposed a set of thorough and effective strategies that address how to achieve significant Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions. Transportation is the largest sector of GHG emissions in the Providence-Warwick MSA, accounting for 43% of emissions within the region. Through the implementation of the strategies identified in SRPEDD's CPRG application, these emissions will be significantly reduced. This will be accomplished by working with partners across the region to (1) identify, design and implement roadway safety improvements for bikers and pedestrians, and (2) implementing an equitable tree planting strategy to expand and protect urban tree canopy.

PNPP helps people to plant, steward and advocate for trees in Providence, RI. Although we are an independent nonprofit, we have a unique partnership with the City of Providence's Forestry Division: since our founding in 1989, PNPP has worked closely with the Forestry Division to provide free street trees to Providence residents and community groups through our Neighborhood Street Tree Planting Award program. We also collaborate with the Forestry Division to train people in young tree pruning and maintenance, to build awareness of the value and importance the urban forest and tree equity, and to support community-based models of tree stewardship.

In addition to our decades long work stewarding Providence's urban forest, PNPP has also been a lead coordinating partner in the collaborative development of the recently-released PVD Tree Plan. This multi-year community-led process also brought together a coalition of community based practitioner organizations ready to work collaboratively to implement the action steps and recommendations of the PVD Tree Plan, with direct participation and oversight by the communities most impacted by environmental injustice and tree inequity.

PNPP is committed to supporting this CPRG application by hiring and retaining staff and dedicating program capacity to act as a coordinator and hub for these Providence-based implementation partners—the “Trees Over Providence” coalition. Through this framework, we will:

- Facilitate the community-led engagement and governance structures to guide the Plan’s implementation
- Coordinate practitioner partners throughout the City, including [Groundwork RI](#), [Garden Time](#), the [Forestry Division of the City of Providence Parks Department](#), [Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council](#) and others) to collectively develop, pilot, and implement program mechanisms and activities for planting and maintaining tree canopy.
- Track and coordinate data across partner organization and stakeholders throughout the city on public and private land.
- Provide critically needed capacity to increase compliance of private properties with existing City tree planting/maintenance zoning and ordinance requirements through both education/outreach and enforcement measures, via hiring a new staff position to be embedded at the Forestry Division.
- Collaborate with the City Forestry Division to plant 2,065 street trees via our jointly implemented community-driven Neighborhood Street Tree Planting model.
- Ensure ongoing care and long-term survivability of young trees planted in Providence through expansion of our community-based tree care program models and urban forestry training programs (e.g. the Providence Community Tree Keepers program—which trains and resources residents, civic & community groups and volunteers to help care for trees where they live, and the Canopy Crew initiative—which PNPP, Groundwork RI and Garden Time have collaboratively piloted with great success over the past year.)
- Share the lessons of the PVD Tree Plan planning process and Providence’s early-phase implementation activities with other regional stakeholders.

We look forward to partnering with the coalition represented in this proposal in order to realize the long-term climate, health and economic benefits of a thriving and equitable tree canopy.

SRPEDD has a proven track record of implementing region-wide plans which reflects the needs of their communities and improves their quality of life, such as with the [Regional Transportation Plan](#) (updated every four years) and [Transportation Improvement Program](#). As such, PNPP believes SRPEDD has illustrated their ability to manage the CPRG grant, if awarded.

In closing, PNPP is thrilled to provide their support of the *Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts* application. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Cassie Tharinger

Executive Director, PNPP

Email: ctharinger@pnpp.org | Cell: 401.368.5380



WENDY NILSSON
Superintendent of Parks

BRETT P. SMILEY
Mayor

March 28, 2024

Danica Belknap
Environmental Planning Manager
SRPEDD
88 Broadway
Taunton, MA 02780

Dear Mrs. Belknap,

On behalf of the Providence Parks Department, I am writing to express our commitment to supporting the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) on their Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application for the Providence-Warwick Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The Forestry Division of the Providence Parks Department is excited to work with SRPEDD in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a regional tree planting effort and implementation of strategies to encourage more walking and biking in place of driving.

In the *Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts* CPRG proposal, SRPEDD has proposed a set of thorough and effective strategies that address how to achieve significant Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions. Transportation is the largest sector of GHG emissions in the Providence-Warwick MSA, accounting for 43% of emissions within the region. Through the implementation of the strategies identified in SRPEDD's CPRG application, these emissions will be significantly reduced. This will be accomplished by working with partners across the region to (1) identify, design and implement roadway safety improvements for bikers and pedestrians, and (2) implementing an equitable tree planting strategy to expand urban tree canopy.

The Forestry Division of the Providence Parks Department manages the city's 28,000 street trees, as well as all trees in city parks and on public property. The division has worked for many decades in close partnership with the Providence Neighborhood Planting Program (PNPP) on street tree planting, stewardship and engagement initiatives. We oversee the inventory of our street trees and assessment of our tree canopy and have been an active partner in the creation of the PVD Tree Plan.

The Providence Forestry Division is committed to supporting this application in the following ways:

- Managing preventative pruning and maintenance of ~15,000 trees in the right-of-way and on other City-managed public property to preserve priority high-value existing canopy, especially in the Tree Equity Focus Areas identified in the PVD Tree Plan.
- Collaborating with PNPP to plant 2,065 street trees in priority tree equity focus areas via our jointly implemented Neighborhood Street Tree Planting model.

PROVIDENCE PARKS DEPARTMENT
1000 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02905
Phone: 401-680-7201

- Working closely with PNPP staff and coordinating across city departments to help ensure that private properties are brought into compliance regarding tree-related ordinances and zoning regulations-- through education and connections to resources, as well as through enforcement.
- Participating in the “Trees Over Providence” coalition of practitioners by:
 - Providing technical expertise in arboriculture and urban forestry to the project and its partners.
 - Helping ensure consistency of standards and best practices and advising in the development of city-wide program frameworks and mechanisms relating to planting, maintenance, workforce development, and education.

In addition to our longtime working partnership with PNPP, the Forestry Division has worked extensively with the other Providence-based partner organizations involved in this project on implementing tree related projects and programs over the years. We look forward to providing our technical expertise in arboriculture and urban forestry to this project and to this team, and to seeing the impact that this collaborative work will have on our efforts to create a healthier and more equitable tree canopy in our City.

Additionally, SRPEDD has a proven track record of implementing region-wide plans which reflects the needs of their communities and improves their quality of life, such as with the [Regional Transportation Plan](#) (updated every four years) and [Transportation Improvement Program](#). As such, the Providence Parks Department believes SRPEDD has illustrated their ability to manage the CPRG grant, if awarded.

In closing, the Providence Parks Department is thrilled to provide their support of the *Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts* application. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Sincerely,
Wendy Nilsson, Superintendent of Parks



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

March 27, 2024

Danica Belknap
Environmental Planning Manager
SRPEDD
88 Broadway
Taunton, MA 02780

Dear Mrs. Belknap,

On behalf of the RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), I am writing to express our commitment to supporting the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) on their Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application for the Providence-Warwick Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). RIDEM is excited to collaborate with SRPEDD in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a regional tree planting effort and implementation of strategies to encourage more walking and biking in place of driving.

In the *Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts* CPRG proposal, SRPEDD has proposed a set of thorough and effective strategies that address how to achieve significant greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions. Transportation is the largest sector of GHG emissions in the Providence-Warwick MSA, accounting for 43% of emissions within the region. Through the implementation of the strategies identified in SRPEDD's CPRG application, these emissions will be significantly reduced and associated health benefits will be achieved. This will be accomplished by working with partners across the region to (1) identify, design and implement roadway safety improvements for bikers and pedestrians, and (2) implementing an equitable tree planting strategy to expand urban tree canopy.

RIDEM is the primary environmental regulatory agency in Rhode Island and has a wide variety of programs and responsibilities directly related to Rhode Island's fight against climate change, including mitigating carbon emissions, assessing impacts to the state's natural resources, and coordinating investments in urban forestry. RIDEM is committed to supporting this application through outreach to key stakeholders and updating the RI Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council on programs and projects supported by this grant. Some of the measures included in SRPEDD's proposal will complement elements in RIDEM's own CPRG application. We will coordinate with SRPEDD to ensure there is no direct overlap in how our respective funding will be spent should both our applications be successful.

SRPEDD has a proven track record of implementing region-wide plans which reflects the needs of their communities and improves their quality of life, such as with the [Regional Transportation Plan](#) (updated every four years) and [Transportation Improvement Program](#). As such, RIDEM believes SRPEDD has illustrated their ability to manage the CPRG grant, if awarded.

In closing, RIDEM is pleased to provide its support of the *Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts* application. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact RIDEM.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Stone". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Elizabeth Stone, RIDEM
Office of the Director
CPRG Lead for Rhode Island



Swansea Planning Board

68 Stevens Road

Swansea, MA 02777

Danica Belknap
Environmental Planning Manager
SRPEDD
88 Broadway
Taunton, MA 02780

March 27, 2024

Dear Mrs. Belknap,

On behalf of the Town of Swansea I am writing to express our commitment to supporting the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) on their Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application for the Providence-Warwick Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The Town is excited to work with SRPEDD in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a regional tree planting effort and implementation of strategies to encourage more walking and biking in place of driving.

In the *Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts* CPRG proposal, SRPEDD has proposed a set of thorough and effective strategies that address how to achieve significant Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions. Transportation is the largest sector of GHG emissions in the Providence-Warwick MSA, accounting for 43% of emissions within the region. Through the implementation of the strategies identified in SRPEDD's CPRG application, these emissions will be significantly reduced. This will be accomplished by working with partners across the region to (1) identify, design and implement roadway safety improvements for bikers and pedestrians, and (2) implementing an equitable tree planting strategy to expand urban tree canopy.

The Town of Swansea is a suburban community of approximately 17,000 residents with strong agrarian roots and a beautiful coastline that are both at the forefront of our protection and enhancement efforts. Through recently updated long-range planning policy documents, such as our Comprehensive Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan,

Hazard Mitigation Plan and Complete Streets Plan, we have committed to several action items to further the public's goals outlined in these plans, which dovetail with the efforts outlined in this application. Specifically, we are undertaking several transportation improvement projects along our major thoroughfares that will include tree plantings and sidewalk/bike lane improvements. Sidewalk extensions are also proposed in and around our village center to encourage walking to our Town Hall, Library, and local schools.

Swansea is committed to supporting this application through assisting with local outreach and providing feedback during implementation of the work.

Additionally, SRPEDD has a proven track record of implementing region-wide plans which reflects the needs of their communities and improves their quality of life, such as with the [Regional Transportation Plan](#) (updated every four years) and [Transportation Improvement Program](#). As such, Swansea believes SRPEDD has illustrated their ability to manage the CPRG grant, if awarded.

In closing, the Town of Swansea is thrilled to provide their support of the *Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts* application. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

John P. Hansen, Jr., AICP

Community Development Director

Town of Swansea

jhansen@swanseama.gov

March 27, 2024

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Danica Belknap
Environmental Planning Manager
SRPEDD
88 Broadway
Taunton, MA 02780

Re: Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application

Dear Mrs. Belknap,

On behalf of the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (WRWC) I am writing to express our commitment to supporting the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) on their Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application for the Providence-Warwick Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). WRWC is excited to work with SRPEDD to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through regional tree planting and implementing strategies to encourage more walking and biking in place of driving.

In the *Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts* CPRG proposal, SRPEDD has proposed a set of thorough and effective strategies that address how to achieve significant Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions. Transportation is the largest sector of GHG emissions in the Providence-Warwick MSA, accounting for 43% of emissions within the region. Through the implementation of the strategies identified in SRPEDD's CPRG application, these emissions will be significantly reduced. This will be accomplished by working with partners across the region to (1) identify, design and implement roadway safety improvements for bikers and pedestrians, and (2) implementing an equitable tree planting strategy to expand urban tree canopy.

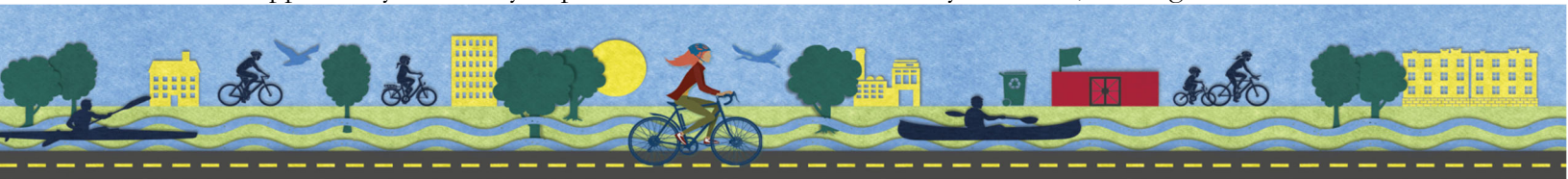
STAFF LEADERSHIP

Alicia J. Lehrer
Executive Director

Lisa Aurecchia
Director of Projects

Jill Davidson
Development &
Communications
Director

WRWC's mission is to create positive environmental, social and economic change by revitalizing the Woonasquatucket River, its Greenway, and its communities. We envision a clean Woonasquatucket River and thriving Greenway for all to lead healthy lives. We create multi-use trails along our river that we aim to connect to others throughout Rhode Island. However, the Greenway is not just trails, it is park and green spaces filled with trees and native species that supports a thriving urban ecosystem, and nature-based stormwater solutions that help prevent flooding while improving water quality. Our work deeply engages all community members in stewardship, learning, active involvement in the political process and investment in the communities in which they live, and power sharing. WRWC is committed to supporting this application, planting hundreds of trees throughout our Greenway and watershed every year. Further, we will use tree planting and care as an opportunity to directly improve the lives of our community members, training them in



these skills and fairly compensating them for participating in these activities that can lead to improved economic status and future family sustaining employment.

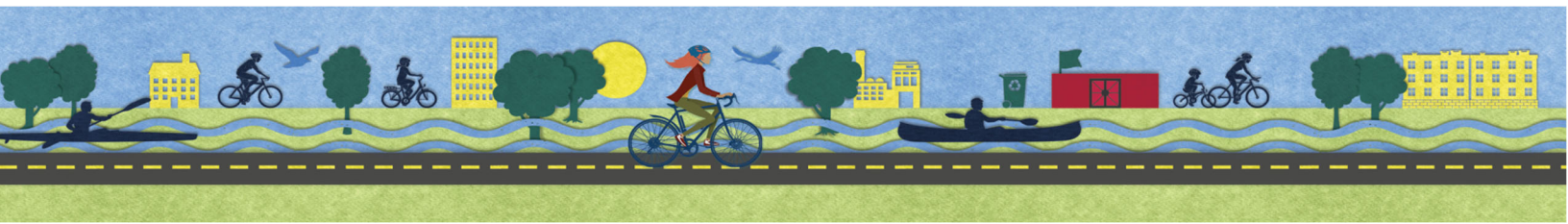
We are thrilled to partner with SRPEDD, an organization with a proven track record of implementing region-wide plans that reflect the needs of their communities and improves their quality of life, such as with the Regional Transportation Plan (updated every four years) and Transportation Improvement Program. As such, WRWC believes SRPEDD has illustrated their ability to manage the CPRG grant, if awarded.

In closing, WRWC is thrilled to provide their support of the Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts application. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 401-861-9046 or alehrer@wrwc.org.

Sincerely,



Alicia J. Lehrer
Executive Director





City of Taunton
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

City Hall
15 Summer Street · Taunton MA 02780
(508) 821-1000

MAYOR SHAUNNA O'CONNELL

Ligia M. Madeira, Esq.
CHIEF OF STAFF

Patrick D. Dello Russo, Jr.
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Gill E. Enos
BUDGET DIRECTOR

March 26, 2024

Danica Belknap
Environmental Planning Manager
SRPEDD
88 Broadway
Taunton, MA 02780

Dear Mrs. Belknap,

On behalf of the City of Taunton, I am writing to express our commitment to supporting the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) on their Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application for the Providence-Warwick Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The City of Taunton is excited to work with SRPEDD in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a regional tree planting effort and implementation of strategies to encourage more walking and biking in place of driving.

In the Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts CPRG proposal, SRPEDD has proposed a set of thorough and effective strategies that address how to achieve significant Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions. Transportation is the largest sector of GHG emissions in the Providence-Warwick MSA, accounting for 43% of emissions within the region. Through the implementation of the strategies identified in SRPEDD's CPRG application, these emissions will be significantly reduced. This will be accomplished by working with partners across the region to (1) identify, design and implement roadway safety improvements for bikers and pedestrians, and (2) implementing an equitable tree planting strategy to expand urban tree canopy.

Taunton is committed to supporting this application through our membership on SRPEDD'S regional municipal steering committee for the CPRG advising or providing feedback during implementation of the work as well as assisting with local outreach in our community.

Additionally, SRPEDD has a proven track record of implementing region-wide plans which reflects the needs of their communities and improves their quality of life, such as with the Regional Transportation Plan (updated every four years) and Transportation Improvement Program. As such, the City of Taunton believes SRPEDD has illustrated their ability to manage the CPRG grant, if awarded.

In closing, the City of Taunton is thrilled to provide their support of the Creating Greener and Safer Communities for Walking and Biking in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts application. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mayor Shaunna O'Connell