

October 11th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry St., Ste. 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

RE: VILLAGE OF SHERMAN - NY FORWARD GRANT APPLICATION ROUND 3

Subj: Trail Development

Dear Ms. Utz,

The Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth (CCPEG) strongly supports the Village of Sherman's grant application to the NY Forward Grant Program for their all-encompassing master project, that includes improvements to the Rosie Billquist Trail, a section of Chautauqua Rails to Trails which serves the greater region of Chautauqua County.

We are particularly interested in how this project improves access and safety to the Rosie Billquist Trail segment with proposed surfacing of a .7-mile section with crushed limestone and the installation of a bridge to cross NY State Route 430. The creation of an Autism nature sensory trail behind the We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman children's unique sensory gym, campsites, lights, and trail head improvements will attract visitors to the region.

The Village of Sherman has built a restroom with showers at Edmund's Park available to all trail enthusiasts and continues its efforts toward the goal of becoming a trail town, including its project of a public / private community center and hostel at 130 W Main Street. The trail through Sherman is a multi-use trail for hikers, bikers, equestrians, and snowmobilers.

This important trailhead provides access for recreation opportunities for residents and tourists, and CCPEG has prioritized future improvements of the Sherman section of the Chautauqua County Rails to Trails. The Village's Complete Streets Initiative provided by funding from CCPEG will further contribute to Main Street improvements, walkability, and trail enhancements, all significantly benefiting the community and downtown businesses. It is exciting to see Sherman's push to "go green" in the village.

CCPEG fully supports this important grant application and the community's commitment to improving the lives of people who live and work there through quality programs. I look forward to seeing this project receive favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Jacob Bodway
Chautauqua County Trail Coordinator