



## CHAUTAUQUA RAILS TO TRAILS

P.O. BOX 151 · MAYVILLE, N.Y. 14757-1007 · (716) 753-2800

**Bill Ward**  
*President*

October 14, 2024

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

Re: NY Forward Round 3  
Project: Village of Sherman

Dear Ms. Utz:

Chautauqua Rails to Trails strongly supports the Village of Sherman's application to the NY Forward Grant Program for their multiple transformational projects to revitalize Sherman's downtown attracting visitors to the region.

Sherman is proposing significant improvements for access and safety along the Rosie Billquist Trail, which is a section of Chautauqua Rails to Trails (CR2T). Chautauqua Rails to Trails and the Friends of the Chautauqua County Greenways (FCCG) are prioritizing improvements in and around Sherman, and ultimately making the connection to Clymer, NY completing this section of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail.

The trail improvements will contribute greatly to local and regional economic development. The list of proposed projects complements each other and will be constructed concurrently with the NY Forward Award further supporting the growth of amenities needed for a trail town designation.

The Village's recent kick-off of the Complete Streets Initiative with the award from the Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth will further contribute to these Main Street improvements, walkability, and trail enhancements, all significantly benefiting the community and downtown businesses.

We fully support this important application and the community's commitment to improving the lives of people who live and work there through quality programs, and we look forward to seeing this project receive favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Ward", is written in a cursive style.

Bill Ward  
President, Chautauqua Rails to Trails