



# CITY OF PLAINFIELD

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**Adrian O. Mapp**  
Mayor

April 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter as support from the City of Plainfield for the creation of a pedestrian/ bicycle trail linking all Union County municipalities along the former Central Railroad (CRR)/ New Jersey Transit (NJT) Right-of-Way (ROW) from Elizabeth, through Roselle/Roselle Park, Cranford, Garwood, Westfield, Fanwood, Scotch Plains and Plainfield via the conversion/shared use of the existing rail ROW.

Plainfield has always supported the use and expansion of alternate modes of transportation to the single occupant vehicle to reduce vehicular traffic on our roads, provide safe means of off-road travel, increase usable greenways, and open space, and provide connections via off road trails throughout Union County. Indeed, the Mayor and Council adopted a resolution supporting Union County Connects (UCC) 'Rails to Trails Union County') advocacy group to transform unused and underutilized railroad lines into usable pedestrian and bicycle trails. Plainfield adopted a new Bicycle and Pedestrian master plan advancing both short- and long-term bicycle and pedestrian improvements in 2020.

All the Union County municipalities identified above are experiencing exponential growth of mixed use residential/commercial development with the potential for increased vehicular traffic on North and South Avenues, (SR 28 and UC 610) which parallel the CRR line as main east-west travel routes. Indeed, there are over 3,000 residential units being constructed within this corridor. Garwood recognizes that traffic along these roadways will become unsustainable and unbearable for corridor residents if alternate means of travel are not provided. The CRR ROW is an underutilized transportation spine in the center of these two roadways. It is only logical that this ROW be studied for its potential, feasibility, and ability to be an alternate off-road route of travel reducing traffic on our roadways, and changing modal travel to unite our municipalities for pleasure, social and business travel, and potential economic benefits among and between our municipalities.

Plainfield therefore expresses support for Union County Connects in its pursuit of connecting all underutilized railroad ROWs, and bicycle and walking trails in Garwood and all of the County of Union, and that I am highly recommending that UCC utilize this letter as well as other municipal support letters that they are able to gather for presentation to the Union County Board of County Commissioners, our elected state representatives, New Jersey Transit and Governor Murphy.

Sincerely,

Adrian O. Mapp  
Mayor

# CITY OF PLAINFIELD

R 189-24

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONVERTING EXISTING BUT UNDERUTILIZED RAIL TRACK WITHIN THE CENTRAL RAILROAD (CRR)/NEW JERSEY TRANSIT (NJT) RIGHT OF WAY (ROW) INTO PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE TRAILS AND CONNECTING ALL PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE TRAILS IN UNION COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of Plainfield wish to show continued support for the use and expansion of alternate modes of transportation in order to reduce vehicular traffic on our roads, provide safe means of off-road travel, increase usable greenways and open space, and provide connectivity of communities via off road trails throughout Union County; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council adopted a resolution supporting the 'Rails to Trails Union County' advocacy group as a means to transform underutilized railroad lines into usable pedestrian and bicycle trails; and

WHEREAS, the 'Rails to Trails' group has transformed into 'Union County Connects', a group with the larger vision of creating and connecting all pedestrian and bicycle trails in Union County, and

WHEREAS, Union County Connects (UCC) has the support of the Union County Board of County Commissioners, and

WHEREAS, in February 2023, Union County was awarded a \$700,000 federal Safe Streets and Roads for all grant portions of what will be used in association with Union County Connects, and

WHEREAS, in June 2023, Union County was awarded \$1.5million in NJDOT funding for the conversion of the Rahway Valley Line from an abandoned railway line to a bicycle/pedestrian trail, and

WHEREAS, in September 2023, Union County received a \$1,000,000 award for the design and construction of a new pedestrian/bicycle way through the Borough of Roselle, connecting with the East Coast Greenway in Cranford which then connects with the Goethals Bridge, and the CRR/NJT line, and

WHEREAS, it is apparent that the joint conversion of the 3.8-mile defunct section of CRR ROW (Elizabeth -Cranford), and a shared usage of the 8 mile section of operating NJT ROW (Cranford- Plainfield) could be converted via Rail-to-Trails and Trails within Rails (Massachusetts Central Rail Trail) into a 12 mile off-road bicycle/pedestrian trail that would provide a new travel way potentially reducing traffic on our roadways, changing modal travel to unite our municipalities for pleasure, social and business travel and potential economic benefits, with the provision of a new Union County destination connecting all municipalities via bicycle and pedestrian travel.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of Plainfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby express support for "Union County Connects" in its pursuit of connecting all underutilized railroad ROWs, bicycle and walking trails, and parks in the County of Union.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Union County Board of County Commissioners and New Jersey Transit.

ADOPTED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

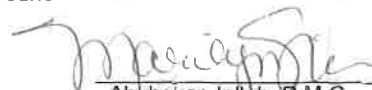
April 8, 2024



Abubakar Jalloh, R.M.C.  
Municipal Clerk

### CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

I, Abubakar Jalloh, City Clerk of the City of Plainfield do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Plainfield City Council.



Abubakar Jalloh, R.M.C.  
Municipal Clerk

**Marilyn Nieves**  
Deputy City Clerk

**Certified True Copy**

✓ Vote Record - Resolution R 189-24						
			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted	Richard Wyatt	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as Amended	Charles McRae	Mover	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Defeated	Steve Hockaday	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Tabled	Terri Briggs Jones	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn	Robert Graham	Secunder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Consensus	Julienne Cherry	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Darcella Sessomes	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>