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April 24, 2016

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Recreational Trails Program Advisory Committee  
Office of Operations

Department of Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 585  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

**Re: Letter of Support for Denning Drive Multi-use Trail**

Dear Committee Members:

We are writing in strong support of the City of Winter Park's Denning Trail project. Our board of directors has voted unanimously to endorse this project and we are asking the Department of Environmental Protection to support a Recreational Trails Program grant.

Last year, Winter Park City Commissioners voted unanimously to commit \$612,000.00 in Community Redevelopment Agency funds to construct an approximately one mile trail along Denning Drive. Denning is presently a four-lane highway barrier between Winter Park's historic African American neighborhood and Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Denning is slated for Metro Orlando's first "road diet" to incorporate a multi-use trail for people bicycling and walking.

A grant from the Recreational Trails Program is essential for connecting the Denning Trail from the CRA border at Holt Avenue to the Orlando Urban Trail at Mead Botanical Gardens. An RTP grant will ultimately enable a safe downtown Orlando to downtown Winter Park bicycling route for people of all ages and abilities. The City of Orlando reports that, on average, 65,628 bicyclists and pedestrians use the Orlando Urban Trail annually.

The Denning Trail will provide access to the Winter Park Village shopping center, a major Lynx bus hub behind the Village, Winter Park Tech (a vocational training institution of Orange County Public Schools), the Winter Park Tennis Center, the 205-unit Paseo Apartment complex, and a new public library approved by voters for construction in Martin

Executive Director  
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Luther King, Jr. Park. The north end of Denning will provide low traffic volume, on-street access to Maitland, Florida. Winter Park planners envision a future phase in which the Trail extends from Denning to the Park Avenue area, connecting three of the City's major parks—Central Park, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, and Mead Gardens—with access to Winter Park's SunRail commuter rail station.

Construction of the Denning Trail would advance Bike Walk Central Florida's mission to expand opportunities for people walking and bicycling safely and comfortably.

We hope you share our view of this project's importance and will support a maximum dollar grant to create that critical link to the Orlando Urban Trail.

Thank you for kindly considering this most worthy project.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Amanda Day".

Amanda Day  
Director