



August 2021

New Hampshire Rail Trail Plan

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) is leading the preparation of a plan for state owned rail trails. The purpose of this plan is to ensure the preservation and integrity of these assets and to provide direction for future development. The scope of the plan was set by the state legislature and focuses on the following tasks:

- Update of the State’s rail corridor inventory and list of trail organizations.
- Analysis of the statewide economic impact of rail trails.
- Recommend a tier system for prioritizing state investments in rail trail projects.
- Definition of routine and structural maintenance, identification of typical costs and allocation of maintenance responsibilities between state and local trail groups.
- Development of recommendations for a state funding mechanism to support rail trail projects.
- Development of a template trail management agreement
- Identification of best practices for acquiring insurance for volunteer trail management groups.
- Development of recommendations for ensuring the integrity of publicly owned rail trail corridors.
- Provide a pamphlet at state information centers on the trail plan.

Development of the plan is being guided by an Advisory Stakeholders Committee which represents state agencies, regional planning commissions, trail users, municipalities, businesses, railroads and abutters. Stakeholder meeting notes are posted on the project web page (see below) and stakeholder meetings are open to the public.

HOW CAN I STAY INFORMED ABOUT THE PLAN?

Visit the project website for information and updates:

nhrailtrailsplan.com

Project Contact:

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WHAT’S HAPPENING NOW?

Data Collection. Our project partners at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) are collecting data regarding spending associated with trail usage. This data collection will continue through the summer and fall.

Public Outreach. Do you have an idea, question or other information to share? Please contact us! One online and three in-person information sessions are being held throughout the state in August 2021, as follows:

August 9, 2021 - NH Department of Transportation
Concord, NH
6:00 to 7:30 PM

August 11, 2021 - Keene Recreation Center
Keene, NH
6:00 to 7:30 PM

August 12, 2021 - Littleton High School
Littleton, NH
6:00 to 7:30 PM

August 18, 2021 - Virtual Public Meeting via Zoom
6:00 to 7:30

Zoom Webinar Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/98167177499?pwd=ZTF0UmVxV0ROUX-VxUytrNWVzSHJUUT09>

Passcode: 160640

Or join by phone:

(646)-558-8656

Webinar ID: 981 6717 7499

WHAT’S NEXT?

Economic Analysis. Data collected by UNH will be used for modeling the economic impact of rail trails in New Hampshire.

Draft Plan. We anticipate a draft plan document to be available for review in Spring 2022. The project is anticipated to be complete in June 2022.



AGENDA

New Hampshire Rail Trail Plan

Public Information Meetings

August 9

NH Department of Transportation
Concord, NH
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

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1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Project Overview (reviewing the project scope items listed on the previous page)
3. Timeline and Next Steps
4. Public Comment
 - Tier System for Prioritizing State Investments
 - State Funding Mechanism
 - Rail Trail Inventory
 - Data for Trail Usage
 - Economic Impact Analysis
 - Ensuring the Integrity of Rail Trail Corridors