Trolley Line Path Scoping Study
- Local Concerns Meeting -

Monday, July 27, 2020
Town of Bennington Select Board Meeting
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Bennington County Regional Commission
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Overview

- About
- Pathway Impacts
- Findings
  - Existing Conditions Tour
  - Study Considerations
- Next Steps
- Q&A

Ashuwillticook Rail Trail
Adams, MA

Study Area
~12 miles of path
Connect 4 village centers
Scoping Study?

Problem:

Route 7 is not Complete Streets compliant
Really, a Pathway?

Electronic bicycle (e-bike) commuting

Dutch rural shared-use path
About this Project

Bennington County Regional Commission Staff Contacts:

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- Mark Anders, Transportation Planner
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Steering Committee

- Participants from Bennington, Pownal, Williamstown
- Assists with public outreach, alignment alternatives assessment, and report review
About this Project

Schedule

- **Application Meeting**
  - Bennington
  **June 4, 2018**
- **Kick-off Meeting**
  - Bennington
  **Nov. 10, 2018**
- **Existing Conditions Assessment**
  - State of trolley bed
  - Natural and cultural resources
  - Right-of-way (ROW)
  **Nov 2018 -- ongoing**
- **Local Concerns Meeting**
  - Pownal, Bennington, Williamstown
  **TODAY**
- **Alternatives Evaluation**
  **July - August 2020**
- **Alternatives Presentation**
  **September 2020**
- **Final Public Presentation**
  **October 2020**
- **Final Scoping Report**
  **November 2020**
History

Berkshire Street Railway provided trolley service from Bennington to Williamstown from 1907 to 1929.

https://vimeo.com/157516882
Why a Pathway?

- Transportation
- Economic Development
- Tourism
- Recreation
- Public Health
- Historic Preservation

Electronic bicycle (e-bike) commuting
Dutch rural shared-use path

Attract visitors and businesses to historic village centers
Why a Pathway?

Island Line Trail in Burlington, VT

Village Bike Rentals
Adams, MA

Ashuwillticook Rail Trail
Adams, MA
Pathway Concerns

- Environmental impacts
- Cost and Maintenance
- Nuisance concerns
- ROW impacts
Initial Findings
Existing Conditions Tour
Just south of Main St, Bennington

Greenberg Headwaters Park

One World Conservation Center

East of Bennington Sheriff’s Station
Running parallel with Route 7

Peaks Pine Rd

Cattle pass or bridge infrastructure
Building east of Rte 7 in Pownal Center

East of Rte 7

West of Rte 7

Cattle pass East of Rte 346

Trolley Line Path Scoping Study | Local Concerns Meeting | July 27, 2020
Church St Pownal

RR by Racetrack Entrance

RR line in Williamstown
Study Considerations

- Overall Viability?
- Analyze
  - Natural and cultural resources
  - ROW – right of way impacts
  - Costs
  - Roadway and waterway crossings
  - Alignments
Next Steps

Schedule

• Local Concerns Meeting          TODAY
• Alternatives Presentation      September 2020
• Final Public Presentation      October 2020
• Final Scoping Report            November 2020
Thank you

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