Trolley Line Path Scoping Study
- Local Concerns Meeting -

Thursday, July 23, 2020
Town of Pownal Select Board Meeting
Cat Bryars, Senior Planner
Bennington County Regional Commission
cbryars@bcrcvt.org
802-447-0713 x 310
Overview

• About & History
• Pathway Impacts
• Findings
  • Existing Conditions Tour
  • Study Considerations
• Next Steps
• Q&A
Scoping Study?

Problem:

Route 7 is not Complete Streets compliant
Why a Pathway?

- Transportation
- Economic Development
- Tourism
- Recreation
- Public Health
- Historic Preservation
About this Project

Bennington County Regional Commission Staff Contacts:

- Cat Bryars, Project Manager
  - cбрyars@bcrcvt.org
  - 802-442-0713 x310
- Mark Anders, Transportation Planner
  - mандers@bcrcvt.org
  - 802-442-0713 x303

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
Pownal Center

Is 986 feet above sea level,
437 feet higher than the Hoosac and Pownal,
and 304 feet higher than Bennington.

From Pownal Village,
The railway climbs 437 feet in 2 1/2 miles.
Interest in Path

2003 Williams College study

Western New England Greenway Bike Route
Why a Pathway?

- Transportation
- Economic Development
- Tourism
- Recreation
- Public Health
- Historic Preservation
Why a Pathway?

Island Line Trail in Burlington, VT

Village Bike Rentals
Adams, MA

Ashuwillticook Rail Trail
Adams, MA

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Pathway Concerns

• Environmental impacts
• Cost and Maintenance
• Nuisance concerns
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
Study Considerations

• Overall Viability?

• Analyze
  • Natural and cultural resources
  • ROW – right of way impacts
  • Cost and Funding
  • Type of path
  • Roadway and waterway crossings
  • Alignments
Next Steps

Schedule

• Existing Conditions Assessment  ongoing
• Local Concerns Meeting  TODAY
• Steering Committee Meetings  ongoing
• Alternatives Evaluation  July - August 2020
• Alternatives Presentation  September 2020
• Final Public Presentation  October 2020
• Final Scoping Report  November 2020
Thank you