

Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails provide many benefits to the neighborhood

Bicycle and pedestrian trails improve the quality of life for residents in our community. Some of the benefits for North County residents include:

- Having a bike/pedestrian trail in close proximity to home.
- A place where residents can meet and discuss the events of the day.
- An opportunity for exercise for people of all ages and abilities.
- A place for families to safely walk and bike.
- A chance to bike to work or run errands without the worries of traffic.
- A chance to better link the resources of MCLA and Williams College.
- A chance to create the second such trail in Berkshire County, one that will one day connect to the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail.
- A new reason for people to visit North County.

A Blast from the Past

“The wheelmen and wheelwomen who are now visiting northern Berkshire in great numbers would be strongly impressed with our enterprise up here if they could see something being done in the way of bicycle paths. A good starter would be to connect Williamstown and North Adams with a bicycle path...

Aside from visitors there are enough local bicyclists dependent largely upon their wheels, not only for recreation but for running about on business matters, to warrant North Adams and Williamstown doing something enterprising for them in the way of a bicycle path.”



– From

The Transcript,
July 18, 1896

The Mohawk Bicycle Trail project has been funded by the National Scenic Byways Program, the City of North Adams, the Town of Williamstown and the Fund for Williamstown.

The Mohawk Bicycle Trail



A bicycle and walking trail for North County

Mohawk Bicycle Trail Project

Linking Williamstown and North Adams

Local residents and officials have long stated a desire to develop a bicycle and walking trail.

The Town of Williamstown and the City of North Adams, in partnership with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and the Berkshire Bike Path Council, have received a second grant from the National Scenic Byway Program to continue work on a bicycle / walking trail that will connect the downtown areas of the two communities.

The proposed trail will be about 5.5 miles in length and is envisioned to serve primarily as a recreational trail, similar in nature to the popular Ashuwillticook Rail Trail.



Phase I: Finding the Route 2007-2010

Local residents and bicycle enthusiasts scoured area that parallels the Hoosic River and Route 2 to identify potential routes for the bike / walking trail. Phase I consisted of three main objectives:

- 1) conduct a feasibility study to determine the preferred and alternative routes,
- 2) open dialogs with landowners and abutters along the potential trail routes, and
- 3) develop preliminary designs and cost estimates for construction.

An opening public forum was held in in June 2007 and two closing public forums were held in March 2010.

Phase II: Design 2014-2017

Beginning in summer 2015 the Town of Williamstown is beginning work on Phase II of the project. This end of the trail is approximately two miles in length and will travel from the Cole Avenue area eastward to The Spruces property. For this end of the trail we expect to achieve full engineering designs and secure legal easements for the route where necessary. Construction funds are obligated once 100% design has been reached.

The North Adams end of the trail is approximately 2.5 miles, and here the terrain and private property issues are far more complex. On this end of the trail we will continue field work to finally secure the route. Our work will result in a Final North Adams Feasibility and Preliminary Design Report, with trail alignments, draft easements where necessary and designs for the complex sections of the trail, such as river and railroad crossings.

Public Involvement 2013-2016

Throughout the project we will be asking residents and neighborhood groups to help us identify the final location and design of the trail. We will seek public input on the western portion as the design process moves all the way to final design, permitting and easements. We will also focus very intently on seeking local input from residents and neighborhood groups to secure the final route through the challenging areas in North Adams.

