

For NHDOT use only: Application #: _____ LOI Received on: _____ MMW Attendee: _____ MMW Date: _____ Application Received on: _____
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**NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP)**

Round 4 - 2021 APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

1. Sponsor Information *(Sponsor is the municipality or school district / SAU that is applying. Contact is the person who will be in responsible charge of the project).*

Sponsor Name:

Mailing Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Contact Name:

Title:

Mailing Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Governing Regional Planning Commission:

2. Project Information

Map: *(A map is required as part of the application. Map must be scanned as a pdf file. Map should include street names, State route numbers, project details, identification of resources, north arrow, and a scale)*

MAP SUBMITTED

Eligible TAP Activities: *Check the eligible TAP activity(s) that your project is proposing.*

Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic-calming techniques, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 12101 et seq).

Construction, planning, and design of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs.

Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users.

The Safe Routes to School Program eligible projects and activities listed at section 1404(f) of the SAFETEA-LU: Infrastructure-related projects only.

Description of work being proposed:

(Clearly describe purpose and need for project as well as project goals and objectives)

Resources within project limits:

(List all cultural, archeological, and natural resources, as well as any known hazardous materials in project limits)

Project Details

Road Name(s) *(List all roads in project limits)*

State Route Number: *(List all State route numbers or N/A if on a municipal road)*

Railroad: *(List name of railroad corridor if rail trail or rail with trail project)*

Other: *(If off-road path, describe beginning and ending termination locations)*

Length of Project: *(If more than one location, provide total length of proposed improvement)*

Width of proposed improvement: *(If width isn't consistent, provide an average width for majority of improvements)*

Surface Type: *(List Paved, Concrete, Gravel, Stone Dust, etc. for all proposed improvements)*

Ownership: *(List the entity that owns the land in the limits of your proposed improvements)*

3. Project Cost Estimate

Identify the estimated project costs under each of the phases below.

A) Design/Engineering: \$
(Costs for engineering study, preliminary design, environmental review, identifying and establishing right-of-way, easements preparation, final design, and bid phase services)

B) Right-Of-Way: \$
(Cost of easement acquisition and/or land acquisition)

C) Construction: \$
(Cost of constructing project, materials, and labor)

D) Construction Engineering: \$
(Cost of engineering oversight for the project. Oversight needs to be almost fulltime.)

Project Total: \$
(Min. \$400,000 Max \$1,250,000)

Identify the amount of federal funding you are applying for.

If you are overmatching your project to get your total up to \$400,000 or over \$1,250,000 you add the additional funds to your required match and put that in the Match\$ box below. Your % federal funds will be adjusted based on your amount of overmatch. If you are adding funds that will be in addition to the amount of federal funds and match for your project those are considered non-participating funds. In this case you put the additional funds in the non-participating box. This is usually done if you want to do additional work that may not be eligible under the TAP program but you want the work done under the overall contract.

Federal \$
(\$1,000,000 Max. \$320,000 Min. for federal amount requested)

%
(80% Max. for TAP reimbursement)

Match \$
(Enter amount of local match and additional funds if applicable)

%

Non-Participating \$

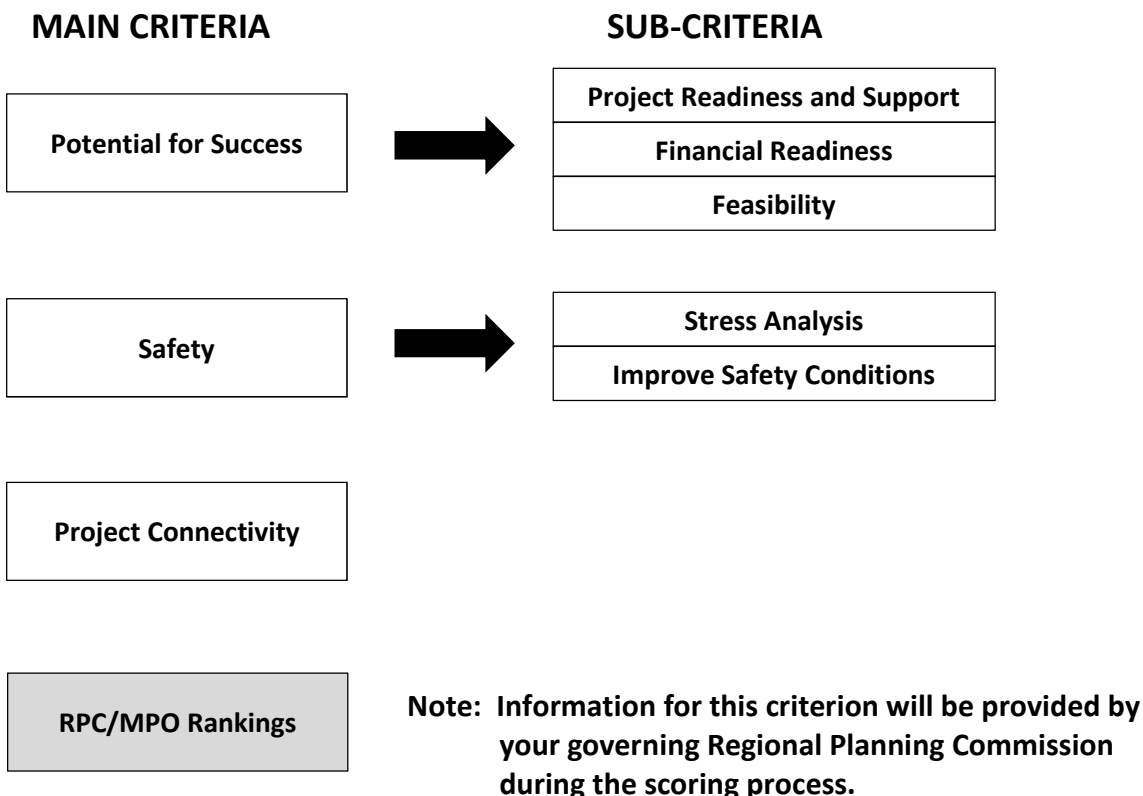
Funding Total \$
(Min. \$400,000 Max.\$1,250,000)

Reason for non-participating funds

4. Evaluation Criteria (*Applications will be scored on criteria developed by the Department's Transportation Alternatives Program Advisory Committee (TAPAC). The TAPAC developed these criteria to select the best applications for funding.*)

There are four main criteria and five sub-criteria that will be used to evaluate projects and are listed below:

- **RPC/MPO Ranking criterion, Section D will be done by the governing regional planning commission using the information provided in the application. Application will be submitted to the Department and the Department will forward copies to the Regional Planning Commissions**



A) Potential for Success: Sponsor will need to demonstrate the factors that will indicate a project's likeliness to succeed.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENT: All applications must include a letter of support from the Sponsor's governing body committing to actively engaging and leading the project. Application will not be accepted without this letter.

Letter of support attached:

- **Project Readiness and Support:** *Is the project part of a local and/or regional plan and effort, and has it been endorsed by local and regional bodies and advocacy groups? That is, did you build your case about the importance of this project to many constituents like conservation commission, planning board, other local groups? Is it part of a regional plan or have RPC/TAC support? Is it part of a master plan or other planning document? (Number of constituents and/or planning documents will be used for scoring)*

- **Financial Readiness:** *(TAP is a reimbursement program. Sponsor will have to gross appropriate funds for the entire project. (The Department reimburses a maximum of 80% of each reimbursement request.) Explain how the project will be funded and the timeline for funding. Is there a written commitment to bring this project forward for approval of funds at town meeting, through capital reserve funds, through inclusion in the capital improvement plan, etc. or are there funds already raised/appropriated and dedicated to this project?*

- **Feasibility:** *Address historic, cultural, environmental, maintenance, possible areas of contamination, and other related issues that may impact the project's ability to succeed. Applicant should discuss issue and how it will be addressed. Discuss impacts to project timeline and possible financial impacts.*

B) Safety: Projects will need to demonstrate the extent to which the project will improve safety conditions and/or reduce the perception of user stress as a result of the project being implemented. This criterion will be rated on the difference between the stress level of the existing condition versus the anticipated stress level of the proposed project.

- **Stress Analysis:**

- *Describe the existing stress level of your project area as it exists today without the proposed project and based on the scale below, assign it a letter. You must justify why you chose the letter.*
- *Describe the anticipated stress level for the project area after the proposed project is completed and based on the scale below, assign it a letter. You must justify why you chose the letter.*

A - Facility is reasonably safe for all children.

B - Facility can accommodate users with basic skills and knowledge of traffic.

C - Facility requires an intermediate level of skill and knowledge of traffic to use.

D - Facility requires an advanced level of skill and knowledge of traffic to use.

E - Facility is generally not suitable for pedestrians or bicyclists.

- **Improve Safety Conditions:** *Improvement over existing safety conditions - are there very specific actions that are being taken to improve safety. What specific safety improvements will be made? If there is information, (road safety audit, corridor study, etc.) to support it, please provide it in pdf format with your application. Only specific actions and improvements will be used for scoring - anecdotal information will not be used.*

C) Project Connectivity: Project will need to demonstrate how it enables movement from origins to destinations, how it fits in with the larger transportation network and identify any other modes it will serve.

- *Does the project fill a vital gap in an existing transportation network or phased plan? Does it provide a standalone new facility that did not exist previously? Is it part of a larger phased plan? List the different modes and destinations it link together? Please describe in detail all connections, and if part of a phased plan what will the proposed improvement accomplish? Is it the first phase, middle phase or final phase of the plan.*

D) RPC/MPO Rankings: This section will be completed by the local Regional Planning Commission for your project.

- *The Department will send applications to the local Regional Planning Commissions to score and develop a regional ranking. This information will then be incorporated into the final score of projects.*

NO ACTION NEEDED FROM APPLICANT FOR SECTION D

Only one application will be accepted per municipality

- *The Department received 43 letters of interest requesting more than \$29.6 million in federal funds.*

5) Application Submission Information: The application is an adobe .pdf form and it must be saved and copied to our Department FTP site. Any supporting documents like the Map, Letter of support and other supporting documentation need to be submitted with the application in pdf format and saved to the FTP site. Directions on accessing the Department FTP site are below. A tutorial on accessing the FTP site and copying files will be on the TAP website.

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 11:59PM FRIDAY MARCH 19, 2021!

Failure to meet this deadline will result in your project being removed from the scoring process.

Submission Guidelines

Format: Application form ***must*** be saved electronically as a pdf and then copied to the Department FTP site. All supporting maps, letters and other documents must be saved as a pdf and transmitted saved to the Department FTP site with the application form.

Naming Convention: The FTP site has one folder for all submissions, **TAP Applications Round 4**. To keep track of the applications and attachments it is ***essential*** you follow the following naming convention. Name of town/city followed by file.

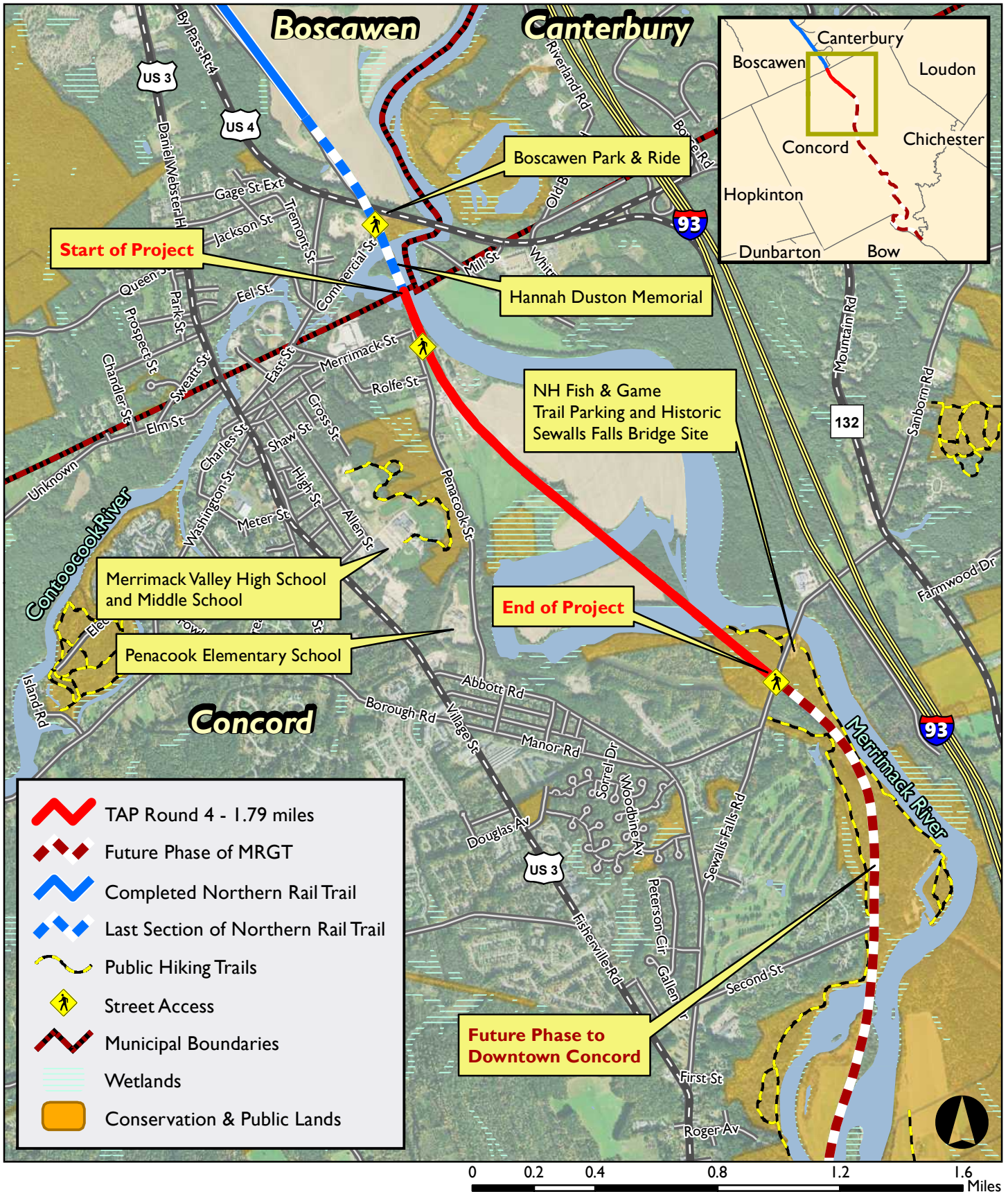
Example: **ConcordApplication.pdf ConcordMAP.pdf ConcordLetterOfSupport.pdf**

Failure to follow this naming convention will cause confusion and could result in applications and/or attachments being lost.

A TUTORIAL DOCUMENT WILL BE PUT ON THE TAP WEBSITE. THIS DOCUMENT WILL SHOW HOW TO ACCESS THE FTP SITE, HOW TO COPY FILES TO THE SITE AND TO EXPLAIN THE REQUIRED NAMING CONVENTION

Submission: All files must be received on or before 11:59 PM Friday March 19, 2021.

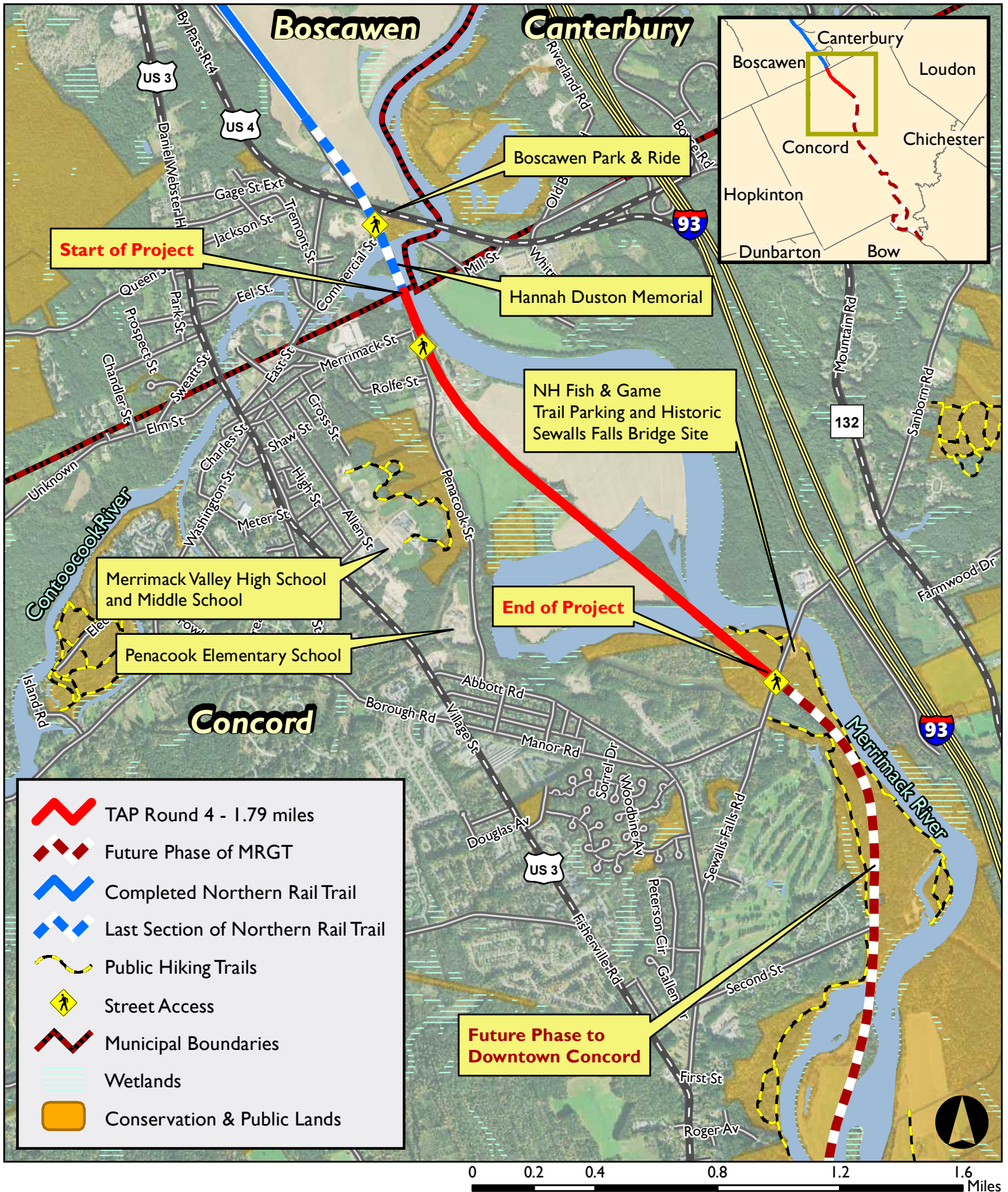
Direct any questions to: Tom Jameson, email: thomas.e.jameson@dot.nh.gov , phone: 271-3462



Merrimack River Greenway Trail

TAP Round 4: Boscawen Town Line to Sewalls Falls Road

Appendix A: Project Map



Merrimack River Greenway Trail

TAP Round 4: Boscawen Town Line to Sewalls Falls Road

Appendix B: Letters of Support

Right-of-Way

1. Pan Am Systems

Municipal

2. Concord City Council
3. Town of Boscawen Select Board
4. City of Concord Conservation Commission
5. City of Concord Planning Board
6. City of Concord Heritage Commission
7. Penacook Historical Society

Community Groups

8. Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail
9. Friends of the Northern Rail Trail
10. Concord Chamber of Commerce
11. Central New Hampshire Bicycling Coalition
12. Penacook Village Association
13. Five Rivers Conservation Trust
14. Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
15. Macaroni Kid of Concord



PAN AM SYSTEMS
1700 IRON HORSE PARK
NO. BILLERICA, MA 01862-1681
(978) 663-6949

March 15, 2021

Mr. Thomas Jameson, P.E.
Tap Program Manager
NHDOT Bureau of Planning & Community Assistance
John O. Morton Building
7 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 483
Concord, NH 03302-0483

RE: Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Application – Merrimack River Greenway Trail, Concord

Dear Mr. Jameson:

The City of Concord has informed Pan Am that they are requesting funding through the federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) application to assist in the design, permitting and construction of 1.9+/- miles of rail trail from the Boscawen town line to Sewalls Falls Road.

This is a portion of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail that extends through Concord, along the Merrimack River, connecting Pembroke to Boscawen on land currently owned by Boston and Maine Corporation. This segment of the Northern Railroad is currently abandoned and the City, upon acquisition of this corridor from Boston and Maine Corporation, is proposing to construct a 10-foot wide, multi model, non-motorized trail on the existing rail bed corridor.

The City formally approached Pam Am in September 2019 with an offer to purchase the rail corridor for this purpose. The City and Pan Am are actively in the process of finalizing our Purchase and Sales Agreements for the corridor. We believe the P&S Agreements will be approved by the Concord City Council early this summer. If this were to occur, we would complete the sale with the City by December 31, 2021.

We understand the funding for this application will be awarded in January 2022 and the City's desire to immediately begin design and permitting so construction can commence in spring of 2023.

Pan Am is in conceptual support of this application for funding assistance to construct a non-motorized, multi-use path along the abandoned rail corridor as described above.

Please feel free to contact me for any additional information at (978) 663 -6937.

Sincerely,


Michael A. Twidle, Vice President
Real Estate & Development



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™
City Manager's Office

Thomas J. Aspell, Jr.
City Manager

March 15, 2021

Mr. Thomas Jameson, P.E.
Tap Program Manager
NHDOT Bureau of Planning & Community Assistance
John O. Morton Building
7 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 483
Concord, NH 03302-0483

RE: TAP Application Letter of Support - City of Concord Rail Trail Project

Dear Mr. Jameson:

This letter is provided upon authorization of the Concord City Council at their March 8, 2021 meeting. The City of Concord—through the leadership of its Council—is committed to actively engage and lead the Concord Rail Trail project. Our City Engineer has been appointed to manage this initiative and the project team that includes City staff and community members is prepared to work with NHDOT on implementation. Funds for implementation are being programmed into the City's Capital Improvement Program.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Aspell, Jr.,
City Manager

CC: David Cedarholm, City Engineer
Carlos P. Baía, Deputy City Manager for Development



Town of Boscawen

116 North Main Street, Boscawen, NH 03303 | Telephone: 603.753.9188 | Fax: 603.753.9184

Select Board

March 11, 2021

Members

Edward J. Cherian, Jr.
Chair

Lorrie J. Carey
Member

Paul R. Dickey
Member

Alan H. Hardy
Town Administrator

Mr. Thomas Jameson, P.E. TAP Program Manager
NHDOT Bureau of Planning & Community Assistance
John O. Morton Building
7 Hazen Drive, PO Box 483
Concord, NH 03302-0483

RE: Transportation Alternatives Program (LOI)

Dear Mr. Jameson:

Please accept this correspondence on behalf of the Town of Boscawen, signaling our support for a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant to build a rail trail on the abandoned PanAm right of way beginning at the Concord city line and proceeding south through Concord and beyond.

The Friends of the Northern Rail Trail anticipates completing the 58-mile long Northern Rail Trail from its current southern end near River Road in Boscawen to the Concord City Line this year.

The completed NRT will enable a connection to Concord's proposed paved multi-use transportation and recreational trail thereby adding to New Hampshire's trails system and increasing the opportunities for citizens to have a healthy lifestyle and create tourism for the area.

The Town of Boscawen enthusiastically supports the efforts of the City of Concord to create a new rail trail using TAP funds.

Town of Boscawen Select Board

Edward J. Cherian, Jr. – Chair

Lorrie J. Carey – Member

Paul R. Dickey – Member

CC: Jack Shields – Northern Rail Trail



CITY OF CONCORD

*New Hampshire's Main Street™
Conservation Commission*

March 12, 2021

Mr. Thomas Jameson, P.E
TAP Program Manager
NHDOT Bureau of Planning & Community Assistance
John O. Morton Building
7 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 483
Concord NH 03302-0483

RE: Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Application – Merrimack
River Greenway Trail, Concord

Dear Mr. Jameson:

On behalf of the City of Concord's Conservation Commission, I would like to convey the Commission's enthusiastic support for the City of Concord's application for funds under the federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) to design, permit and build a section of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail (MRGT) on the abandoned PanAm Railways corridor between downtown Concord and the Boscawen town line. If constructed, this section of trail will provide a dedicated and safe alternative for non-motorized travel that will be accessible to roadways from both ends. There is also an opportunity to connect existing trails located on conservation lands managed by the Conservation Commission to this new trail, thereby increasing opportunities for access to and use of this trail as an alternative transportation corridor. Once this and additional sections are completed, the trail will connect downtown Concord to West Lebanon, allowing for bicycle, pedestrian and other non-automobile access to a total of 64 miles of trail. The segment that is the subject of the City's application is a critical piece to this regional trail, and would be a tremendous transportation resource for Concord and other communities.

Please contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Kristine S. Tardiff, Chair



CITY OF CONCORD
New Hampshire's Main Street™
Planning Board

March 18, 2021

Mr. Thomas Jameson, P.E.
Tap Program Manager
NHDOT Bureau of Planning & Community Assistance
John O. Morton Building
7 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 483
Concord, NH 03302-0483

RE: Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Application – Merrimack River
Greenway Trail, Concord

Dear Mr. Jameson:

On behalf of the City of Concord's Planning Board, I write to you to express the Board's utmost support for the Merrimack River Greenway Trail and the City of Concord's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) application to construct 1.79 miles of rail-trail from the Boscawen town line to Sewalls Falls Road.

The Merrimack River Greenway Trail has been identified as an important piece of the City's non-motorized transportation network. First supported in 1990 in the report by the Concord Conservation Trust titled "Merrimack River and Greenway Trail System," the trail has been touted again and again in official City planning documents, including the Concord Bicycle Master Plan (2010), the City of Concord Pedestrian Master Plan (2017), and was first programmed in the City's Capital Improvements Plan in 2016. The 2030 Concord Master Plan (2008), in its Economic Development Policies & Recommendations section, recognized the importance of expanding opportunities for alternative transportation modes to ensure equitable access to jobs, goods, services, and amenities.

While this trail is a vitally important transportation and recreational resource to the City, it also plays a crucial role in regional connectivity. The segment of trail detailed in this TAP application will connect Penacook to Boscawen and beyond via the Northern Rail Trail. With additional funding programmed in the CIP and continued support from the community, this connection will be extended to downtown Concord and eventually link to the Granite State Rail Trail.

Please contact me for any additional information.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Woodfin, *Chair*



CITY OF CONCORD
New Hampshire's Main Street™
Heritage Commission

March 11, 2021

Mr. Thomas Jameson, P.E.
Tap Program Manager
NHDOT Bureau of Planning & Community Assistance
John O. Morton Building
7 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 483
Concord, NH 03302-0483

RE: Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Application – Merrimack River
Greenway Trail, Concord

Dear Mr. Jameson:

On behalf of the City of Concord's Heritage Commission, please accept this letter as a sign of the Commission's full support for the Merrimack River Greenway Trail and City of Concord's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) application to construct 1.9 miles of rail trail from the Boscawen town line to Sewalls Falls Road.

This stretch of paved, accessible trail offers users scenic views of natural and historical resources, starting from the Hannah Duston Historic site and passing the former Penacook Station, Morrill Dairy Farm, a mile marker and two water crossings. It also provides independent utility by linking Concord to Boscawen, and neighborhoods to commercial and recreational areas. Specifically, the Sewalls Falls Recreational area which hosts a well-developed trail system allowing users to experience the Sewalls Falls Dam Site, a significant historical resource that was formally recognized for its importance to fish and wildlife habit when purchased by NH Fish & Game in 1987.

Most importantly, this project is a significant step closer to linking downtown Concord to the Northern Rail Trail which will safely and conveniently connect users with the abundant historic and natural resources located throughout the 60+ miles to Lebanon.

I would also like to note that in 2014 Federal Highway Administration commissioned the update of the Northern Railroad Historic Area Form that will expedite the Section 106 review process and overall compliance with NEPA.

Please contact me for any additional information.

Sincerely,

J. Richard Jaques Sr., Chair

The Penacook Historical Society

16 Penacook Street
Penacook, NH 03303

March 16, 2021

Mr. Thomas Jameson, P.E
TAP Program Manager
NHDOT Bureau of Planning & Community Assistance
John O. Morton Building
7 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 483
Concord NH 03302-0483

Dear Mr. Jameson,

The Penacook Historical Society supports the City of Concord's application to the Transportation Alternatives Program for a \$1,000,000 grant to fund a section of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail from the Boscawen town line to Sewall's Falls Road along the abandoned rail corridor formerly used by Pan Am Railways.

Our property is located at 11 Penacook Street at the confluence of the Contoocook and Merrimack Rivers, just south of the trestle bridge to the Hannah Duston historic site. The proposed rail trail runs along the eastern boundary of the Society's property, which is comprised of a Heritage District that includes buildings listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places. The Society's mission is to foster appreciation for the history of the village and vicinity of Penacook. Our vision is to have a strong presence in the community and be a physical and virtual source of information on Penacook history, including interpreting the history of the Penacook area for visitors.

The Penacook Historical Society recognizes that rail trails often highlight historical features and incorporate educational signage. This trail will also connect our visitors to various other historic sites and organizations, such as the Boscawen Historical Society, Andover Historical Society, and Potter Place. The TAP grant is crucial to our community being able to jump start this section of the trail, and eventually connect it to other trails that will span the state of New Hampshire.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Althea Barton for the Penacook Historical Society



Friends of the
Merrimack River Greenway Trail

Hike It! Bike It! Like It!

March 16, 2021

Mr. Thomas Jameson, P.E
TAP Program Manager
NHDOT Bureau of Planning & Community Assistance
John O. Morton Building
7 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 483
Concord NH 03302-0483

Dear Mr. Jameson:

I send this letter in strong and enthusiastic support of the City of Concord's application for a \$1,000,000 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant to design and build a 1.8 mile long trail in Concord!

Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail (FMRGT) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, formed on October 19, 2011, for the sole purpose of building a 12 mile long paved multi-use trail through Concord, from Boscawen to Pembroke. Since 2011, more than 300 individuals, businesses and foundations have donated over \$300,000 toward the Trail's development, indicating strong public support.

When Pan Am Railways formally abandoned its 5.85-mile long right of way between Boscawen and downtown Concord in 2017, FMRGT initiated a petition to encourage conversion of the right of way to a trail for public use. In four months, more than 1,450 people signed the petition. The following year, FMRGT donated \$3,250 toward the funding of a professional appraisal of the abandoned right of way, which led to the beginning of property acquisition negotiations between Pan Am and the City of Concord. We fully expect those talks will result in a purchase of the right of way this year.

In 2020, FMRGT contributed more than \$62,000 of donated money to match Federal funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which led to the construction of first phase of the Trail in Terrill Park. FMRGT has been, and continues to be, a strong advocate for converting the Pan Am right of way into a paved trail. To that end, we strongly support the City of Concord's application.

Yours,

(Electronic Signature)
Kelly Ovitt Puc
Chair, Board of Trustees

cc: Mr. David Cedarholm, City Engineer
Ms. Janice Bonenfant, City Clerk

{C2229334.1 }

MRGT.org | info@MRGT.org | P.O. Box 954 | Concord, NH 03302

*Board of Trustees: Greg Bakos, Roland Berube, Chris Kane, Dick Lemieux, Kelly Ovitt Puc,
Patrice Rasche, Rick Silverberg, Craig Tufts, Christine Vigneault*



**Friends of the Northern Rail Trail
in Merrimack County**

February 21, 2021

Mr. Thomas Jameson, P.E.
TAP Program Manager
NHDOT Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance
John O. Morton Building, 7 Hazen Drive
P.O. Box 483
Concord, NH 03302-0483

Dear Mr. Jameson,

The Friends of the Northern Rail Trail in Merrimack County (FNRT-MC) wholeheartedly supports the request by the City of Concord for funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) to construct a multi-use recreational trail along the Merrimack River in Concord.

As a group, FNRT-MC is responsible for promoting, maintaining, and improving the 32 miles of the Northern Rail Trail (NRT) that currently extends from Danbury to a cornfield in Boscaawen. We are in the process of working with the State of New Hampshire to purchase the remaining 6/10th of a mile of Pan Am right-of-way, which will enable us to extend the NRT to the Concord city line. Once the Boscaawen and Concord trails are complete, the state will have a 64-mile trail running from Lebanon to the state capital. The stretch in Concord is critical to expanding the opportunities for residents of the largest city in the region to connect to the longest rail trail in New Hampshire. In addition, a trail of this length has proven in other regions of the US to be very effective in bringing in out of state bike tourists.

FNRT-MC hopes that the DOT will approve this grant request, and looks forward to working with the City of Concord to finish the southern end of the Northern Rail Trail.

Sincerely,

Myra Mayman
Co-President, Friends of the Northern Rail Trail in Merrimack County



March 8, 2021

Mr. Thomas Jameson, P.E.
TAP Program Manager
NHDOT Bureau of Planning & Community Assistance
John O. Morton Building
7 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 483
Concord, NH 03302-0483

Dear Mr. Jameson,

The Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the City of Concord's application to the Transportation Alternatives Program for \$1,000,000 to fund a section of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail from the Boscawen town line to Sewall's Falls Road along the abandoned rail corridor formerly used by Pan Am Railways. This section of trail will provide a dedicated and safe alternative for non-motorized travel that will be accessible to roadways from both ends. Once this and additional sections are completed, the trail will connect downtown Concord to West Lebanon, allowing for bicycle, pedestrian and other non-automobile access to a total of 64 miles of trail.

This specific project would include permitting and design as well as adaptation of the rail bed into a paved 10' wide pathway. It will also connect the village to the Hannah Duston Historic site, which at present is only reachable from Boscawen. It is especially important that this TAP grant be awarded to Concord, as it would jump start the rail trail effort, and serve as a tangible example of the benefits the entire trail will bring to the community.

Along with all the traditional conservation benefits of preserving green space and providing safe transportation alternatives, rail trails and greenway trails offer communities countless other benefits, including economic improvement and an increased sense of community pride and identity. Existing businesses benefit from this desirable amenity, new businesses are drawn to the area, and trailside businesses like cafes and shops tend to pop up. The Merrimack River Greenway Trail has been widely anticipated for many years, and will provide a permanent recreational and transportation asset to the community, will showcase the City and its surrounding environmental beauty, and will greatly benefit the health and vitality of the greater Concord community.

Sincerely,

Timothy G. Sink, CCE
President



Central New Hampshire Bicycling Coalition
www.cnhbc.org
www.facebook.com/cnhbc
info@cnhbc.org

March 9, 2021

Mr. Thomas Jameson, P.E
TAP Program Manager
NHDOT Bureau of Planning & Community Assistance
John O. Morton Building
7 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 483
Concord NH 03302-0483

Support for Concord Transportation Alternatives Program Application

Dear Mr. Jameson,

The Central NH Bicycling Coalition (CNHBC) would like to express its enthusiastic support for the City of Concord's Transportation Alternatives Program application to construct rail trail from the Boscawen municipal line to Sewall's Falls Road. This trail will create a safe off-street bicycle and pedestrian route that parallels the busy US route 3 corridor, and connect many residents, businesses, and recreation areas. It is also a very important link in the Granite State Rail Trail, bringing the existing 50+ mile Northern Rail Trail into Penacook Village, and bring it closer to Downtown Concord.

CNHBC has contributed funds and volunteer hours towards this trail building effort and pledges to continue to support the effort in the future.

Thank you for your consideration,


Felice Janelle
CNHBC Board Chair

Penacook Village Association

www.penacook.org



P.O. Box 6174, Penacook, NH 03303

March 10, 2021

Mr. Thomas Jameson, P.E
TAP Program Manager
NHDOT Bureau of Planning & Community Assistance
John O. Morton Building
7 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 483
Concord NH 03302-0483

Dear Mr. Jameson,

The Penacook Village Association strongly supports the City of Concord's application to the Transportation Alternatives Program for \$1,000,000 to fund a section of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail from the Boscawen town line to Sewall's Falls Road along the abandoned rail corridor formerly used by Pan Am Railways. This section of trail will provide a dedicated and safe alternative for non-motorized travel that will be accessible to roadways from both ends. Once this and additional sections are completed, the trail will connect downtown Concord to West Lebanon, allowing for bicycle, pedestrian and other non-automobile access to a total of 64 miles of trail.

The Penacook Village Association recognizes that trails add to the health and overall quality of life of residents, and bring economic benefits to our community. This specific project will provide a permanent, multi-use recreational and transportation asset. It will connect the Village to the Hannah Duston Historic site, which at present is only reachable from Boscawen. It will include permitting and design as well as adaptation of the rail bed into a paved 10' wide pathway. It is especially important that this TAP grant be awarded to Concord, as it would jump start the rail trail effort, and serve as a tangible example of the benefits the entire trail will bring to the community.

Sincerely,

Brent Todd
Board President

Our Mission - To involve citizens in enhancing the quality of life, protecting the historic character, and fostering economic vitality in Penacook Village.



FIVE RIVERS CONSERVATION TRUST

Local Land Trust for the Greater Capital Region of New Hampshire

10 Ferry St #311-A, Concord, NH 03301 603-225-7225 www.5rct.org



Board of Trustees

Chair:

Maura Adams
Deerfield

Vice-Chair:

Mike Hvizda
Concord

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Cathy Menard
Concord

Secretary:

J. Robert Cotton
Concord

Tracey Boisvert
Concord

Jeanne Herrick
Concord

Beth Moore
Hopkinton

Jamie Robertson
Contoocook

Sarah Thorne
Gilmanton Iron Works

Katy Ward
Henniker

Staff

Liz Short
Executive Director

Alison Scheiderer
Land Conservation
Specialist

Andrea Galliher
Membership/Office Assist

Service Area

Belmont, Boscawen,
Bow, Canterbury,
Chichester, Concord,
Dunbarton, Gilmanton,
Hillsborough, Henniker,
Hopkinton, Loudon,
Northfield, Pembroke,
Salisbury, Warner, and
Webster

The Rivers

Blackwater
Contoocook
Merrimack
Soucook
Warner

March 11, 2021

Mr. Thomas Jameson, P.E.
TAP Program Manager
NHDOT Bureau of Planning & Community Assistance
John O. Morton Building
7 Hazen Drive, PO Box 483
Concord NH 03302-0483

Dear Mr. Jameson,

This letter is to convey Five Rivers Conservation Trust's strong support for a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant application by the City of Concord to design, permit, and build a section of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail on the abandoned PanAm Railways corridor between downtown Concord and the Boscawen town line.

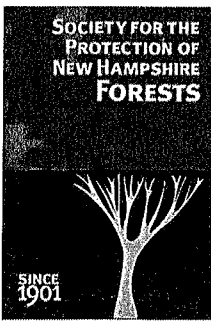
Five Rivers Conservation Trust (5RCT), headquartered in Concord, New Hampshire, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting open space across the heartland of central New Hampshire. This beautiful rolling landscape is drained by five waterways that converge in the Concord area – the Merrimack, Contoocook, Blackwater, Warner, and Soucook Rivers. It is a region of picturesque country villages and a delightful mix of fields and forests, farms and wetlands, and other special places. Through conservation easements and other means, Five Rivers is doing its part as an active land trust to help keep those places intact for future generations.

5RCT has been committed to the creation of a greenway trail along the Merrimack River since the early days of the organization, when we partnered with the City of Concord in the effort to establish the Heritage Trail through the communities that lie along the Merrimack River in New Hampshire. We fully support the current efforts to create a section of trail that will offer a safe transportation alternative for non-motorized travel along the Merrimack River. We applaud the efforts to offer alternative transportation options for commuters in and out of downtown Concord and to expand the region's trail network and recreational opportunities.

Five Rivers is in full support of this project, and of the roles that the City of Concord and Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail have played in fulfilling the dream of a greenway trail. We strongly encourage NHDOT to support this application for a project in the State's capital by funding the proposed TAP grant.

Best regards,

Liz Short
Executive Director



March 1, 2021

54 Portsmouth Street
Concord, NH 03301
Tel. 603.224.9945
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info@forestsociety.org
www.forestsociety.org

Mr. Thomas Jameson, P.E.
TAP Program Manager
NHDOT Bureau of Planning & Community Assistance
John o. Morton Building
7 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 483
Concord NH 03302-0483

Dear Mr. Jameson:

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests is pleased to support the City of Concord has proposal to the federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). If approved, the grant will assist the City design, permit and build a section of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail on the abandoned PanAm Railways corridor between downtown Concord and the Boscawen town line. We would encourage the Department of Transportation to also support this proposal.

Once completed, this section of trail will provide a dedicated and safe alternative for non-motorized travel that will be accessible to roadways from both ends. It also builds on the overall vision for a trail to connect downtown Concord to West Lebanon, allowing for bicycle, pedestrian and other non-automobile access to a total of 64 miles of trail.

Since our founding in 1901, the Forest Society has encouraged the state and its municipalities to conserve forested landscapes for public enjoyment and recreation. We have played a role in the creation of many state and municipal parks. In celebrating our centennial, we adopted a strategic vision called "New Hampshire Everlasting: An Initiative to Conserve our Quality of Life." The foundation of this initiative is to support every community in conserving lands for a network of trails, parks, farms and forests where people can connect with the natural world. Providing non-motorized transportation alternatives, such as this trail will provide, is closely aligned with the purposes of this initiative.

Thank you again for giving the City's grant proposal the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Matt Leahy, Public Policy Manager
Society for the Protection of NH Forests

March 8, 2021

Mr. Thomas Jameson, P.E.
TAP Program Manager
NHDOT Bureau of Planning & Community Assistance
John O. Morton Building
7 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 483
Concord, NH 03302-0483

Dear Mr. Jameson,

I am writing in support of the Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail, and in support of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant for which the City of Concord will be applying. These funds will be used to design, permit and build the Merrimack River Greenway Trail through the heart of the City of Concord, and along the rail corridor which travels between downtown Concord and the Boscawen town line. The Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail are assisting in the preparation of this grant, and will be providing matching funds for the completion of the project.

This section of trail will provide a dedicated and safe alternative for non-motorized travel that will be accessible to roadways from both ends, and will showcase the City and its surrounding environmental beauty. New Hampshire's Capitol City needs this trail desperately, and I can say with confidence that this trail will become a huge attraction to the City and will draw young families from all over the region. Once this and additional sections are completed, the trail will connect downtown Concord to West Lebanon, also known as the Granite State Rail Trail, allowing for bicycle, pedestrian and other non-automobile access to a total of 64 miles of trail.

Right now, moms and dads travel away from Concord to find other towns' rail trails and alternative safe places to bike, walk and play. I'm eager to see Concord meet its full potential as a destination city. This trail has been widely anticipated for many, many years, and will greatly benefit the health of our families and the entire community.

Sincerely,



Sarah Cates
Macaroni Kid of Concord, Publisher

Appendix C: Photo

Portion of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail completed in 2020 at Terrill Park

