

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS
MASSACHUSETTS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

PROJECT NEED FORM

Part I: Summary Information

A. Proponent Information

Municipality/Agency submitting form: Town of Groton Board of Selectmen

Submitted by: Mark W. Haddad Completed by: Mark W. Haddad

Title: Town Manager Title: Town Manager

Representing: Town of Groton Representing: Board of Selectmen

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Phone: (978) 448-1111 Phone: (978) 448-1111

B. Geographic Location of Transportation Need and/or Opportunity (check all that apply)

MassHighway District: Statewide District 3
 District 1 District 4
 District 2 District 5

MPO: Statewide Merrimack Valley MPO
 Berkshire MPO Montachusett MPO
 Boston Region MPO Nantucket
 Cape Cod MPO N. Middlesex MPO
 Central Mass MPO Old Colony MPO
 Franklin TPPO Pioneer Valley MPO
 Martha's Vineyard Southeastern Mass MPO

Municipality(ies): Groton and Townsend

C. Maximum Geographic Extent or Coverage of the Project or Program (Check one)

 Statewide
 MassHighway Districtwide
 Entire Metropolitan Planning Organization
 Regional Transit Authority district
 Municipality(ies) only

D. Facility Location

If the need and/or opportunity is related to a particular facility, please complete as much of the following information that applies. Please include a locus map if available.

Route Number(s): N/A

Street Name(s): _____

From Cross Street: _____

To Cross Street: _____

Mile Marker: From: _____ To: _____

Intersection of: _____ and _____

Address: _____

Other Location Info: _____

If work is proposed on a bridge or bridges as part of the project, please complete the following:

Bridge ID Number(s): _____

Facility Carried on Bridge: _____

Facility Bridge is Over: _____

Part II: Project or Program Description

A. Summary of Need and/or Opportunity

Please briefly describe the issues, deficiencies, need, or opportunities that may warrant a transportation project or program:

This is the Squannacook River Rail Trail project. This proposal is to develop a rail trail (shared-use path) along the former "Greenville" branch of the Boston & Maine Railroad in the towns of Townsend and Groton. The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) currently owns the corridor. The 3.7-mile corridor begins on Depot Street in Townsend Center and extends to the Bertozzi Conservation Area off Townsend Road in Groton. Approximately 2.8 miles of the trail is located in Townsend and 0.9 miles in Groton. As envisioned, the SRRT will eventually connect to the 11-mile Nashua River Rail Trail and Ayer MBTA Commuter Rail Station via a combination of shared-use paths along the former railroad bed and on-road bikeway facilities along local streets. This regional trail project will connect areas of cultural, economic, social and natural significance along its length and afford commuters with an alternative transportation choice to motorized travel. A conceptual rail trail design was developed that includes proposed trail cross sections, at-grade intersection treatments, bridge rehabilitation activities, parking areas, mitigation measures, and trail enhancement opportunities. The preliminary construction cost estimate for the 3.7-mile rail

trail is approximately \$4.2 million (2013 prices).

B. Summary of Possible Alternatives to Address the Need and/or Opportunity

Please briefly describe possible transportation project(s) or program(s) that may address the need and/or opportunity summarized in the previous section. Please note if solutions have not yet been identified, or if there is more than one alternative.

This project will provide transportation facility for local travel to destinations within Townsend and Groton. The trail corridor will connect residential neighborhoods with the public and commercial areas along Route 119 and provide improved bicycle and pedestrian access to the following destinations:

- Public places including Townsend Common, Town Hall, Senior Center, Library and Post Office.
- North Middlesex Regional High School.
- Historic places within Townsend Center and Townsend Harbor.
- Places of worship within Townsend center.
- Scenic natural places including the Squannacook River Wildlife Management Area, Bertozzi Wildlife Management Area, Townsend State Forest, Harbor Pond and the Old Meetinghouse Universal Access Fishing Site.

The trail will also serve a recreational need by providing a universally accessible trail for users of all ages and abilities.

C. Estimated Costs

If a transportation project(s) and/or program(s) has been identified, please include any available cost estimates or estimated cost ranges in current-year dollars:

<i>Estimated Construction Costs:</i>		<i>Estimated Other Costs:</i>	
Construction Items:	\$2,875,820	Inflation:	\$750,000
Contingencies (@10%):	\$287,582	Design:	\$450,000
Other Constr. Costs (@10%):	\$287,582	Env. Mitigation:	
Total Est. Construction Cost:	\$3,450,984	Total Other Costs:	\$1,200,000

D. Funding

Please identify any current or expected dedicated funding related to this need or opportunity, including federal earmarks in legislation, budget acts, or programs; state earmarks in bond bills, budget acts, or programs; funding provided by the municipality or other local agency; and/or funding provided by private entities:

Federal:	<u>Federal Stimulus Earmark</u>	Year(s) <u>2009</u>	Amount: <u>\$4,000,000</u>
Federal:	_____	Year(s) _____	Amount: _____
State:	_____	Year(s) _____	Amount: _____
State:	_____	Year(s) _____	Amount: _____
Municipal:	_____	Year(s) _____	Amount: _____

Private: _____ Year(s) _____ Amount: _____
Other: _____ Year(s) _____ Amount: _____

Part III: Detailed Project or Program Need Information

Please complete all applicable parts of Part II to the extent possible.

A. Condition of Existing Facilities

1. Please describe the surface condition of the roadway, path, or other horizontal facility, such as type of cracking (alligator, reflective, etc.), extent of cracking (percentage of surface, etc.), ride-ability, structural adequacy, or other surface defects such as raveling, shoving, bleeding, etc. This can be based on visual inspection or automatic detection methods.

The current surface is an old railroad track., consisting of track, tie plats, spikes, pins, rail anchors and other rail hardware, including timbers.

2. Please describe the condition of any roadside/facility appurtenances, such as signs, signals, lighting, median barriers, guardrail, pavement markings, drainage facilities, curbs/sidewalks, fences, etc.

Not applicable.

3. If the project/program includes a bridge or bridges, please describe its/their condition, such as bridge ratings, dates of inspection, weight restrictions, closings, structural adequacy, functional obsolescence, condition of other bridge elements, etc.

There are two bridges along the projected corridor. Both are located in the Town of Townsend. The first bridge connects Harbor pond to the former Grist Mill Site on South Street. The second bridge is also located on South Street. Both bridges have short spans and good vertical and horizontal geometry.

4. Please describe the condition of other facilities, structures, or equipment (buildings, noise barriers, bus shelters, bike racks, etc.)

Not applicable.

5. Please describe the most recent repairs, preventive maintenance, rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement of the facility, including the extent and date.
No repairs have been in done in the recent past.

B. Mobility and/or Usage Issues/Opportunities

1. Please describe any existing or prospective highway congestion issues or opportunities for improvement related to level-of-service, duration of congestion, delay, travel time, etc., and any opportunities related to the implementation of Intelligent Transportation System components, such as cameras, traffic detectors, etc.

By constructing this rail trail along Route 119, pedestrian traffic safety will be improved by removing them from the very busy Route 119.

2. Please describe usage issues or opportunities for improvement to other facilities related to crowding, occupancy rates, usage, trucks, access, etc.

Please see answer above.

C. Safety and Security Issues/Opportunities

1. Please describe any highway safety concerns, such as number and severity of crashes, crash rates, fatalities, etc.

Again, by removing pedestrian traffic from Route 119, safety will be improved for both the motoring public, as well as pedestrians.

2. Please describe any safety issues for other users such as pedestrians, bicyclists, persons with disabilities, transit riders, trucks, school children, etc.

Please see answers above.

3. Please describe any issues or deficiencies related to security, such as vulnerability, evacuation procedures, hazardous materials, etc.

Not applicable.

D. Land Use and Economic Development Issues/Opportunities

Please describe any issues or opportunities that the project or program will address or impact such as land use and economic development, such as job creation, housing, freight access, parking availability, transit-oriented development, smart growth, etc.

This regional rail trail project will connect areas of cultural, economic, social and natural significance along its length and afford commuters with an alternative transportation choice to motorized travel.

E. Environmental Quality Issues/Opportunities

Please describe any environmental quality issues or opportunities that the project or program will address or impact such as air quality, climate change, water quality, water supply, wetlands, historic or cultural resources, hazardous materials, noise, wildlife habitat, endangered species, etc.

A study was conducted as part of the project assessment. A copy is on file with Mass Highway. Critical areas identified in this study included abutting historic resources, endangered species habitat and a cluster of known contamination issues in the Townsend Harbor area. These areas warrant the need for location specific solutions and the implementation of mitigation measures to avoid/minimize project impacts.

F. Community Issues/Opportunities

Please describe any community or neighborhood issues or opportunities that the project or program may address or impact such as emergency vehicle access, land takings, access to schools, cut-through traffic, environmental justice, etc.

These issues are fully identified in the Squannacook River Rail Trail Environmental and Engineering Assessment on file with Mass Highway.

**Thank you for completing this form. Please contact your
MassHighway District office to submit the form.**