

# Letters of Support and Commitments

# Southern New Hampshire Trail Alliance

## I-93 Salem to Concord Bikeway



September 14, 2009  
Commissioner George Campbell  
Department of Transportation  
State of New Hampshire  
PO Box 483 | 7 Hazen Drive  
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0483

### 2009 Transportation Enhancements Application

Dear Commissioner Campbell:



We, the undersigned representatives of the respective organizations from the Towns of Derry, Salem and Windham have formed an organization known as the Southern New Hampshire Rail Trail Alliance. The Salem to Derry section represents a clear vision and opportunity for cooperation toward facilitating the implementation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian corridor from Salem to Concord. Our immediate focus is the 13.3 mile Salem to Derry section; however, we look forward to further expansion of our alliance and the connections that the corridor will offer toward completing the Salem to Concord project. To implement a portion of this section we respectfully submit a TE application to augment the work of our communities.



Our organizations, Towns, and projects are at a critical milestone that warrants a greater involvement by the State of New Hampshire. The NHDOT sponsored 2003 Salem to Concord Bikeway, Rizzo Plan, outlines many of the parameters that we have implemented or planned. Further, the I-93 Final EIS (Chapter 11 item 5) outlines the NHDOT commitment to this project. The plan, direction and commitment are clearly articulated amongst all parties. As Rebuilding I-93 becomes a reality we see the need to employ the components of the project that offer alternatives to the motor vehicle.

Locally we understand our specific needs to complete sections, fill gaps, and create a cohesive outcome sustained over perpetuity as we serve as stewards. We believe that our efforts warrant a commensurate partnership with the State to keep the forward momentum of this project and ensure continued success.

With the formation of our organization we have determined our best approach to implementation is through the TE grant application process, we respectfully file the attached application as a cooperative step toward achieving local, regional, and statewide goals.

We ask that you think of the perfect convergence of Rail Trail outcomes ..... an Alliance of three communities with a common purpose, with a clear ability to implement and manage projects, implementing a plan established by the State DOT, to meet EIS criteria of a major interstate project I-93, ready to implement in conjunction with the I-93 project, integrated into transit planning and existing park and ride systems, connecting employees to employers, connecting a population to a natural environment, serving over 70,000 people locally, managed by organized efforts across municipal boundaries.....and the outcome is the SNHRTA project.

In an era when the public demands more from government we are offering our cooperation and resources dedicated to implementation and stewardship.

For the purpose of the TE grant application assurances the undersigned make assurances to the items referenced in the grant application applicable to their portion of the obligations.

Sincerely, the undersigned duly appointed representatives of the below named organizations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erich Whitney".

Derry Rail Trail Alliance  
Erich Whitney  
DRTA President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Topham".

Salem Bicycle Pedestrian Committee  
David Topham  
SBPC Vice Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark J. Samsel".

Windham Rail Trail Alliance  
Mark J. Samsel  
WRTA President

# Southern New Hampshire Rail Trail Alliance

## I-93 Salem to Concord Bikeway

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**Whereas:** The I-93 Salem to Concord Bikeway objectives are established by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation as cited in the document titled Salem to Concord Bikeway Feasibility Study, April 30, 2003 by Rizzo Associates.



**Whereas:** The Manchester to Lawrence rail line, paralleling the I-93 corridor, represents a unique foundation for the development of a trail system throughout the region toward fulfilling the mission of the above plan.

**Whereas:** As a result of volunteer efforts the Salem to Derry section of the I-93 Salem to Concord Bikeway represents a clear vision and opportunity for cooperation toward facilitating the implementation of a majority of the Bicycle and Pedestrian corridor from Salem to Concord.



**Whereas:** The planning, development, expansion, and maintenance of regional bicycle and pedestrian facilities requires organization, coordination, communication, and cooperation across municipal boundaries.

**Whereas:** The Towns of Derry, Salem and Windham have individually organized successful citizens groups dedicated with the commitment and resolve to the implementation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian system.

**Whereas:** The respective organizations, Derry Rail Trail Alliance, Salem Bicycle and Pedestrian Corridor Committee, and Windham Rail Trail Alliance, understand the common goals and the positive impact of a cooperative alliance.




**Now Therefore:** We, the undersigned representatives of the respective organizations from the Towns of Derry, Salem and Windham have formed an organization known as the Southern New Hampshire Rail Trail Alliance (SNHRTA) for the purposes and with the common objectives as set forth below:

- The SNHRTA shall endeavor to create cooperative approaches to implementation by jointly seeking funding and trail development opportunities,
- The SNHRTA shall within their authority, plan, coordinate, implement, and monitor strategies that foster an outcome of a coordinated trail system benefiting all who use the corridor and within the framework of the individual needs of each community hosting the corridor,
- The SNHRTA shall within their authority, coordinate the trail system stewardship in the areas of common maintenance practices, rules, signs, events planning, commuting programs, maps, and private public partnerships,
- The SNHRTA shall hereby be established by two members from each of the following: The Derry Rail Trail Alliance, the Salem Bicycle and Pedestrian Corridor Committee, the Windham Rail Trail Alliance, and one representative from either the State House or Senate representing at least one of the above communities.

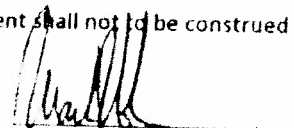
**Now be it Resolved:** The undersigned representatives of the participating organizations do hereby sign as authentication to participate in the establishment and successful continued partnership known as the Southern New Hampshire Rail Trail Alliance toward achieving the above stated objectives. This document represents a resolution for a cooperative working arrangement. This document shall not be construed as a contract or other form of binding document.



Derry Rail Trail Alliance  
ERICA LAMBERT  
WETA MEMBER



Salem Bicycle Pedestrian Committee  
DAVID TOPHAM  
SBPC MEMBER



Windham Rail Trail Alliance  
MIKE J. SAMSEL  
PRESIDENT WETA



**Town of Salem**  
**Community Development Department**  
33 Geremonty Drive, Salem, New Hampshire 03079  
tel: (603) 890-2007 fax: (603) 898-1223

**William J. Scott**  
Director

September 15, 2009

Mr. George N. Campbell  
New Hampshire Department of Transportation  
John O Morton Building  
PO Box 483, 7 Hazen Drive  
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0483

Dear Mr. Campbell:

The Southern New Hampshire Rail Trail Alliance or SNHRTA represents an opportunity for the Town of Salem to coordinate the connections on a highly developed commercial strip in an area of three communities with a population exceeding 70,000. We have the opportunity to connect employee and employers in the region. In addition we have the opportunity to take the great leap and facilitate connections to Massachusetts, creating options for rail connections. Our approach to this project is a facilitator providing other modes of transportation toward reducing congestion and offering options that can improve the quality of life for our residents and the region.

The Salem Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, with members on the SNHRTA, have a motto; "For everyone everyday". This motto frames the local understanding of the Salem to Concord Bikeway as a transportation alternative providing more than recreation, more than exercise, it is an option that everyone can use everyday.

As we began the process of forming the SNHRTA with Windham and Derry, the realization of common goals and above all a drive for implementation was realized. With a substantial planning effort already in hand through the NHDOT sponsored Salem to Concord Bikeway Feasibility study the next step of implementation became a clear path toward cooperation between the communities. The Town of Salem Community development Office takes pride in serving as the facilitating and management entity for this project.

The perfect storm of transportation improvements can be realized; I-93 moving forward, over ten miles of the Salem to Concord Bikeway complete prior to I-93, connections to local transit and park and rides, a local ITS system under construction in Salem, and major intersection capacity improvements in the planning process in Salem. This type of multimode local level simultaneous implementation with regional partnerships is a clear opportunity.

Now is the time to facilitate the continued success exhibited by these three communities and strengthen the partnerships between the State NHDOT and SNHRTA.

Sincerely,

William J. Scott



# Granite State Wheelmen, Inc.

September 14, 2009

Mr. William Scott  
Salem Community Development Director  
Salem Town Hall  
33 Geremonty Drive  
Salem, NH 03079

Re: TE grant application for the Salem, Windham and Derry rail trails on the M&L corridor

Dear Mr. Scott,

As president of the Granite State Wheelmen, I represent over 650 active recreational cyclists. We are the most active recreational cycling club in New England. Our organization fully supports the Southern NH Rail Trail Alliance (SNH-RTA) Transportation Enhancement grant application to complete a viable rail trail between the three towns. Our cyclists actively use and encourage the construction, and maintenance of such facilities especially when they can serve such a wide range of uses and so many people along the former Manchester to Lawrence rail corridor.

The immediate benefits of providing a bicyclist and pedestrian corridor adjacent to Route 28 are obvious. Safer travel, less congestion on the roads, better access to homes, workplaces, and playgrounds, commuters going to and from Park and Ride locations, plus the health aspects of exercise and less pollution are well documented. Other benefits include increased property values along the rail trail, more business for local merchants, and for the trail to become the first major link for such a facility from the Massachusetts border to Manchester, Concord, and possibly beyond. The positive economic impact from tourism along with local residents using the corridor every day makes this rail trail a win-win project for not only the towns but for the state as well.

The existing paved section of the Windham Rail Trail has proven to be extremely popular for recreation and some transportation. Once downtown Derry is connected to Salem with a paved bike-ped corridor, many more transportation opportunities will exist. Support by the State of NH to help "connect the dots" is essential to make this project a reality.

Sincerely,

William M. Kennedy  
President  
Granite State Wheelmen  
603-749-1042

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*A New Hampshire club for men and women enthused with bicycling*

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## TOWN OF SALEM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

33 GEREMONTY DRIVE, SALEM, NH 03079  
(603) 890-2120 · FAX: (603) 890-2220

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER  
*Jonathan B. Sistare*  
*Town Manager*

September 10, 2009

Mr. George N. Campbell, Jr., Commissioner  
New Hampshire Department of Transportation  
John O. Morton Building  
PO Box 483, 7 Hazen Drive  
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0483

Dear Mr. Campbell:


At a time when we are faced with fiscal challenges, the cooperation of multiple communities framed by the efforts of the Southern New Hampshire Rail Trail Alliance (SNHRTA) is a clear opportunity to move the Salem to Concord Bikeway project forward.

That is why I am encouraged to provide the project management capacity for the Transportation Enhancements application by the SNHRTA, through William Scott the Director of the Salem Community Development Office.

Salem is a destination for many seeking employment, goods and services. We are a natural project management entity as the destination seeking regional cooperation to reduce congestion.

In this regard this letter shall also confirm that the Town of Salem will take the necessary steps to address the required match via a warrant article at Town Meeting.

Sincerely,

  
Jonathan B. Sistare  
Town Manager

cc: William J. Scott, Community Development Director



*OLD VALUES - NEW HORIZONS*  
**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

PO Box 120, Windham, New Hampshire 03087  
(603) 432-3806 / Fax (603) 432-7362  
[www.WindhamNewHampshire.com](http://www.WindhamNewHampshire.com)

September 3, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

At the September 2, 2009 Windham Planning Board meeting, the Board reviewed the Letter of Intent for Transportation Enhancement Funding for 2009 on behalf of the Southern New Hampshire Rail Trail Alliance.

The Planning Board wholeheartedly supports the collaborative effort taken by the three communities in submitting this TE application and hopes that the New Hampshire Department of Transportation recognizes this innovative approach and awards the TE grant.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information. Thank you for your time and consideration on this application.

Sincerely,

Laura Scott  
Community Development Director

CC: Wayne Morris, Windham Rail Trail Alliance  
Mark Samsel, Windham Rail Trail Alliance



# *TOWN OF WINDHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE*

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN/TOWN ADMINISTRATOR  
POST OFFICE BOX 120, 4 NORTH LOWELL ROAD, WINDHAM NH 03087-0120

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September 14, 2009

TE Grant Review Selection Committee


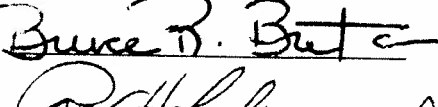
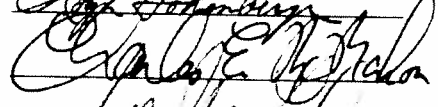
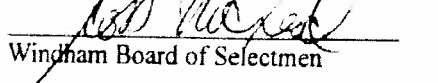
Dear Sir/Madam:

Please be advised that the Windham Board of Selectmen has received and reviewed the "Letter of Intent - Transportation Enhancement Grants - 2009", as authored by the Southern New Hampshire Rail Trail Alliance (SNHRTA). Please consider this letter the Board's affirmation of our full support of this endeavor.

Since the inception of the Windham Rail Trail, the Board has witnessed first-hand the many benefits the trail affords not only to Windham, but our surrounding communities, as well. Further, we are proud to be at the forefront of the vision shared by others to complete the trail.

In closing, please accept our thanks for your consideration of the SNHRTA's grant application, and we look forward to moving forward with this very worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

  
Bruce R. Butler  
  
  
  
Windham Board of Selectmen





## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PO Box 120

Windham, New Hampshire 03087

(603) 432-3806 / Fax (603) 432-7362

[www.WindhamNewHampshire.com](http://www.WindhamNewHampshire.com)

To whom it may concern:

The Windham Conservation Commission fully supports the Southern New Hampshire Rail Trail Alliance efforts to obtain a Transportation Enhancement grant. The paved section of trail in Windham has proven to be very popular and has made much of the town's nature areas accessible to the public. Extending the trail will open up additional open spaces for the public's enjoyment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Finn".

James Finn, Chairman  
Windham Conservation Commission



## **Bike-Walk Alliance of New Hampshire**

57 Regional Drive, Suite 6 ♦ Concord, NH 03301-8518

www.bwanh.org ♦ info@bwanh.org ♦ 603.898.9926

**"A Voice for New Hampshire's Bicyclists and Pedestrians"**

September 7, 2009

Mr. William Scott  
Salem Community Development Director  
Salem Town Hall  
33 Geremonty Drive  
Salem, NH 03079

Re: TE grant application for the Salem, Windham and Derry rail trails on the M&L corridor

Dear Mr. Scott,

As a Salem resident since 1962 and a statewide bicycling advocate since 1971, I wish to express my full support of the Southern NH Rail Trail Alliance (SNH-RTA) Transportation Enhancement grant application to complete a viable rail trail between the three towns. Our Bike-Walk Alliance of NH (BWA-NH) highly encourages the construction, use, and maintenance of such facilities especially when they can serve such a wide range of uses and so many people along the former Manchester to Lawrence rail corridor.

The immediate benefits of providing a bicyclist and pedestrian corridor adjacent to Route 28 are obvious. Safer travel, less congestion on the roads, better access to homes, workplaces, and playgrounds, commuters going to and from Park and Ride locations, plus the health aspects of exercise and less pollution are well documented. Other benefits include increased property values along the rail trail, more business for local merchants, and for the trail to become the first major link for such a facility from the Massachusetts border to Manchester, Concord, and possibly beyond. The positive economic impact from tourism along with local residents using the corridor every day makes this rail trail a win-win project for not only the towns but for the state as well.

The existing paved section of the Windham Rail Trail has proven to be extremely popular for recreation and some transportation. Once downtown Derry is connected to Salem with a paved bike-ped corridor, many more transportation opportunities will exist. Support by the State of NH to help "connect the dots" is essential to make this project a reality.

Respectfully,

David S. Topham  
BWA-NH Director  
603.898.9926



# Town of Salem, New Hampshire

Community Development Department  
Planning Division  
33 Geremonty Drive, Salem, New Hampshire 03079  
(603) 890-2080 - Fax (603) 898-1223

Ross A. Moldoff, AICP  
Planning Director

September 10, 2009

Mr. George N. Campbell, Jr., Commissioner  
New Hampshire Department of Transportation  
John O. Morton Building  
PO Box 483, 7 Hazen Drive  
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0483

Dear Mr. Campbell:

This letter is in support of the Transportation Enhancements combined application between Salem, Derry and Windham as represented by the SNHRTA for the implementation of key sections of the Salem to Concord Bikeway.

One of the foremost issues we address in every application before the Planning Board is traffic congestion. Solutions to move traffic through the community require ever increasingly innovative methods to reduce motor-vehicle trips.

The Salem to Concord Bikeway plan and the implementation steps by the SNHRTA is a clear regional effort to provide alternatives to the motor-vehicle. This is one of those exceptional occurrences where grassroots organizations can provide the resources to implement a project of local, regional, and statewide significance.

Sincerely,

  
James Keller  
Planning Board Chair

Charles F. Martin

143 Rowell Hill Road  
New London, NH 03257  
DrChas@TDS.net

September 6, 2009

Mr. Bill Scott  
Salem Community Development Director  
Town Hall  
33 Geremonty Drive  
Salem, NH 03079

Reference: Transportation Enhancement Proposal for the Manchester & Lawrence Rail Trail serving Salem, Windham, and Derry

Dear Mr. Scott:

I'd like to express strong support for your Transportation Enhancement proposal.

Connectivity of paved trail from Derry Center to the state line will offer outstanding support of:

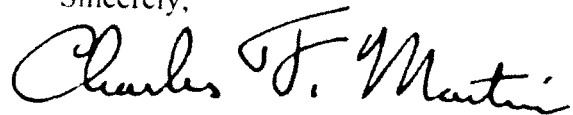
- Alternative transportation to shops and town facilities
- Safe, off-road non-motorized recreation including walking and bicycling
- Excellent scenery
- Historical significance of the Manchester & Lawrence Railroad.

Personally, I am likely to ride that section on scouting trips at least once per year. Existence of the trail will attract bicycle tourists to the area.

In addition, this stretch is part of the New Hampshire Rail Trail Alliance's proposed "Granite State Rail Trail" from Lebanon through Salem. Making good progress completing the southern section will help generate support for completing the trail through Londonderry, around the Manchester Airport, up to Concord, and along the Northern Rail Trail.

I heartily recommend acceptance of your proposal, arguably the most important rail trail project in the state.

Sincerely,



Author, *New Hampshire Rail Trails*  
Member of the Steering Committee,  
*New Hampshire Rail Trails Alliance*



# Town of Salem, New Hampshire

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Town Hall, 33 Geremonty Drive, Salem, New Hampshire 03079

tel: (603) 890-2140 fax: (603) 898-1223

Chris Dillon, Recreation Director  
Jeanine Bannon, Secretary

September 14, 2009

Mr. William Scott  
Salem Community Development Director  
Salem Town Hall  
33 Geremonty Drive  
Salem, NH 03079

Re: TE grant application for the Salem, Windham and Derry rail trails on the M&L corridor

Dear Mr. Scott,

Shortly after I began working for the Town's Recreation Department, the Recreation Advisory Committee completed a survey as to what they felt the needs in the community were; trails for walking and biking ranked number one. The Recreation Advisory Committee acknowledges the need of additional recreation space in Town, especially in times of financial need, as individuals seek more affordable opportunities. Trails throughout Town would benefit residents and individuals in the area as it will assist them in becoming physically active, provide a safe place to get out and exercise, ease the burden on roads as it provides an alternative, and helps create an affordable social activity.

In my previous position, I assisted with the plans to develop a pathway down a very busy road in Moultonborough, New Hampshire. As the first phase was completed, the number of residents walking the Neck Road jumped from a few dozen to hundreds on the pathway. The current plan the New Hampshire Rail Trail Alliance has established will impact thousands more as it is multi-community and in a more densely populated area.

As a newer Salem resident and the Town's Recreation Director I would like to express my full support of the NH Rail Trail Alliance. In addition, the Salem Recreation Department's Advisory Committee also fully embraces this trail and is working on creating additional trails from the parks to the rail trail to assist with a safe method of traveling around Town and to the recreation areas.

Should you have any questions regarding my support, I encourage you to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,

Christopher Dillon  
Salem Recreation Director

# The Eagle-Tribune

online



## NH rail trail advocates aim for state grant

By Terry Date  
tdate@eagletribune.com

July 23, 2009 12:56 am

WINDHAM — Before pedaling over the Windham Rail Trail, bicyclists paused by an information kiosk they hope, someday soon, will display a trail route through three neighboring towns.

Members of the Southern New Hampshire Rail Trail Alliance want to make that hope a reality by securing a \$1.3 million state transportation enhancement grant to build a paved trail connecting an 8-mile stretch from Old Rockingham Road in Salem north to Derry Center by the old train depot.

Yesterday, six members of the alliance took a step — more like a spin — in that direction. They toured stretches of the abandoned Manchester & Lawrence rail corridor with two New Hampshire Department of Transportation employees.

The key word for the project? "Connectivity," Wayne Morris said. "You'll be able to go from Derry Center to Salem."

Morris and Mark Samsel are alliance members from Windham.

Today, only 3.6 miles of the trail is paved in Windham and a 1.3-mile section in Derry.

The alliance members said the greater the distance that is connected, the more utility the trail will have.

A lengthy trail will serve recreation, business and transportation needs. It will host biking and walking fun, attract tourists and connect workers to jobs — locally or a short distance from park-and-ride lots, where they can take a bus to metropolitan areas.

It will bring "better access, less traffic on Route 28, and safer commuting," said Dave Topham, a Salem representative on the alliance.

John Maurice, another Salem alliance representative, said a longer trail will draw eco-tourists to the trail's vibrant setting.

"People will come from all directions," he said. "They will stop and eat and buy things."

Family physician John Daley, who represents Derry on the alliance, said the trail will boost people's health.

To motivate people to exercise, the activity needs to be convenient and pleasing, he said. The trail would succeed on both those counts, Daley said.

The state DOT employees who joined yesterday's tour, Larry Keniston and Jerry Moore, were inspecting the