

Tilton, NH TAP Application



Lakes Region Planning Commission
TAC Committee
March 5, 2025

In Collaboration with the Winnepesaukee River Trail Association

- 501c(3) Non Profit
- Formed in 1999
- All Volunteer
- Tilton, Franklin and Northfield
- Public/Private Partnership
- Current trail is 5.9 miles from Franklin > RT 140 Tilton
- Raised over \$300,000 in private grants and donations

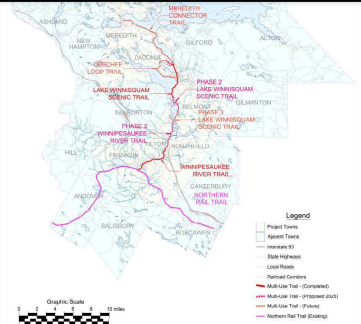



Regional Trail System


- Parallels Rt. 3/11 Corridor
- Includes communities of Franklin > Northfield, Tilton > Belmont > Laconia and Meredith

Includes:

- Winnepesaukee River Trail (WRT)
- Winnisquam Scenic Trail (Belmont)
- Winnepesaukee, Opechee, Winnisquam (WOW - Laconia)
- Connects Northern Rail Trail



Franklin to Meredith Regional Trail
Winnepesaukee River Trail Section • Phase 3
DOT Transportation Alternative Program



Proposal is for 3rd & final Phase for WRT

- Phase I 2005 Franklin to Northfield
- Phase II 2010 Northfield to Tilton RT 140
 - First Rail with Trail in NH
- Phase III Proposed Rt. 140 (Exit 20) to Silver Lake Road in Lochmere (Belmont Town Line)

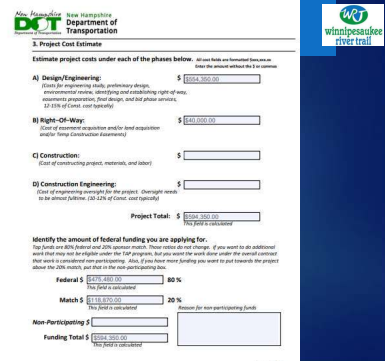



Map 5



Project Cost

- ▶ Design and Engineering
 - ▶ \$554,350
- ▶ Right of Way
 - ▶ \$40,000
- ▶ Project Total
 - ▶ \$594,360
- ▶ Federal \$475,480
- ▶ Match \$118,350

Proposed Engineering and Design Phase III Winnepesaukee River Trail

- ▶ Current trail ends at Rt. 140 between MacDonalds and Burger King
- ▶ Proposed Trail Crosses Rt. 140
- ▶ Travels East 1.9 miles in Existing RR corridor (Rail with Trail)
 - ▶ Goes behind Staples/BJ's Wholesale/Malls
 - ▶ Crosses Hunt Brook
 - ▶ Passes DOT Park and Ride
 - ▶ Crosses Manville Road
 - ▶ Crosses Noyes Road
- ▶ Ends at Silver Lake Road – (Lochmere) near Belmont Town Line




Proposed Phase III Map Details

Route is in "Concord to Lincoln" Rail Road Corridor (state owned)

MAP 1

Obstacles & Challenges I

Why we are only applying for design and engineering?

- ▶ Rail with Trail
- ▶ Narrow RR Corridor
- ▶ Multiple steep slope and wetland issues on both sides
- ▶ Winnepesaukee Sewer Basin Line is in RR Corridor
- ▶ Hunt brook crossing
- ▶ Crossing Rt. 140

Obstacles & Challenges II Rail with Trail

- ▶ Existing Concord to Lincoln RR Corridor is state owned
- ▶ Used year round for freight
 - ▶ Particularly to 3m plant at Manville Road
 - ▶ Proposed Industrial development at Manville Road includes use of RR
- ▶ Must be minimum of 15 feet from the rail line
- ▶ Rail With Trail must have fencing between rail and trail

Obstacles & Challenges III

Note proximity of wetlands

Winnepesaukee River Basin sewer lines and concrete obstacles in RR corridor Above near Noyes Rd.

Right (near RT. 140) . There are multiple others along the proposed route

Obstacles & Challenges IV

Hunt Brook Crossing (above)

Encroachment in RR Corridor (right)

Route Alternatives to be Explored

- Which side of the RR tracks is most feasible to construct trail?
- Current Existing Eversource Easement should be explored
 - Wolf Road is a private road that could provide an access point
- Tilton owns a piece of land adjacent to, and parallel to the RR Corridor with shore frontage on Silver Lake
- The DOT Park and Ride abuts the RR corridor via steep slopes and wetlands. Is there a way to access it directly?

Safety

Rt. 3/11 Between RT. 140 and Silver Lake Road is Congested and Dangerous

Current Status

- ▶ No sidewalks, cross walks, bike lanes or pedestrian traffic signals
- ▶ DOT estimates over 17,000 vehicles per day
- ▶ Current planned development will result in more traffic and congestion
- ▶ Many pedestrians currently trespass and walk in the Rail Road Corridor

After Trail Construction

- ▶ Safe Alternative Pedestrian travel route
- ▶ Handicapped accessible
- ▶ Suitable for children and all ages
- ▶ No motorized vehicles
- ▶ Fence separating rail line
- ▶ Approved Road crossings



Connectivity I

LRPC 2023 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

“...One of the main areas identified in limiting connectivity is the Route 3 corridor from Franklin to Laconia. This road has a large section of LTS 4, the most dangerous condition, which limits access to a lot of resources and destinations along the corridor.” page 21



Connectivity II

Employment and Shopping Hub of the Region

From Rt. 140 to Mansville Road – 1 mile

- ▶ Tilton's largest employers J. Jill and Home Depot
- ▶ Estimated over 4,000 jobs another 2,000 on other side of 93
- ▶ Over 50 retail stores
 - ▶ Includes box stores like Staples, Hobby Lobby, Home Depot, BJ's Warehouse
- ▶ 20 Restaurants, fast food, and coffee shops
- ▶ 3 Hotels/2 Proposed Housing developments
- ▶ Urgent Medical Care
- ▶ Car dealerships
- ▶ Banks

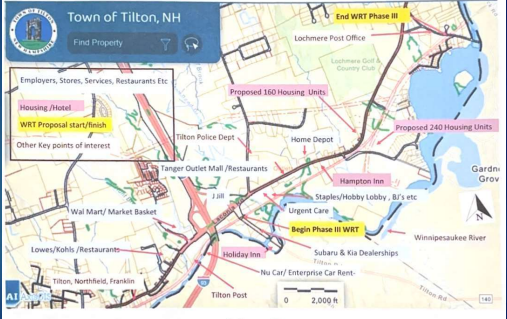


Tilton TAP APPLICATION—Vital Non Motorized Connections (Employers, Shops, Services, Housing ETC.)

Map highlights some shops and services adjacent to proposed trail

Note proposed housing developments

- 240 Units on Manville Road
- 160 Units slightly east of Manville Rd




Map 2

Connectivity III

Transportation

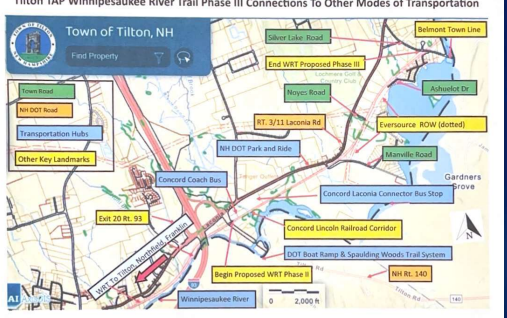
- ▶ From the Manville Rd Crossing –
 - ▶ 0.3 miles to NH DOT Park and Ride.
- ▶ From Rt. 140 Crossing
 - ▶ 0.2 miles to Concord Coach bus stop with Connections north to Plymouth, Littleton/Conway/Berlin and south to Concord/Boston and Logan Airport with connections in Concord to Manchester Airport.
 - ▶ 0.4 miles to Concord/Laconia Connector bus stop at Hobby Lobby.
 - ▶ 0.1 miles to Subaru car dealership; 0.2 miles to KIA car dealership and 0.8 miles to NU Car dealership and Enterprise Rent A Car –
 - ▶ 0.3 miles to DOT Shaker Road Boat Ramp)
 - ▶ 0.3 miles to New England Mountain Biking Assoc. (NEMBA) Spaulding Woods biking/hiking trail system - 4.6 miles to Highland Mt. Bike Park



Tilton TAP Winnepesaukee River Trail Phase III Connections To Other Modes of Transportation

Transportation Connections

- DOT Park and Ride
- Concord Coach Bus
- Concord – Laconia Connector Bus
- DOT Boat Ramp Silver Lake Ramp
- NEMBA Spaulding Woods Trails
- Highland Mt. bike trails



MAP 3

Connectivity IV Regional Connections






- Scenic Winnepesaukee River – fishing, boating, swimming
- Tilton, Northfield, Franklin – Town Offices, Libraries, Historical sites
- Parks – Salmon Run Conservation Area, Arch Park, Riverfront Park
Tilton, Surrette Battery, Trestle View Park, Mill City (White Water) Park
- Downtown Franklin/Tilton – Shops, Stores and Restaurants
- West Franklin Connection to Northern Rail Trail – Concord>Lebanon
- Future Connection with Winnisquam and WOW Trails





Connections/Sights in Lochmere Silver Lake/Belmont Town Line






Connections/Sights in Tilton & Northfield

Connections/Sights in Franklin

Feasibility and Funding

- ▶ The WRTA has raised and set aside \$90,000 to go toward the 20% match
- ▶ The WRTA is working on raising additional funds and is confident and committed to raising the remaining \$28,000 required in matching funds for this proposal.
- ▶ The WRTA raised over \$300,000 in private grants and donations
- ▶ Once clear design and engineering plans have been determined, we will have a realistic idea of what construction costs will be.
- ▶ Depending on the amount, the WRTA will look to construct the trail in sections or in its entirety
- ▶ We will look to a number of sources for funding for construction and/or required match. Sources include Federal, State, and Private grants, donations and fundraising efforts including a possible capital campaign, and use of Tax Credits

Community Benefit



- ▶ The Winnepesaukee River Trail has strengthened ties between Franklin, Tilton and Northfield
- ▶ A study done by Healthfirst (Franklin) demonstrated improved health benefits (diabetes, blood pressure, cholesterol levels) for people walking 2-3 times per week
- ▶ The WRT/WRTA has served as a catalyst for the development of parks, outdoor recreation and served as a greenspace and wildlife corridor
 - ▶ Trestle View Park (Franklin)
 - ▶ Mill City White Water Park (Franklin)
 - ▶ Gloria and Roger Blais Riverview Conservation Area (Northfield)
 - ▶ Surrette Battery Park (Northfield) – Superfund clean up site
 - ▶ Salmon Run Conservation Area (Tilton) Browns field Clean Up



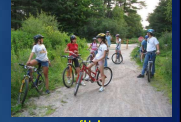
Serving a Low Income Population



- ▶ Tilton's Median Household Income (MHI) of \$64,577 is the lowest in Belknap County, and is 30% below the statewide average of \$90,845.00.
- ▶ The other communities served by the WRT are also substantially below the statewide average with Franklin being \$66,942.00, and Northfield at \$75,108.00.
- ▶ This is also true for the connecting communities of Belmont (\$73,302.00), Laconia (\$67,856.00) and Meredith (\$65,372.00) once the regional trail is completed.



Economic Benefits



- ▶ The WRTA is collaborating with the Foothills Foundation, a non profit in Northfield NH focused on promoting outdoor recreation as a means of health/wellness, retaining and recruiting young families, and economic development
- ▶ The WRT serves as a central corridor connecting the communities of Franklin, Tilton and Northfield and outdoor recreation sites including Mill City Whitewater Park (Franklin), Spaulding Woods Mt. Biking Trails (Northfield), Highland Mt. Bike Park/Trails (Northfield),
- ▶ With links to the Northern Rail Trail and when completed and connected with the Winnisquam and WOW trails, the regional trail will be an economic driver for local communities.

Questions?

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