

Program for Alternative Transportation and Health (PATH)

E-Newsletter and Monthly Drawing Reminder

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Hello PATH Members

If you are a new PATH member, welcome!

If you have carpoled, bicycled, walked, or taken transit to work at least 10 times (or about twice per week) during the month of December you are eligible for the PATH monthly drawing for prizes. Simply reply to this email or email path@cnhrpc.org to report your commutes and be entered into the drawing.

As a PATH member you will receive this email once per month with news, stories, and event listings. If you prefer to not get the monthly email, you may unsubscribe at the bottom of the email.

PATH members who carpool or bike to work are also eligible for the Emergency Ride Home benefit. If you or your fellow carpooler gets caught without transportation in the event of an emergency, PATH will reimburse your cost of transportation home according to the rules of the program. Complete rules and instructions can be found at our website www.path-nh.org.

Special Bicycle Newsletter

We may be in the depths of winter, but there is all kinds of bicycle news this month! Check the articles below for news on:

Concord Bicycle Master Plan
Concord North South Bike Route
Regional Rail Trail organization
Bike commuters in the news

Bicycle Master Plan Kickoff Meeting Draws over 70 People

The City of Concord's Bicycle Subcommittee of the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC-Bike) and the CNHRPC met with over 70 residents and bicyclists to talk about bicycling in Concord. It was a first step in developing a Bicycle Master Plan for Concord. Any master plan needs to be based on what the people want, so this first round of public input is an excellent start.



TPAC and CNHRPC have been poring over results from the meeting in the last few weeks. We have compiled a list of every comment that we recorded during the first meeting and have posted them to the [BMP webpage](#). We welcome you to review the list and if you see anything missing or would like to add a comment let us know by contacting us at path@cnhrpc.org or calling Craig at 226-6020.



The Bicycle Master Plan, funded by [Concord 2020](#) and coordinated by the [Central NH Regional Planning Commission](#) is intended to build on the City's bicycle related components in the 2030 Master Plan to help make Concord a more bicycle friendly city.

The project was fortunate enough to



make it onto the front page of the Concord Monitor two days in a row!

[Riders share bike-seat view of city](#) (Concord Monitor, 12/08/09)

[Panel envisions bike-friendly city](#) (Concord Monitor, 12/07/09)

If you have additional comments regarding the Bicycle Master Plan please forward them to path@cnhrpc.org. Visit the [Bicycle Master Plan project webpage](#).

Photos courtesy Dick Lemieux

North South Bike Route goes to City Council January 11 Council will vote to accept funds from Concord 2020

City Council will vote whether or not to accept funding from Concord 2020 for the North South Bike Route at their meeting on January 11.

The funds will pay for the painting of the "sharrow" symbols along the route as well as bike route signage. In addition, any funding left over will go toward education and awareness of the route for both bicyclists and motorists. The idea is to help all users of the route understand the proper way to share the roadway, what the symbols mean, and what the purpose of a bike route is.

We welcome your support and having representatives from the public at this meeting will help the Councilors make their decision.

For more information on the route, see our [August-September](#) newsletter.

If you cannot attend the meeting, contact your city councilors or forward any comments to path@cnhrpc.org to share with council members.

Salem to Concord Bikeway?

What would you think about having a dedicated bicycle path extending from Downtown Concord through Manchester all the way to Salem? Does this concept sound too good to be true? The fact is, several groups and organizations between Manchester and Salem have been working on this in the last several years and have had success completing several miles of paved Rail Trail.



Abandoned Rail Corridor along the Merrimack in Pembroke

Photo from Rizzo Bikeway Study

There is still a lot of work to be done and funding to secure, so three Regional Planning Commissions (Southern, Rockingham, and Central) plan to meet with rail to trail groups and enthusiasts this month to help develop a plan for a network of rail trail multi-use paths including a trail from Salem to Concord.

The stretch from Concord to Manchester would likely follow an abandoned rail bed from downtown Hooksett, through Suncook Village, Allenstown, and Pembroke, and eventually crossing the Merrimack River near the Blue Seal factory

on the Bow-Concord Town line. In the coming months we hope to get people organized to develop a plan to make the Manchester-Concord stretch a reality.

A feasibility study was conducted in 2003 during the planning for the widening of I-93. Since then, portions of the route have been improved from Manchester southward, but little action has taken place north of Manchester. PATH intends to help get things rolling.

Rail to Trail groups along the Salem-Concord Corridor:

[Manchester Moves](#)
[Derry Rail Trail Alliance](#)
[Windham Rail Trail Alliance](#)

[Northern Rail Trail](#)
[List of Rail Trail Groups in NH](#)

[Salem to Concord Bikeway Feasibility Study, 2003 \(large pdf\)](#)

Look for more news, updates, and rail-trail stories in future newsletters. There has been quite a bit of activity lately in the rail trail world, and the Concord area has its opportunities!

Monitor Article about PATH member

Check out this article on the Concord Monitor about a fellow PATH member and bicycle commuter.

[Season Ends for Bike Commuter](#)

Green Commute Week May 17-21



Planning for Green Commute week has already begun. This year we will continue and expand the events of last year, with events celebrating Carpooling, bicycling, walking and taking transit. We will have breakfasts on Main Street for green commuters along with other events. We are hopeful the Governor will participate again this year. Also this year will be the second annual Concord Bike Swap held at the S&W Sports parking lot to raise money for bicycling programs in the city.



PATH's mission is to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and increase societal emphasis on personal fitness through the creation of services and materials which promote transportation options to the single occupancy vehicle.

Craig Tufts
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CNHRPC

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