



2021 New Hampshire Rail Trails Coalition Conference:

Extending New Hampshire's Rail Trails

I'd like to invite you to attend our exciting conference on Saturday, October 16, 2021.

What a year this has been! We always knew rail trails were important, but after COVID 19 hit us, they became essential! They let us get exercise in beautiful locations, while keeping our distance from other people.

The theme of this year's conference, *Extending New Hampshire's Rail Trails*, matches our biggest successes and ongoing efforts. After almost 20 years of work, the state of New Hampshire now owns the East Coast Greenway railroad corridor from the Massachusetts border to Portsmouth! Two efforts, will extend the Northern Rail Trail southward. One will carry the trail 6/10 mile to the Concord border, using funds gathered in a major fund-raising effort by the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail. The other will use Concord funding to extend the trail about 5 miles. Patrick Herlihy of DOT will describe the negotiations that were needed.

Keene will complete the Cheshire Rail Trail with a bridge over Route 101.

The Rails to Trails Conservancy is pushing for multi-state trails in New England. Tom Sexton will explain current plans for these connections.

How are these extensions usually paid for? Alexis Rudko will describe the Recreational Trails Program, our most important funding source. Dave Topham will give a brief overview of the Transportation Alternatives and Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality programs, needed for larger projects.

Because of COVID, the meeting will occur as two Zoom sessions. One will be 9:00 am to noon and the other from 1 to 3:30 pm.

I hope you will be able to attend this conference. Our Board has worked really hard to make the sessions interesting, valuable, and fun.

Charles Martin,
Conference Chairman