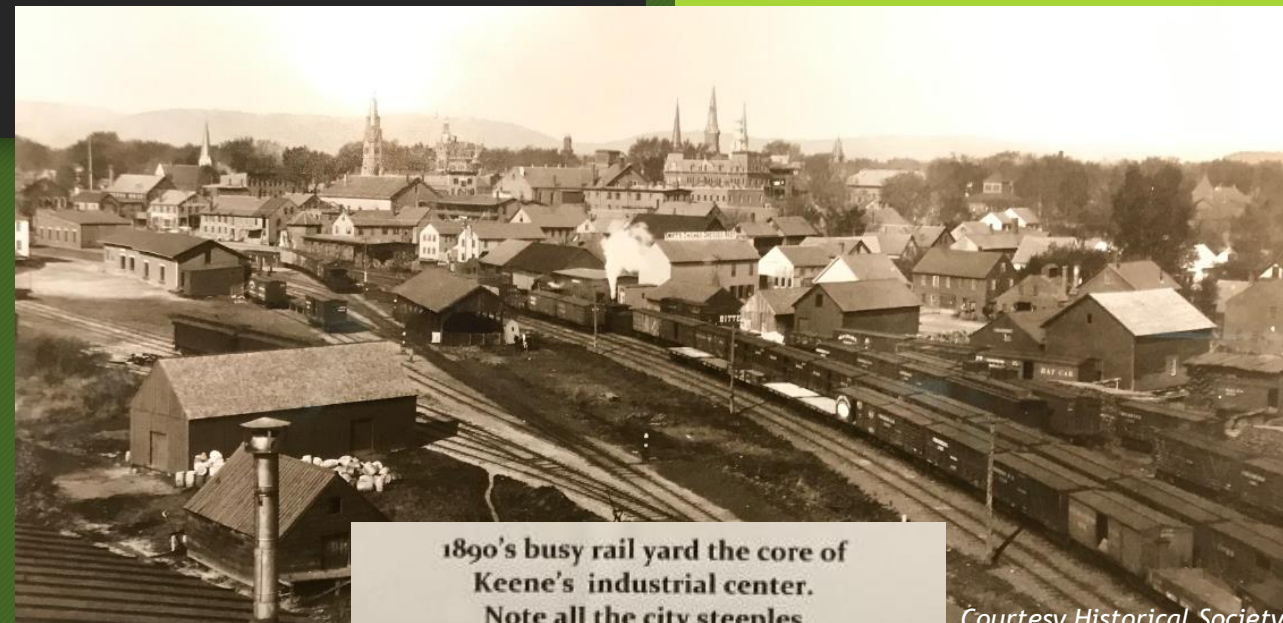




Monadnock Region Rail Trail “Big Picture”

Monadnock Regional Rail Trail Collaborative
Presented by: Michael Kowalczyk

<http://monadnockrailtrails.org>
support@monadnockrailtrails.org



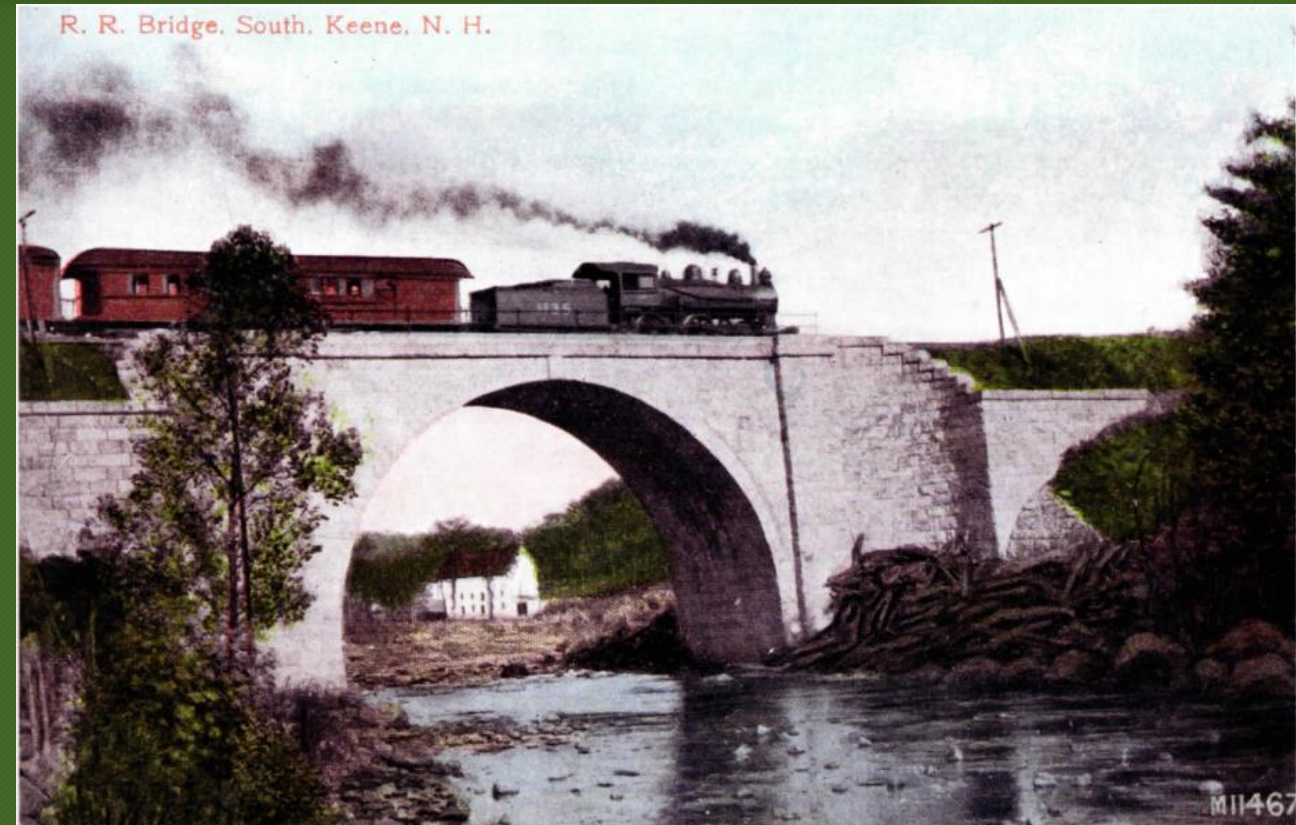
1890's busy rail yard the core of
Keene's industrial center.
Note all the city steeples

*Courtesy Historical Society
of Cheshire County*

The Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative: Who and What

A group made up of representatives of local municipalities, non-profits and volunteers that recognize the value in collaborating on shared goals and interests for improving the regional rail trails

To reconstruct and maintain the Cheshire, Ashuelot, and Fort Hill rail trails throughout the Monadnock Region. To connect southwest New Hampshire, via the rail trails to Bellows Falls, VT, Brattleboro, VT and Winchendon, MA



An eastbound B&M passenger train steps smartly across the Joslin Arch. That's the D. R. Cole grist mill visible through the arch, South Keene, ca. 1905. Postcard; B. G. Blodget coll.

*"Iron Roads of the Monadnock Region, Volume One",
Bradford G. Blodget and Richard R. Richards Jr.*

Courtesy of Bradford G. Blodget

The Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative

Collaborative Board Members:

Cheshire County

Keene

Monadnock Conservancy

SnoMoles Snowmobile Club

Southwest Regional Planning Commission

Swanzey

Walpole

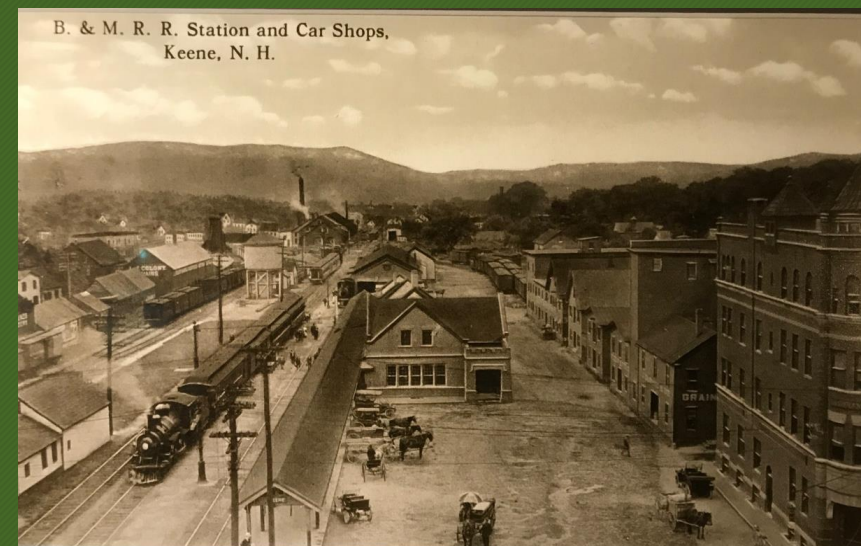
Winchester

Organization:

501c3 Status via Bike Walk Alliance of NH

Register with the State

By Laws



*"Iron Roads of the Monadnock Region, Volume One",
Bradford G. Blodget and Richard R. Richards Jr.*

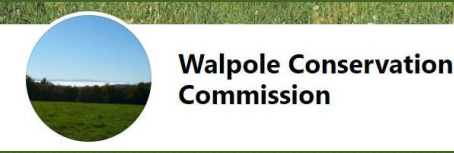
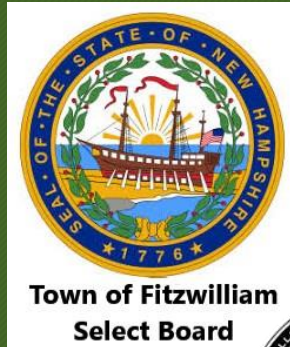
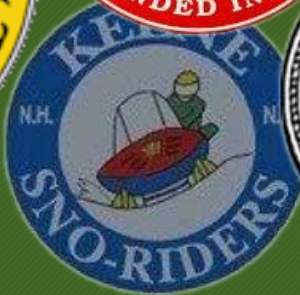
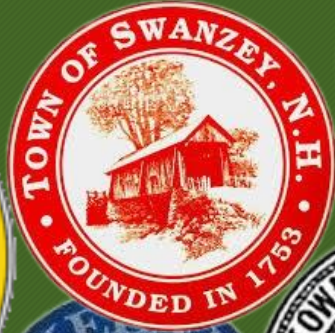
Courtesy Bradford G. Blodget

Corner of Gilbo Ave and Main St, Keene,
Jan 24, 1911

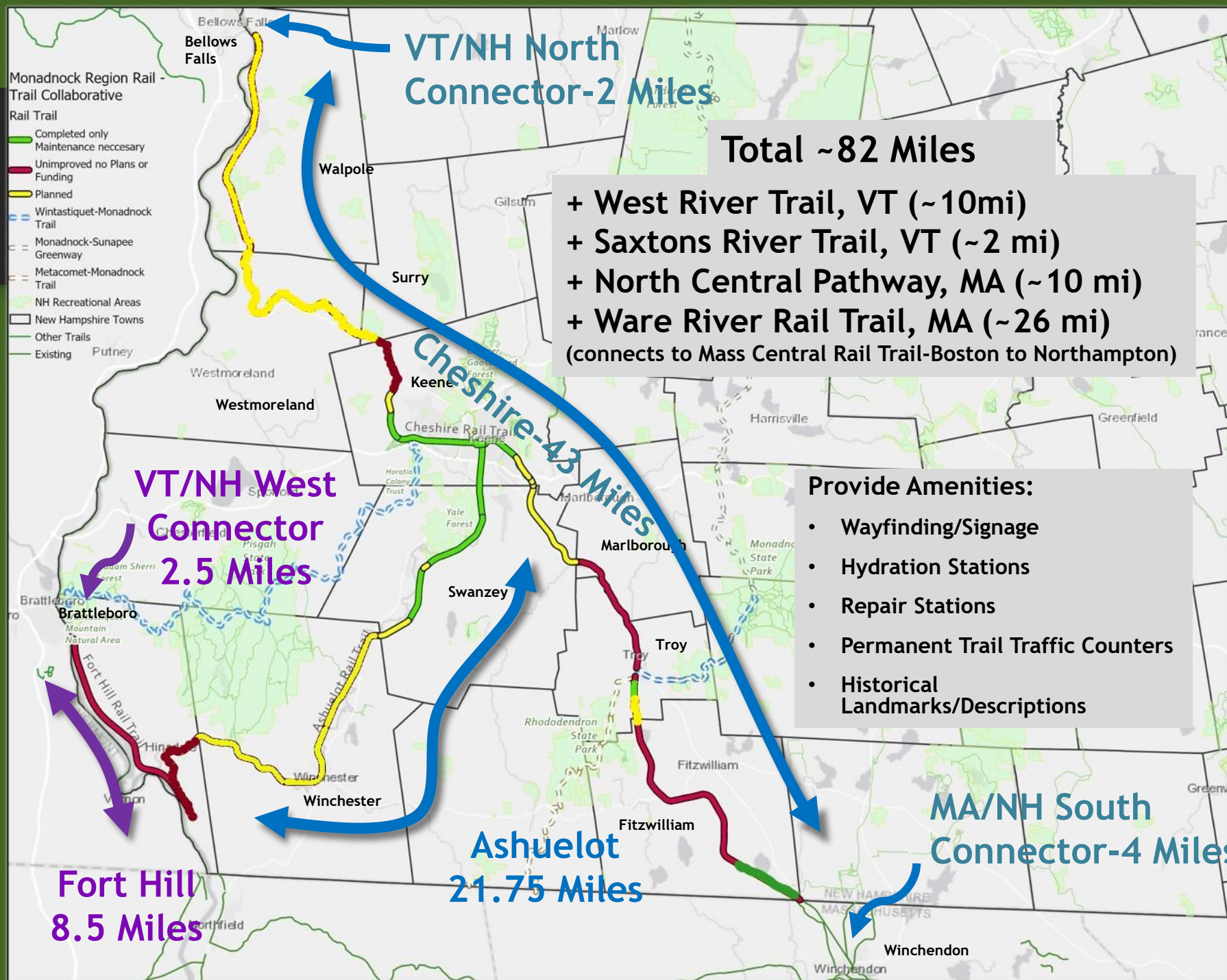
Regional Trail Partners



Town of Walpole Select Board



Region Rail Trails



Going South and East.

LEAVE	No. 1, P. M.	No. 3, A. M.	No. 19, A. M.	No. 5, A. M.
St. Albans,.....	7.00			6.20
White River Jc.	1.30	4.20		12.20
Rutland,.....	12.50			12.01
B. FALLS,.....	3.50	6.35		2.30
Cold River,.....		6.38		
Walpole,.....	4.00	6.45		2.40
Westmoreland,...	4.14	6.58		2.53
E. Westmor'land	4.23	7.07		3.00
KEENE,.....	4.55	7.33	9.00	3.26
So. Keene,.....		7.37	9.08	
Marlborough,....	5.08	7.46	9.28	3.40
Troy,	5.17	7.54	9.45	3.49
Fitzwilliam,.....	5.29	8.06	10.17	4.02
State Line,.....		8.18	10.40	
WINCHENDON,....	5.48	8.25	10.55	4.21
N. Ashburnham,	5.56	8.34	11.12	4.30
So. Ashburn'h'm,	6.06	8.43	11.35	4.40
Westminster,....	6.16	8.55	11.49	
W. Fitchburg,....	6.22	9.03	11.57	
FITCHBURG,.....	6.30	9.10	12.05	5.05
BOSTON,.....Arrive	8.35	11.05	2.23	7.10
	A. M.	A. M.	P. M.	P. M.

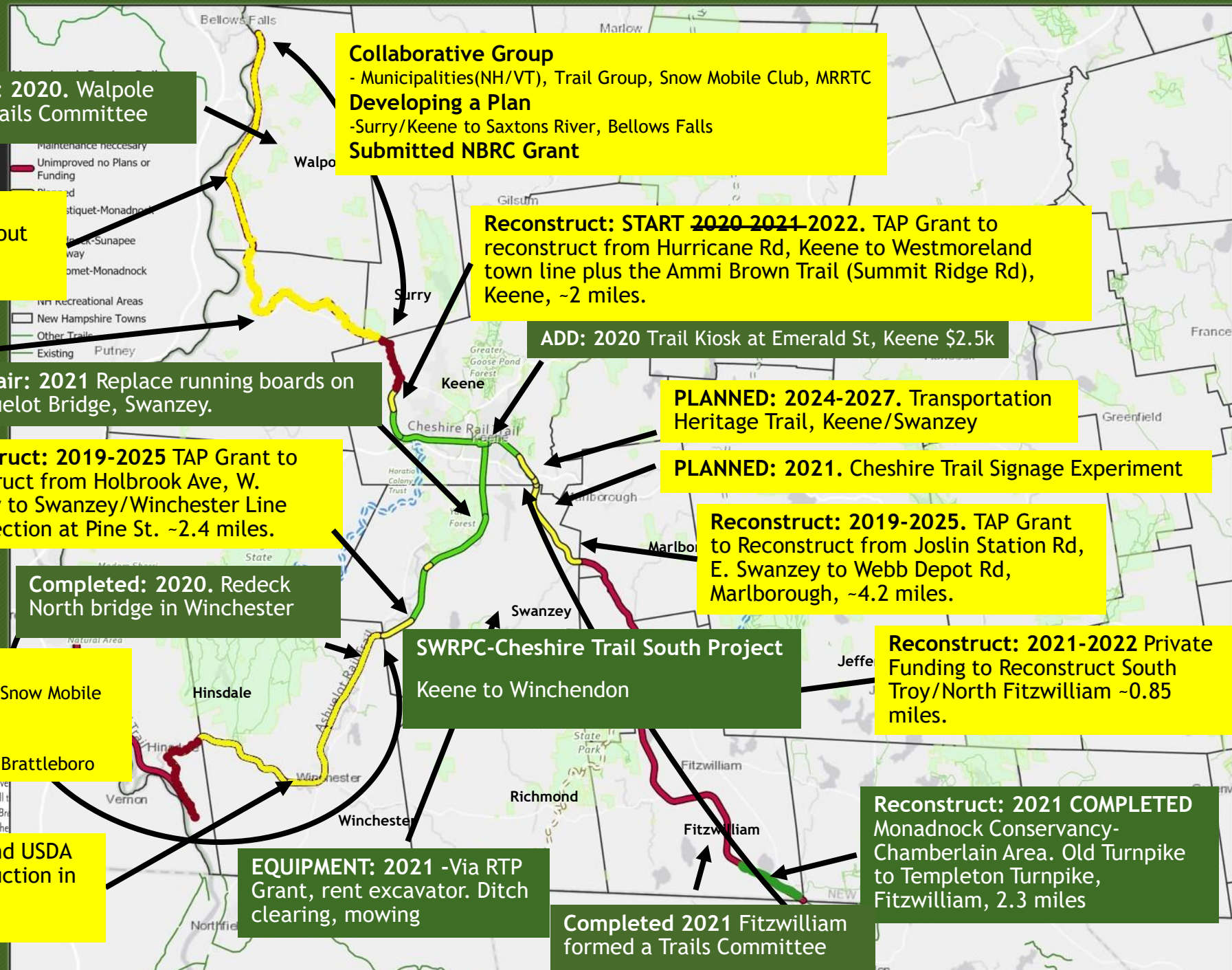
— Does not stop.
‡ Stops only to leave passengers.

Cheshire Public Time Table, May 3, 1875

"Iron Roads of the Monadnock Region, Volume One",
Bradford G. Blodget and Richard R. Richards Jr.

Courtesy Basil B. McLeod

Current Status



Completed: 2020. Walpole formed a Trails Committee

Collaborative Group
- Municipalities(NH/VT), Trail Group, Snow Mobile Club, MRRTC
Developing a Plan
-Surry/Keene to Saxtons River, Bellows Falls
Submitted NBRC Grant

Reconstruct: 2021-2023 RTP
Grant to Reconstruct throughout Walpole ~6.5 miles.

Reconstruct: START 2020-2021-2022. TAP Grant to reconstruct from Hurricane Rd, Keene to Westmoreland town line plus the Ammi Brown Trail (Summit Ridge Rd), Keene, ~2 miles.

Reconstruct: 2022-2023
Westmoreland/Surry. Apply for RTP Grant to Reconstruct ~7 miles.

ADD: 2020 Trail Kiosk at Emerald St, Keene \$2.5k

Repair: 2021 Replace running boards on Ashuelot Bridge, Swanzey.

PLANNED: 2024-2027. Transportation Heritage Trail, Keene/Swanzey

Reconstruct: 2019-2025 TAP Grant to Reconstruct from Holbrook Ave, W. Swanzey to Swanzey/Winchester Line plus a section at Pine St. ~2.4 miles.

PLANNED: 2021. Cheshire Trail Signage Experiment

Completed: 2020. Redeck North bridge in Winchester

Reconstruct: 2019-2025. TAP Grant to Reconstruct from Joslin Station Rd, E. Swanzey to Webb Depot Rd, Marlborough, ~4.2 miles.

Collaborative Group
-Municipalities(NH/VT), Trail Group, Snow Mobile Club, Federal Agencies, MRRTC
Developing a Plan
-Winchester/Swanzey to West River, Brattleboro

SWRPC-Cheshire Trail South Project
Keene to Winchendon

Reconstruct: 2021-2022 Private Funding to Reconstruct South Troy/North Fitzwilliam ~0.85 miles.

Reconstruct: 2021-2022 RTP and USDA Grants. Parking & Trail reconstruction in Winchester.

EQUIPMENT: 2021 -Via RTP Grant, rent excavator. Ditch clearing, mowing

Reconstruct: 2021 COMPLETED Monadnock Conservancy- Chamberlain Area. Old Turnpike to Templeton Turnpike, Fitzwilliam, 2.3 miles

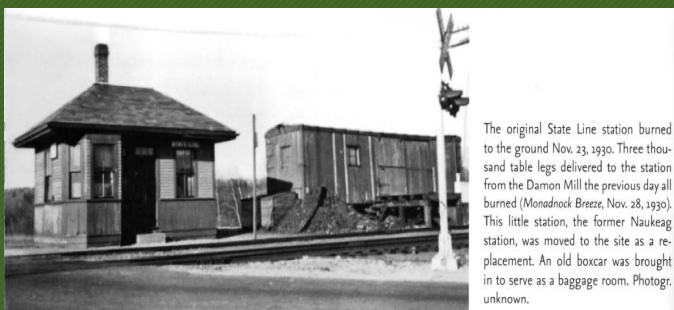
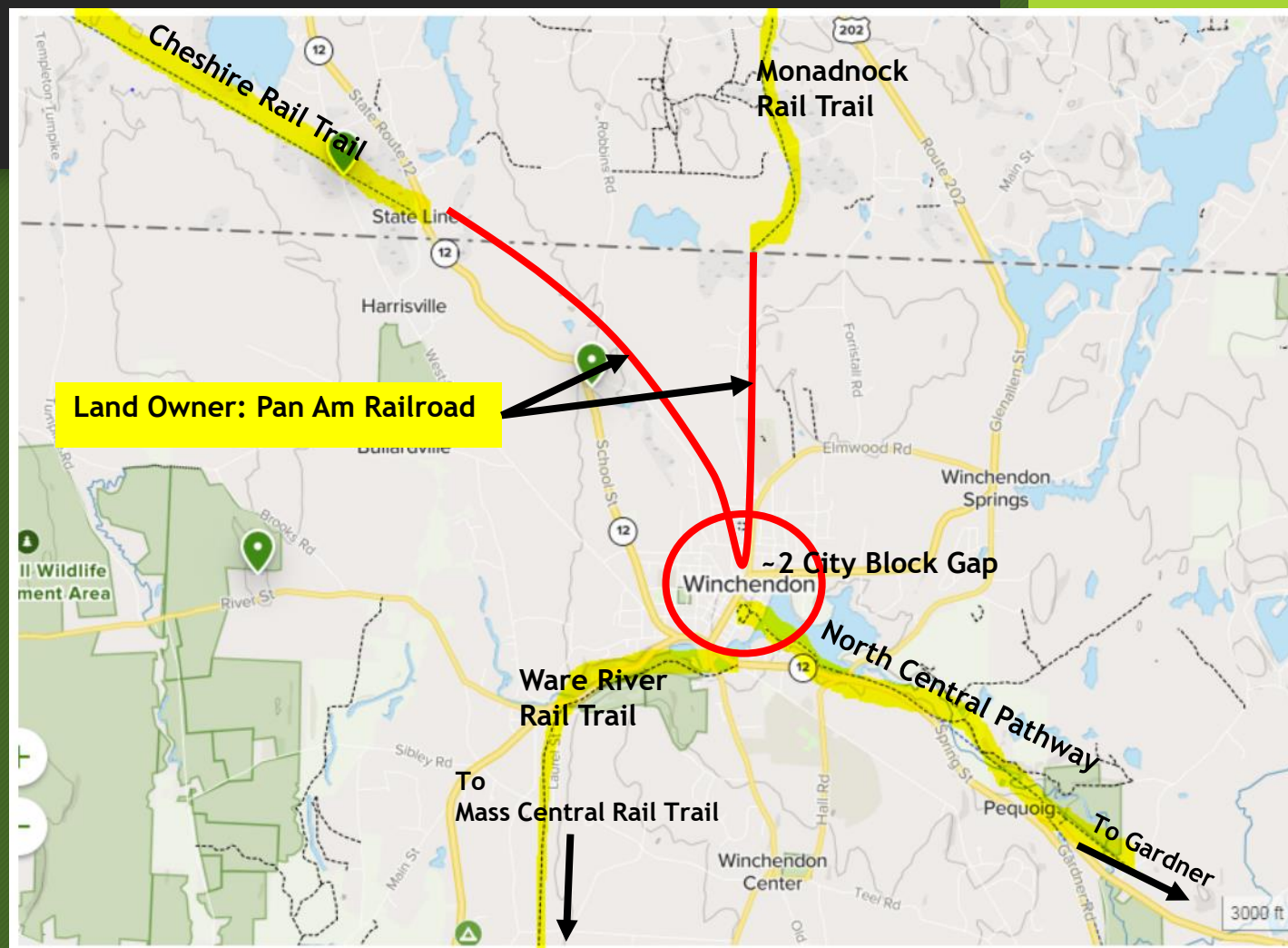
Completed 2021 Fitzwilliam formed a Trails Committee



"Iron Roads of the One", Bradford G. Bogaert and Richard K. Richards Jr.

Cheshire Trail/Winchendon Connector Community Impact

Winchendon
Gardner
Templeton
Barre



The original State Line station burned to the ground Nov. 23, 1930. Three thousand table legs delivered to the station from the Damon Mill the previous day all burned (Monadnock Breeze, Nov. 28, 1930). This little station, the former Naukeag station, was moved to the site as a replacement. An old boxcar was brought in to serve as a baggage room. Photogr. unknown.

What Does Reconstruct The Trail Mean?

Upgrade and Improve the trails to a standard that is suitable for walkers, bikers, hikers, runners, and equestrian of all ages

- Note: Most of the rail trail today is suitable for snowmobiles.
- Working Drainage Ditches
- Working Culverts
- 10-14' Wide Trail Surface *
- Crushed Stone Trail Surface
- Crowned Trail Surface
- Mowed including min. 10' Canopy *
- Gates at Road Crossings
 - Prevent Motorized Access
 - Prevent Dumping



* AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) "Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities".

Rail Trail Benefits*

- Creating Value and Generating Economic Activity
 - Increase Real Estate Value
 - Increase Tourism
- Improving Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation
 - Increase bicycle and walking commute
- Improving Health through Active Living
 - Increase Active Living
 - Improve Health
 - Lower Medical Costs
 - Reduce Deaths



* <http://www.greenways.com/benefits-of-greenways>

Rail Trail Benefits*

- Clear Skies, Clean Rivers, and Protected Wildlife
 - Help Protect Natural Ecosystems (e.g. plants, animal species)
 - Reduce Air Pollution (less automobiles, more plants)
 - Protect streams, rivers
- Protecting People and Property from Flood Damage
 - Protect Natural Floodplains along Rivers and Streams
 - Prevent Riverside Communities from Flood Damage
- Enhancing Cultural Awareness and Community Identity
 - Railroad History
 - Railroad's Impact on the Monadnock Region



* <http://www.greenways.com/benefits-of-greenways>

Maintenance Strategies

Organizations:

Snowmobile Clubs

Trail Organizations

Municipality DPWs

Consider:

Equipment

- Ownership
- Storage
- Maintenance
- Operating Cost

Insurance

Labor

Scheduling



Funding - A Team Effort



Cost Coverage

1.) Federally Sponsored Grants

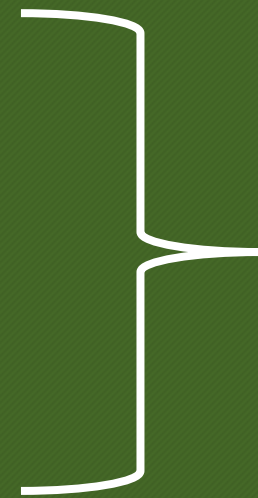
~70%

2.) Local Municipality Support

3.) Volunteer: In-Kind (if allowed)

4.) Go Fund Me

5.) Private Sector Support

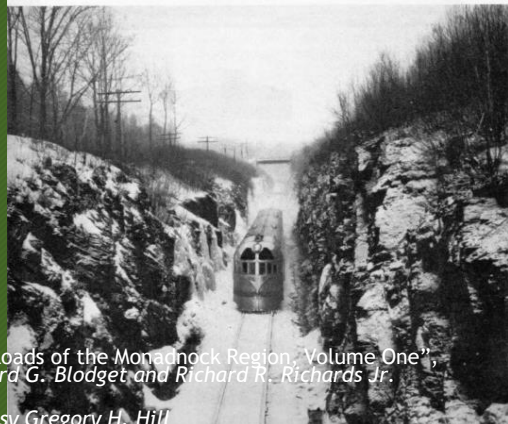


~30%



The Big Picture Plan

Piecing the Project Together



"Iron Roads of the Monadnock Region, Volume One", Bradford G. Blodget and Richard R. Richards Jr.

Courtesy Gregory H. Hill

