The Context: A Potential 3-Town Rail Trail

7.1 Mile Inactive Rail Corridor

- Medfield (1.2 miles) from Medfield Senior Center
- Dover (3.7 miles)
- Needham (2.2 miles) from Needham Junction

4 Dover Road Crossings

- Hunt Drive
- Springdale Ave.
- Dedham St.
- Haven St.

Dover Master Plan Survey Results - 2011

Q: “Would you favor converting the unused rail line passing through Needham, Dover, and Medfield into a “rail trail” for walking and biking across the three towns?”

- Yes, if funded privately and/or by grant (36%)
- Yes, if private property can be protected (40%)
- No (24%)

n = 681 (19 left the answer blank)
Project Overview

Proposed Surface

*Appropriate for walking, running, casual bike riding, and skiing*

- Not paved
- Not designed for performance biking
- No motorized vehicles
- Will not be plowed

Nonprofit Support

*Bay Colony Rail Trail Association*

- Local nonprofit organization
- Offers volunteers, research, fundraising, and coordination
- List of ~100 interested Dover residents

Recently completed rail trail in Danvers
Dover Rail Trail Committee Charge

• **What:** Ad-hoc committee formed by the Dover Board of Selectmen in 2011

• **Role:** Develop a **recommendation** for the conversion of the Dover section of the Bay Colony rail bed into a recreational trail by working with all relevant **Dover** boards, committees and departments and coordinating activities with the efforts of **Needham** and **Medfield**

• **Product:** A thorough **report** presenting a balanced discussion of the pros/cons of the conversion and **suggested policies** for all issues which must be addressed
Project Progress to Date

**November 2009**
- BCRT *presentation* to Dover BOS and abutters
- *Feasibility Study* request to Boston Region MPO from BOS

**June 2011**
- BOS creates *Dover Rail Trail Committee (RTC)*

**January 2012**
- Letter to MBTA regarding lease possibility

**2009**

**2010**

**2011**

**2012**

**Fall 2011**
- *Tri-town RTC* formed to address common issues, maximize research, and identify shared financial / volunteer opportunities
- Dover-specific issues to be addressed by *Dover RTC*
## Working Assumptions

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<tr>
<th>Natural Rural Character</th>
<th>Limited Cost to Town</th>
<th>Local Control</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Preserve natural rural character of Dover’s trails and conservation land</td>
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<td>• Crushed stone path (no paving)</td>
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<td>• Salvage value of rails and ties could cover conversion costs</td>
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<td>• Public-private partnership, donations, and volunteering</td>
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<td>• Dover maintains control of Dover segment</td>
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Future Plans

- **Rail Trail Study**: Full study of pros/cons will be available with input from citizens and all relevant Dover boards and committees
  - Over 40 areas of study: legal, public safety, maintenance, rules and regulations, financial, design and construction, and environmental factors
  - Will include information and experiences from other MA communities with rail trails

- **May 2013 Town Meeting**: Present study results and recommendations