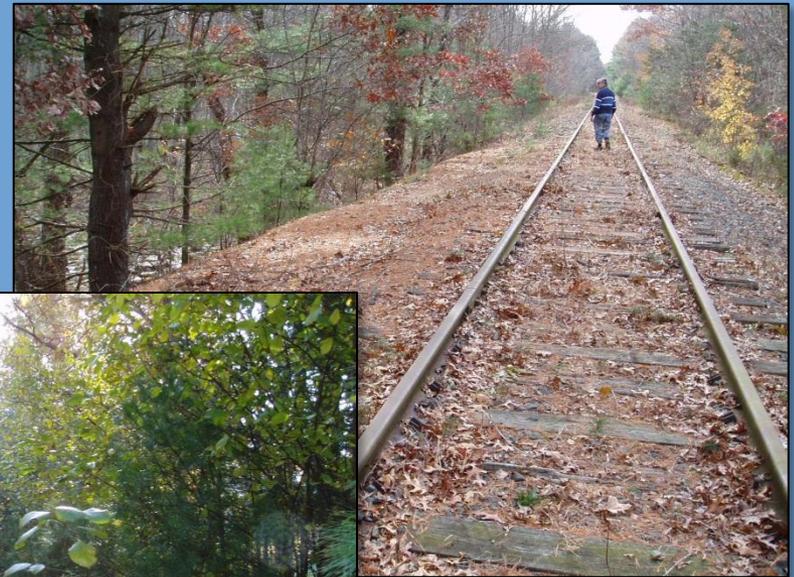
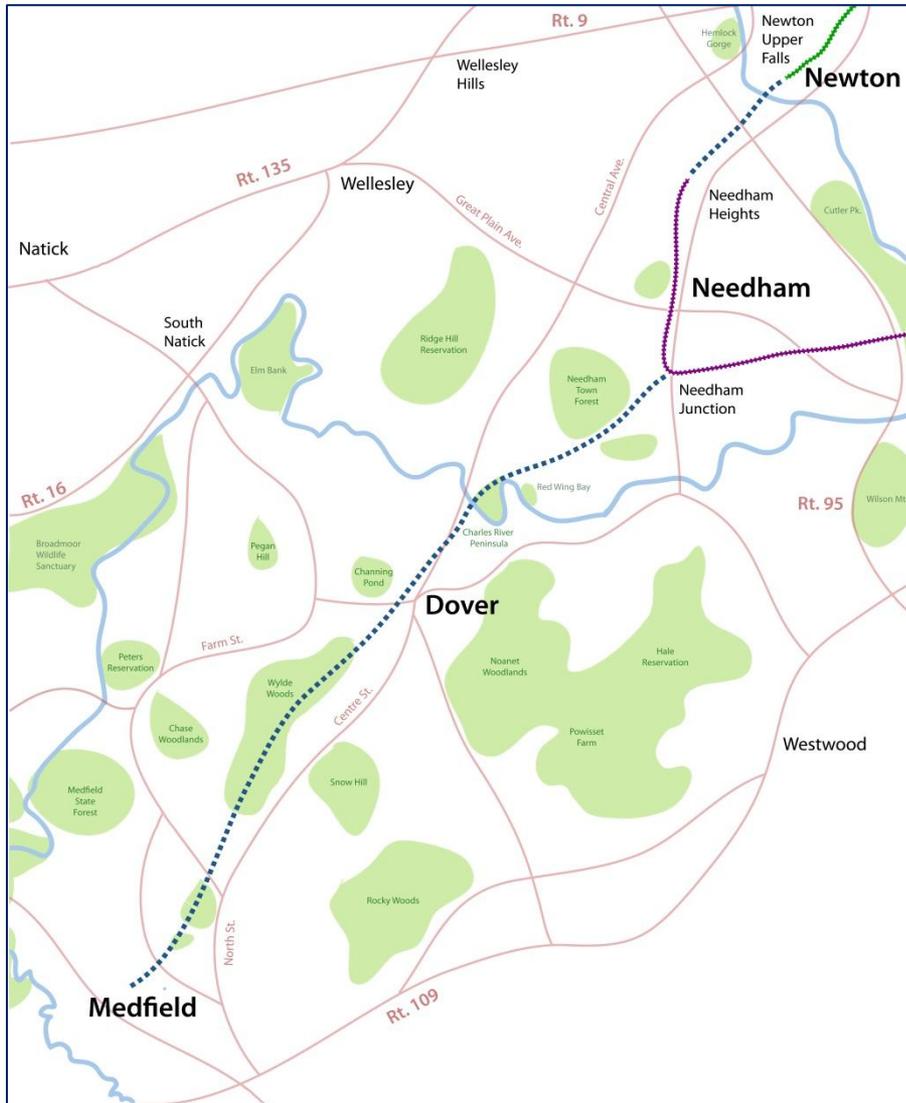


Dover Rail Trail Feasibility Study



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

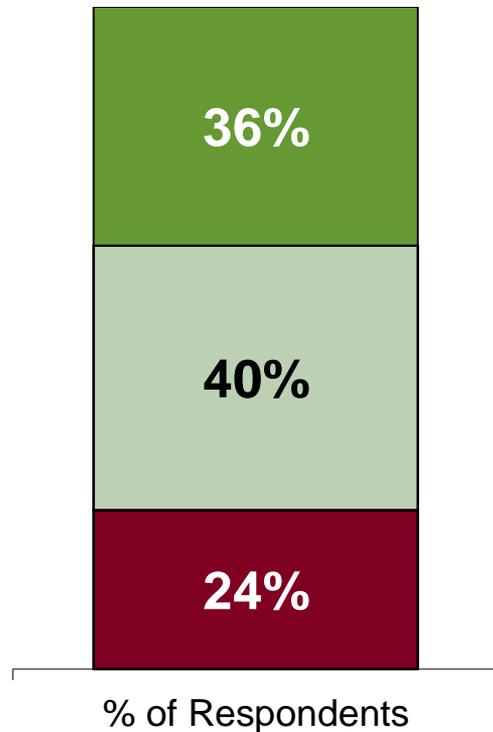
- Hunt Drive
- Springdale Ave.
- Dedham St.
- Haven St.



Why Now? Over $\frac{3}{4}$ of Dover Residents Expressed Support in a 2011 Town Survey

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
- Yes, if private property can be protected
- No



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



Recently completed rail trail in Danvers

Nonprofit Support

Bay Colony Rail Trail Association

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



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

Natural Rural Character

- Preserve natural rural character of Dover's trails and conservation land
- Crushed stone path (no paving)

Limited Cost to Town

- Salvage value of rails and ties could cover conversion costs
- Public-private partnership, donations, and volunteering

Local Control

- Dover maintains control of Dover segment



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

