

## Johnston MultiUse Trail Development Support Needed



*Woonasquatucket River Greenway*

The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council, a non-profit based in Olneyville needs the assistance of any NBW members who are residents of Johnston, RI. If you are town resident, please consider writing a letter to the mayor and council members indicating support for the development of the trail. If writing to the mayor or council, politely indicate that you are why the trail is important to you. Read on for more information.

In a letter received by RIDOT, Mayor Polisena communicated that town's refusal to accept any further development of the trail, citing concerns about public safety of potential neighbors as well as the community at large. The mayor also indicated an inability to accept maintenance expenses that would be required by the RIDOT trail development contract. The letter goes on to indicate that the town would not grant concessions required for development on parcels included in the development plan owned by the town.

Development of the trail is funded through an earmark of federal dollars that are part of the RIDOT Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). Money in the TIP is set aside for projects such as bike path development, and other projects that do not necessarily directly get spent on infrastructure for motor vehicles. There are 12.5 million dollars left in the earmark for development of the Northwest Trail. There are plans underway to develop a segment in Providence from Donigian park to Delaine Street, parallel to Valley Street for 1.4 million dollars, and 1 million for another segment. This leaves 10 million which is set aside for development extending from the current terminus at Lyman Street. With the letter on file with RIDOT, the federal funds could be revoked.

In order to assist the town in maintenance, WRWC is examining options that would lighten or remove the burden on the town to manage maintenance of the trail, formalizing the role that they already undertake on the existing trail.

## South Coast Trail Development gains support

The Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District held a summit to discuss alternative transportation in the Massachusetts South Coast and unveiled plans to create a South Coast Bikeway network, linking trails that would link from the Warren/Swansea border to the Cape Cod canal. The planned network would be primarily offroad, using multi-use paths, with on-road accommodations where necessary. This plan links several existing town bike ways and proposes new bike lanes in various towns. Get a feel for the full plan by the 38-page draft labeled as Chapter 12 -Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation plan, at <http://www.srpedd.org/tplan2011.asp>

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**As details of the following rides become known, they will be posted on RIBike.org and also on the NBW website: nbwclub.org**

**May 18 Providence: Ride of Silence in honor of fallen cyclists.**

**May 20 Bike to Work Day.**

Providence: Cyclist/commuter breakfast at the World War I Memorial, 6:30 AM to 9:30 AM. Program details are still being refined. Newport: Cyclist/commuter breakfasts. Program details and location still being refined.

Providence: Tentative plans for short rides to a local destination for food, socialization and fun.

## Other events in the works:

Lectures and classes to help commuters learn useful skills, such as flat repair.

Plans are being made for social tents after some NBW Sunday rides.

