

CITY OF CONCORD

Press Release
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CONTACT:
Stefanie Breton
Public Information Officer
(603) 230-4940

City Acquires Northern Railroad Property from CSX

Concord, NH – Today, the City of Concord acquired the 81.73 acre / 5.73-mile segment of the Northern Railroad between Horseshoe Pond Lane and the Contoocook River from Boston & Maine Corporation (CSX Transportation) for the sum of \$535,000 to develop the rail trail portion of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail (MRGT) (CIP #543). The purchase of this corridor, and subsequent development of the rail trail, will provide intermodal connectivity between downtown Concord, Penacook Village and the Heights, as well as expand recreational opportunities for all City residents.

The City has received a \$1.7 million NHDOT Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Grant, and will be able to proceed with design of that section of the MRGT near Second Street and Sewalls Falls Road this summer. The City recently applied for funding through the USDOT Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program to cover design and construction costs for the trail between Horseshoe Pond Lane and Second Street.

This acquisition, and the subsequent development of the associated 5.73-mile section of the MRGT, will further enhance the City's standing of being one of the premiere communities in New England in which to live, work, and play.

Important economic and community development benefits associated with the acquisition of this property, and subsequent development of the respective rail trail, will accrue to Concord. Tangible benefits will likely include tax base expansion associated with potential growth of property values for those parcels and neighborhoods with convenient access to the rail trail. Additionally, potential limited commercial enterprises such as cafes or trail focused cottage industries like bicycle rental or cross-country ski rental shops, may develop near key intersections or trailheads along the MRGT. Such activity could result in tax base expansion, job creation, and expanded community vitality.

Because rail trails provide important quality of life amenities for the community, it is also anticipated that acquisition of this property and subsequent development of



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a 5.73-mile section of the MRGT will generate less tangible, but very important, economic and community development benefits. Such amenities are often cited as being beneficial for employers looking to attract or retain employees in the regional labor market. In addition, the rail trails will be one more important public amenity which will serve to make Concord that much more desirable among consumers of commercial and residential real estate.

More information about the MRGT is available on the [City's website](#).

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