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MMW Date: $\qquad$

# NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) 

## Round 4-2021 APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

1. Sponsor Information (Sponsor is the municipality or school district / SAU that is applying. Contact is the person who will be in responsible charge of the project).

Sponsor Name: Town of New Boston
Mailing Address: 7 Meetinghouse Hill Road
PO Box 250
New Boston, NH 03070
Telephone: (603) 487-2500 X121
Email: p.flynn@newbostonnh.gov

Contact Name: Peter R. Flynn
Title: Town Administrator
Mailing Address: $\begin{aligned} & \text { PO Box } 250 \\ & \text { New Boston, NH } 03070\end{aligned}$

Telephone: 603 487-2500 X121
Email:p.flynn@newbostonnh.gov

Governing Regional Planning Commission: SNHPC

## 2. Project Information

Map: (A map is required as part of the application. Map must be scanned as a pdf file. Map should include street names, State route numbers, project details, identification of resources, north arrow, and a scale)

MAP SUBMITTED

Eligible TAP Activities: Check the eligible TAP activity(s) that your project is proposing.


Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic-calming techniques, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 12101 et seq).

Construction, planning, and design of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs.

Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users.

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The Safe Routes to School Program eligible projects and activities listed at section 1404(f) of the SAFETEA-LU: Infrastructure-related projects only.

## Description of work being proposed:

(Clearly describe purpose and need for project as well as project goals and objectives)
We are hoping to alleviate two issues with a Tunnel running under Parker Road. Currently the New Boston Rail Trail is crossed by Parker Rd., and this presents two problems for individuals utilizing the trail. The first problem we're trying to solve is a very steep incline coming from the trail up to the road and the steep decline on the other side of the road. The second and larger issue is the safety of people having to cross Parker Road. This is a heavily trafficked road that has two active gravel pits carrying dozens of large gravel trucks back and forth daily.

The New Boston Conservation Commission has been working on a rehabilitation of the New Boston Rail Trail for the last 9 years. The final stretch of the trail will be completed in the summer of 2021, providing a safe, hard-pack, level path winding along the Piscataquog River for approximately 3.9 miles. Our goal from the start of the Rail Trail Rehab Project has always been to create a trail that was accessible to all; this includes hikers, bicyclists, children in strollers, cross-country skiers, horseback riders and those in wheelchairs. The only problem area on the entire stretch is where Parker Road crosses the Rail Trail. When the trains were running, there was a wooden bridge built above the tracks so the train passed below motorized traffic. When the railroad discontinued running into New Boston, that area was filled in to bring the grade up to the bridge height and Parker Road was subsequently paved.

If we can get this tunnel installed under Parker Road, it means that the trail will remain relatively level and flat from one end to the other, and more importantly, the tunnel will provide safe access under the road and no need to cross the busy road. This will finally fulfill the goal set by the Conservation Commission late in 2011, to create a safe conservation trail in New Boston that would be accessible to all.

## Resources within project limits:

(List all cultural, archeological, and natural resources, as well as any known hazardous materials in project limits)

When the Boston \& Maine Railroad was running into New Boston daily, it was necessary to construct a bridge above the trail tracks below to allow the trains to pass under the Parker Road traffic. Although we are not planning to recreate the wooden bridge, we are in fact bringing the Rail Trail non-motorized traffic back underneath the motorized traffic on Parker Rd.

## Project Details

Road Name(s) (List all roads in project limits)
PARKER ROAD

State Route Number: (List all State route numbers or $N / A$ if on a municipal road)
N/A

Railroad: (List name of railroad corridor if rail trail or rail with trail project)
The New Boston Rail Trail

Other: (If off-road path, describe beginning and ending termination locations)

Length of Project: (If more than one location, provide total length of proposed improvement)
375 ' total length, including some changes to trail grade on either side of the tunnel.

Width of proposed improvement: (If width isn't consistent, provide an average width for majority of improvements,
However the tunnel ends up being constructed, the existing 8 ' wide trail will be maintained to provide continuity with the trail on either end of the tunnel.

Surface Type: (List Paved, Concrete, Gravel, Stone Dust, etc. for all proposed improvements)
Pre-cast concrete structure with a nit pack base which matches the surface on the rest of the Rail Trail.

Ownership: (List the entity that owns the land in the limits of your proposed improvements)
The land is all owned by the Town of New Boston

## 3. Project Cost Estimate

## Identify the estimated project costs under each of the phases below.

## A) Design/Engineering:

(Costs for engineering study, preliminary design, $\$ 65,000.00$ environmental review, identifying and establishing right-of-way, easements preparation, final design, and bid phase services)

## B) Right-Of-Way:

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(Cost of easement acquisition and/or land acquisition)
C) Construction:
$\$ 500,000.00$
(Cost of constructing project, materials, and labor)

## D) Construction Engineering:

(Cost of engineering oversight for the project. Oversight needs to be almost fulltime.

## Project Total: <br> 610,000.00 (Min. \$400,000 Max \$1,250,000)

## Identify the amount of federal funding you are applying for.

If you are overmatching your project to get your total up to $\$ 400,000$ or over $\$ 1,250,000$ you add the additional funds to your required match and put that in the Match\$ box below. Your \% federal funds will be adjusted based on your amount of overmatch. If you are adding funds that will be in addition to the amount of federal funds and match for your project those are considered non-participating funds. In this case you put the additional funds in the non-participating box. This is usually done if you want to do additional work that may not be eligible under the TAP program but you want the work done under the overall contract.

| Federal \$ 488,000.00 | 80 \% |
| :---: | :---: |
| (\$1,000,000 Max. \$320,000 Min. for federal amount requested) | (80\% Max. for TAP reimbursement) |
| Match \$ 122,000.00 | 20 \% |
| (Enter amount of local match and additional funds if applicable) | Reason for non-participating funds |
| Non-Participating \$ 0.00 |  |
| Funding Total \$ $\square$ 610,000.00 |  |

4. Evaluation Criteria (Applications will be scored on criteria developed by the Department's Transportation Alternatives Program Advisory Committee (TAPAC). The TAPAC developed these criteria to select the best applications for funding.)

There are four main criteria and five sub-criteria that will be used to evaluate projects and are listed below:

- RPC/MPO Ranking criterion, Section D will be done by the governing regional planning commission using the information provided in the application. Application will be submitted to the Department and the Department will forward copies to the Regional Planning Commissions


## MAIN CRITERIA

 SUB-CRITERIA

| Project Readiness and Support |
| :---: |
| Financial Readiness |
| Feasibility |

$\square$
Safety

Project Connectivity

Note: Information for this criterion will be provided by your governing Regional Planning Commission during the scoring process.

## MANDATORY REQUIREMENT: All applications must include a letter of support from the Sponsor's governing body committing to actively engaging and leading the project. Application will not be accepted without this letter.

## Letter of support attached: <br> 

- Project Readiness and Support: Is the project part of a local and/or regional plan and effort, and has it been endorsed by local and regional bodies and advocacy groups? That is, did you build your case about the importance of this project to many constituents like conservation commission, planning board, other local groups? Is it part of a regional plan or have RPC/TAC support? Is it part of a master plan or other planning document? (Number of constituents and/or planning documents will be used for scoring)

This is the final project in a years long effort to rehab the Rail Trail, which had become impassable for many as a result of decades of delayed maintenance. Parts of the trail had mature trees that had grown up in the rail bed. There were places that became so wet in the spring, that over time the trail was re-routed off the actual trail. After Phase 1 was completed, the support from the Town was amazing. Our ribbon cutting ceremony was well attended and in the years since, many events have brought people out on the trail, from bike rides, full moon snow shoe hikes, 5 K races and so much more. The New Boston Rail Trail has become the go-to spot for dog walkers, parents bike riding with children, senior citizens going on a leisurely walk as well as serious bikers - it's a great place for anyone wishing to get outdoors and enjoy the natural beauty of the river and woodlands.

Our Rail Trail Subcommittee Chair has been in touch with the Goffstown Rail Trail committee and there are plans for Goffstown/State to create a bike lane along Route 114 that would connect the New Boston Rail Trail with the Goffstown Rail Trail. This would allow users to get you all the way to Fisher Cat Stadium in Manchester.

Our volunteer crews have grown over the years, and now when a workday is planned for cleanup of ditch lines, culverts and general brush encroaching on the trail, we see upwards of 50 volunteers showing up with work gloves, lopers, rakes, etc... This rehabilitation effort has been so well publicized (recently on a Boston Chronicle TV show), that we are seeing folks coming to our Rail Trail from all over New England.

Our 2016 Master Plan included a Community Survey where a large majority of residents were interested in enhanced pedestrian and bicycle movement with paths and trails. The Vision Statement for the plan included "Natural resources are important to maintain the rural character of New Boston" as well as "..."guide development and help protect our resources and heritage".

- Financial Readiness: (TAP is a reimbursement program. Sponsor will have to gross appropriate funds for the entire project. (The Department reimburses a maximum of $80 \%$ of each reimbursement request.) Explain how the project will be funded and the timeline for funding. Is there a written commitment to bring this project forward for approval of funds at town meeting, through capital reserve funds, through inclusion in the capital improvement plan, etc. or are there funds already raised/appropriated and dedicated to this project?

The New Boston Conservation Commission began the Rail Trail Rehab Project in 2012 and used our own funds for the first section (Phase 1), which runs from the Fairgrounds to Lang Station. Phase 1B through Lang State Forest, was completed with the help of a Recreational Trails Program Grant. The Grant Amount was $\$ 23,052.75$ with our match pledge amount of $\$ 5,763.19$ which was raised through private donations. Phase 2 \& 3 which will be completed this summer, was helped by a LWCF Grant in the amount of $\$ 200,200$ of which we were obligated to match $50 \%$ or $\$ 100,100$. Again, the Conservation Commission raised the match with fundraising.

We plan of raising the matching funds for this TAP Grant the same way we have in the past, by fundraising. To date we have $\$ 30,000$ pledged for the tunnel project and will be aggressively fundraising throughout 2021. In 2022 our plan is to put forth a Warrant Article asking the taxpayers to help us raise the balance of matching funds for the project, but only if we have not already raised the entire amount ourselves.

- Feasibility: Address historic, cultural, environmental, maintenance, possible areas of contamination, and other related issues that may impact the project's ability to succeed. Applicant should discuss issue and how it will be addressed. Discuss impacts to project timeline and possible financial impacts.

The tunnel we are looking to install under Parker Road, connects two parts of the Rail Trail that currently are being rehabilitated. In 2020, all the trees that had grown up in the trail were cut down. This spring/summer, there will be repairs/replacement to failing culverts, there will be material brought in to raise the trail bed where required to cover tree roots or to eliminate low spots where water could puddle. And finally nit pack will be put on the trail to provide a hard but still permeable top coat on the trail. All the permitting is in place for the trail on either end of our proposed tunnel.

Our New Boston Road Agent has been involved with the preliminary plans for the tunnel, and is on board with this project.

# B) Safety: Projects will need to demonstrate the extent to which the project will improve safety conditions and/or reduce the perception of user stress as a result of the project being implemented. This criterion will be rated on the difference between the stress level of the existing condition versus the anticipated stress level of the proposed project. 

## - Stress Analysis:

- Describe the existing stress level of your project area as it exists today without the proposed project and based on the scale below, assign it a letter. You must justify why you chose the letter.
- Describe the anticipated stress level for the project area after the proposed project is completed and based on the scale below, assign it a letter. You must justify why you chose the letter.

A - Facility is reasonably safe for all children.

B - Facility can accommodate users with basic skills and knowledge of traffic.

C - Facility requires an intermediate level of skill and knowledge of traffic to use.

D - Facility requires an advanced level of skill and knowledge of traffic to use.

E - Facility is generally not suitable for pedestrians or bicyclists.
C. The knowledge of traffic is not the biggest stress-er, although young children or seniors or wheelchair bound individuals may have difficulties crossing over Parker Rd with frequent heavy truck traffic. The steep inclines to get from the trail up to Parker Road in order to cross over does cause difficulties for many who find the strenuous climb difficult.

Once a tunnel is installed, we move to an A, which means that all users on the Rail Trail from young children to handicapped individuals will be able to pass through the tunnel and easily continue along the trail.

- Improve Safety Conditions: Improvement over existing safety conditions - are there very specific actions that are being taken to improve safety. What specific safety improvements will be made? If there is information, (road safety audit, corridor study, etc.) to support it, please provide it in pdfformat with your application. Only specific actions and improvements will be used for scoring - anecdotal information will not be used.
Allowing people to traverse our Rail Trail without having to cross Parker Road simply makes it so much safer. Although the climb can be difficult for some, it's the experienced bikers who may try to ride up to and across Parker Road rather than dismount and cross on foot, who may be at greatest risk for an accident. With tractor trailer trucks hauling gravel out of gravel pits located down the road from the trail crossing, it makes this road riskier than most, as it would be very difficult for a heavy truck to stop quickly for a pedestrian crossing Parker Rd.


## C) Project Connectivity: Project will need to demonstrate how it enables movement from origins to destinations, how it fits in with the larger transportation network and identify any other modes it will serve.

- Does the project fill a vital gap in an existing transportation network or phased plan? Does it provide a standalone new facility that did not exist previously? Is it part of a larger phased plan? List the different modes and destinations it link together? Please describe in detail all connections, and if part of a phased plan what will the proposed improvement accomplish? Is it the first phase, middle phase or final phase of the plan.
This tunnel will become a part of the Rail Trail - replacing a heavily traveled Parker Road. Keeping trail users off Parker Rd, allows them to easily get all the way through to the end of the Rail Trail as it continues the flat, level trail bed that will continue for the entire length of the trail.
D) RPC/MPO Rankings: This section will be completed by the local Regional Planning Commission for your project.
- The Department will send applications to the local Regional Planning Commissions to score and develop a regional ranking. This information will then be incorporated into the final score of projects.


## NO ACTION NEEDED FROM APPLICANT FOR SECTION D

## Only one application will be accepted per municipality

- The Department received 43 letters of interest requesting more than $\$ 29.6$ million in federal funds.

5) Application Submission Information: The application is an adobe .pdf form and it must be saved and copied to our Department FTP site. Any supporting documents like the Map, Letter of support and other supporting documentation need to be submitted with the application in pdf format and saved to the FTP site. Directions on accessing the Department FTP site are below. A tutorial on accessing the FTP site and copying files will be on the TAP website.

## APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 11:59PM FRIDAY MARCH 19, 2021!

## Failure to meet this deadline will result in your project being removed from the scoring process.

## Submission Guidelines

Format: Application form must be saved electronically as a pdf and then copied to the Department FTP site. All supporting maps, letters and other documents must be saved as a pdf and transmitted saved to the Department FTP site with the application form.

Naming Convention: The FTP site has one folder for all submissions, TAP Applications
Round 4. To keep track of the applications and attachments it is essential you follow the following naming convention. Name of town/city followed by file.
Example: ConcordApplication.pdf ConcordMAP.pdf ConcordLetterOfSupport.pdf
Failure to follow this naming convention will cause confusion and could result in applications and/or attachments being lost.

A TUTORIAL DOCUMENT WILL BE PUT ON THE TAP WEBSITE. THIS DOCUMENT WILL SHOW how to Access the fip site, how to copy files to the site and to explain the REQUIRED NAMING CONVENTION

Submission: All files must be received on or before 11:59 PM Friday March 19, 2021.

Direct any questions to: Tom Jameson, email: thomas.e.jameson@dot.nh.gov , phone: 2713462


NH Department of Transportation
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)


## RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT

To Whom It May Concern:
The New Boston Conservation Commission (NBCC) has been engaged in a New Boston Rail Trail rehabilitation project since early in 2012. Early work consisted of boundary marking, meeting with DRED regarding the stretch of the Rail Trail that was part of Lang State Forest Land and putting together a committee to develop a plan.

Over the next eight years, the NBCC has worked tirelessly with the goal of creating a 4.75 mile trail that would be accessible to all. Phase One was completed in 2015 with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held on August $30^{\text {th }}$ at Lang Station. Two subsequent grants allowed the commission to rehab the stretch of trail that runs through Lang State Forest (Phase 1B) and finish the trail to the end (Phase 2\&3), which is ongoing and scheduled to be completed this summer.
With all this work, we have a trail that is level, free of tree roots and has a hard (but permeable), nit pack surface that makes it easy to traverse for hikers, bicyclists, $x$-country skiers as well as wheelchair bound individuals or children in strollers. This makes the New Boston Rail Trail the one and only safe spot in our community where all people, young or old and all physical abilities, can be outdoors and enjoy nature in a safe environment.

However, despite all the work, there still remains one problem area. The Rail Trail crosses over Parker Road, which is quite heavily traveled by not only local vehicles, but by heavy gravel trucks coming from two active pits located just down the road from the crossing. When the New Boston Railroad was running, there was a wooden bridge built above the railroad. After the Railroad ended, fill was brought in to raise the grade of the road equal to the bridge height. For today's trail, it means climbing a steep incline to the road, walking across the street followed by a steep decline back to the rail trail. The installation of a culvert at the current rail trail grade would alleviate not only the steep incline/decline, but more importantly keep pedestrians from having to cross Parker Road.

We wholeheartedly support this TAP Grant that will allow the Town of New Boston, and by extension the New Boston Conservation Commission, to finish the project and fulfill our goal of creating a trail that end-to-end is accessible to all.

## Regards,



Laura Bernard, Chairman
New Boston Conservation Commission


# Town of New Boston <br> 7 Meetinghouse Hill Road <br> P.O. Box 250 

New Boston, NH 03070-0250
Phone • (603) 487-2500 Fax • (603) 487-2975
www.newbostonnh.gov

March 15, 2021

NH Department of Transportation
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT

To Whom It May Concern:
The New Boston Board of Selectmen would like to express our support for the Rail Trail project our Conservation Commission is working to complete with the help of a TAP Grant. The New Boston Rail Trail rehabilitation project has spanned close to a decade and resulted in a Rail Trail that is heavily utilized by people of all ages and abilities. This trail has become an important feature in our community that people use all year round.

The section of the Rail Trail that crosses over Parker Road is the final project required to finish the work. It is also understood, that in the future, we will be working with Goffstown in hopes of connecting our Rail Trail with thiers, which could allow residents to hike or bike from New Boston all the way to Fisher Cat Stadium in Manchester.

We wholeheartedly support this TAP Grant application that will allow the Town of New Boston, and by extension the New Boston Conservation Commission to finish the project and fulfill the goal of creating a safe trail that is accessible to all.

Regards,




