

Section 1: Northampton / Hadley / Amherst /Belchertown

Shorter Comment

Because I don't drive, I rely on the trail for safe shopping, appointments and social life by bike. (01060)

Appreciate having a safe place to walk with a stroller and bike with children! (01002)

Build it! Bike paths are economic boosters that keep us all healthy and happy. Isn't that the point of local and state government? Do it! (01027)

I absolutely love the trail and wish it was longer (01075)

I am so excited about this expansion taking place, and am very excited about exploring more of New England this way. If there were places to stay along the trail, I can totally see taking multi-day trips. (01027)

I am so excited to hear about extension of the trail. I think this is a win-win! Will provide safe access to the outdoors, a safe place for cyclists and there is bound to be multiplier effects from the use of the trail. (01002)

I don't use the trail in the winter because it isn't plowed -- it would be great to have a year-round trail to use for commuting purposes. (01062)

I love the trail system, also connecting Northampton to the Manhan and then Westfield trail would allow you to go from Boston to New Haven, which would be amazing. (01030)

I stopped biking because of low vision but still walk 4 or 5 times per week (02360)

I would love to be able to use the trail in Palmer/Ware more often for a longer stretch. If Palmer was connected to Amherst, then I could potentially bike occasionally to work. (01080)

If the trail went further to the east, I'd consider a bike ride with an overnight stay. There wasn't an option for this between "likely" and "no" in the question asked. (01060)

It isn't completed. It is shocking that it takes long. (01062)

It would be fantastic to have the trail completed - it would make it so much easier to visit lots of places along the route It would be amazing to cycle to Boston. (01002)

Mostly I just want it to be longer! I'm also looking into buying an e bike to go longer distances/bike commute more regularly. (01027)

My family is particularly interested n the Belchertown section, we have to drive 15 minutes to get to the terminus on Warren Wright currently. My kids could bike to school if it was through the center of town! (01007)

Not fit enough to do longer tours, but if I were 20-30 years younger, would have liked the opportunity. (01062)

Only that it's not complete, particularly near my home in Worcester County. (01473)

Please- as much trail as possible. I use it a lot and would use it more if there were more connections. My wife uses a wheelchair, and the trail is such an important element in our outdoor time. (01007)

Please prioritize this project as a substantive measure to further accessibility, social justice, and sustainability. (01002)

rail trail does WONDERS for my mental health. thank you (01002)

Rail trails are terrific for the community, economy and health of the population. If there were more and longer trails it would attract more people who would spend more money. (01002)

Sounds wonderful. Thanks for working on this to expand our biking and walking opportunities, reduce our carbon footprint for commuting and recreation, and promote our individual and collective health by doing so! (01060)

The current existing paths are great, i don't have a car and use the bike as my primary mode of transport, so accessing big box stores, cities for work, appointments is fantastic. Completing the missing pieces would increase my access to other areas. (01002)

The Easthampton-Northampton-Amherst corridor is blessed with a true network that allows me to shop, visit the doctor, run errands and have fun on off-street infrastructure. I wish this for everyone. (01060)

The main criteria for choosing our home was its close proximity to the Northampton Trail. Its rough condition is a concern. (01060)

The MCRT is a valuable community resource. Once completed, I imagine many will benefit from its existence. Hopefully food and overnight accommodations will emerge to serve those that enjoy multi-day rides. (01002)

the pathway should be seized by eminent domain to prevent legacy right of way holders from having a mechanism to thwart it in the name of nimbyism. (01085)

The trail is wonderful. The more it can be extended the more we would use it. (01002)

Think it is a terrific project that would integrate the state in meaningful way both economically and culturally (01060)

This is a great idea. Riding the MCRT from home to Boston would be great fun. I would visit Boston more often, but by bike. (01002)

This is a phenomenal project & I can't wait to see it completed. The section that I utilize most often, the Norwottuck Rail Trail is a gem. It is an accessible & democratic space used by a true cross section of the community. (01002)

Trails are a necessity to our mental and physical wellbeing. (06098)

Walkable and bike able communities are healthier, more socially connected, and more practical places to live and work. (06457)

We need more rail trails everywhere! I would support a state tax for this type of infrastructure development. (01923)

We would love to travel the state from our home by bicycle. We already travel for bicycle vacations. (01060)

Longer Comment

Completion of the trail should be a very high priority! It will have a positive effect (physical and mental health, economic, and environmental) on every community through which it passes. Not to mention the state as a whole in terms of drawing tourism. (01002)

Currently the time/distance I need to drive to access the trail is the most limiting factor. If the trail were completed there would likely be access points closer to my house that I might be able to bike directly to. My kids LOVE riding their bikes on the rail trail, particularly into town centers for snacks/treats. We've even ridden to dinner and a movie with them and they're both under 10. It's an amazing way to get them out and exercising and extending the trail beyond it's current termination at warren wright road would certainly increase our ability to access it and the destinations we could plan to visit (01033)

Dear G-d we need more non-car infrastructure in MA. It kills me that people still need survey results to believe how far behind we are from other countries/places. There are no downsides to bike paths ever! Put them all over the place and retake our space from cars, please!! Thank you for all your hard efforts - it's appreciated!! (01376)

I am very supportive of this initiative to complete the trail in its entirety. I work in the transportation world and understand the challenges associated with these types of projects. Keep the process moving, set reasonable goals that are achievable to further build support, connect resources, provide parking, good signage, rest locations and areas of beauty, build public and abutter support, keep it positive and growing. Best wishes. (01010)

I bike to work, dinner, shopping and social gatherings everyday. During the snowless months half of those bike trips are on the rail trail. Also, we actively search out bike trips on other bike trails and are delighted the such an adventure might be so nearby. (01002)

I can see my husband and I planning a cycling adventure (with hotel stay/s) from Northampton (where we live) to Boston if the trail were totally complete. But otherwise, because we live across the street from it, we don't spend extra using it, but do use it very often! (01060)

I think it is important to complete the entire trail. The trail provides recreational opportunities and safe commuting opportunities for people. I currently have a coworker that uses it to commute by bicycle round trip between Northampton and Amherst, and I had a former coworker that used it to commute by bicycle round trip between Belchertown and Amherst. I no longer ride a bicycle for fear of falling. When I was a bike rider, I used the trail much more frequently than I do now. And if I still rode a bike, I would definitely consider it for multi-day trips with overnight stays. Now I use it just to meet up occasionally for walks with certain friends. I think the rail trail is a very important thing to have for the quality of life in Massachusetts. Please complete it. (01020)

I wanted to bike from Northampton to Worcester earlier this year. Norwottuck RT was great until Station Rd, but then it's high-traffic roads like Route 9, ugh. I bike toured in Nova Scotia in August and loved the Celtic Shores Coastal Trail. I'm a life-long cyclist -- racing, touring, commuting, advocacy -- and am comfortable riding in traffic. But that doesn't mean I like traffic. On the contrary, I bike for pleasure and health and low carbon footprint. I bike to enjoy nature. That is ruined by traffic, but enhanced by rail trails. (01060)

I would be thrilled in the MCRT were extended! I live very close to the trail in Northampton and it is a huge part of my life for commuting to work in Amherst, walking or biking to my community garden, running errands in town, or just relaxing. My life would be very different without the MCRT, and access to the trail will be a big factor in where I move next. I have also used the MCRT in eastern MA and think it would be an incredible amenity for the state if it were continuous. My vision for the trail includes safer streets getting to and from the trail -- every community should be looking at its bike lanes and sidewalks and incorporating bike racks into nearby commercial areas. More restrooms/porta potties along the trail would also be very helpful! (01060)

I'm an amateur bike rider currently who mainly uses the rail trail to commute to work about half the days in the spring/summer. I also use the trail to access the Northampton downtown area when there is nice weather. If there was a continuous trail from Northampton to Boston, I would likely take longer trips and explore farther. As an amateur, I'm not comfortable riding along the regular road to reach sections of trail and would rather be on as continuous a section of rail trail as possible. (01060)

In the 1970's and 80's I biked extensively out of Boston, well before there was much trail infrastructure. I then moved to Northampton where I have enjoyed the significant trail system. I have not biked to Boston in years, but now that I'm in my 70's I would gladly welcome and use a full route off the dangerous roads to visit the eastern part of the state (01060)

my property overlooks the rail trail. I have lived here for 35 years and the number of people using the trail for exercise, relaxation, and commuting has increased even during inclement and winter weather. In

addition increasing options for fossil fuel free travel on roadways, completing the MCRT should be a priority for supporting both healthy lifestyle and economic vitality. (01062)

On two occasions, I have bicycled from my current home in Northampton, MA to my family home in Wayland, MA, a distance of about 100 miles. On both occasions, I followed existing portions of the MCRT, even when it wasn't the shortest route after deviating around an incomplete section. A completed MCRT would offer excellent and safe long or short distance recreational opportunities for a wide variety of users well away from car traffic. In addition to the recreational opportunities, it would be a great asset for those who need to or choose to commute on foot or by bicycle in their daily lives. This project would be an incredible asset for the state! (01060)

The rail trail is a gigantic resource and attraction for me. Ever since it expanded in my area (Western Mass) I use it weekly, for everything from commuting to recreation to exercise to just getting around. Truly a gem, and the better it gets, the more we get on it and the further we go! (01002)

The trail near my house is very short and awaiting a piece to connect it up to more. Otherwise, I would be using the path a LOT more. I would walk and bike almost everywhere I need to go instead of having to drive. I think that's very important, and more fun. Thank you! (01062)

These questions would never be asked about the construction of a road. But for some reason railroads and bike paths which have countless benefits and much lower environmental impacts will be litigated until they don't happen. I will never understand American short sightedness on this. (01060)

This needs to get done. It will definitely increase tourism in central MA. In the last year I have ridden the Farmington River trail in CT (over an hour from my home) and the Harlem Valley Trail in Millerton NY (over two hours away). I would love to add central and eastern MA sections of the MCRT. (01062)

While I use the trail frequently, they are short trips to do my work 99.9% of the time. HOWEVER, I would definitely be inspired to take my family on a longer ride and explore the towns along the trail when it's completed. We have ridden on other trails in the country and look forward to being bicycle tourists in our own state when this project is advanced to a sufficient stage!! (01062)

Section 2: Palmer / Rutland / Ware / Hardwick / New Braintree / Barre

Shorter Comment

I can't wait for the trail to be complete. I think it will bring in lots of commerce to small towns (01082)

I live in Ware dead smack in the middle of a red zone (closed section of the trail) but I'd love to see it opened so I could hop on across the street from our house and go places! (01082)

I moved to Barre 5 years ago. One of my favorite things about the town is easy access to CMRT. love the trail! (01005)

I travel several times a week to bike on rail trails. At my age, I prefer paved trails for safety reasons. If the MCRT were complete, I would bike the entirety of it over several days. (01543)

I would like to learn more I could do to complete the project (01520)

Longer Comment

Section 3: Oakham / Rutland / Holden / West Boylston

Shorter Comment

I bring my Scout troop once or twice a month to rail trails in the warmer months (long daylight) (01453)

I currently run or walk the trails but if a continuous trail existed I would get a trail bike for long rides. (01564)

I fully support this trail, and its completion along its entire length! I would be willing to pay more in taxes for infrastructure like this! (02132)

I love that it exists in my community, even if I do not personally use it frequently. (01604)

I think it's a fabulous goal. I am limited in how much I can do because of physical limitations but my husband rides his bike all over the trails. (01520)

I want to be able to ride my bike car free from one end of the state to the other. I would love a NY/VT/MA state line to P-town option too (or really anything that traverses multiple localities ALL CONNECTED- like an interstate for bikes) (01564)

One continuous trail between Boston and Northampton would be awesome (01602)

Rebuild the bridge across the Nashua River and connect to the old Clinton Tunnel. It would be a worldwide attraction. Travel \$\$ flowing in from around the country forever. (01612)

The MCRT adds to the quality of life for many people! (01520)

The rail trail is such a great resource for the community. It would be amazing to have a contiguous trail across the State. (01520)

The rail trail really is invaluable. I don't know what I would do without it. Being able to access it, especially during COVID really helped my mental health (01605)

This trail is a welcome addition to recreational opportunities in our area. Many people would never go biking or walking if this trail did not exist. (01068)

We have visited the Erie Canal Rail Trail for overnight trips. Would love to be able to do overnight trips closer to home!!! (01469)

Would like to see the trail finished and find ways to connect this to other paths - like the Blackstone River Bikeway. (01609)

Longer Comment

I am a college student studying in MA but from New Jersey. I am involved in scouting which has many backpacking options for requirements and also 50-mile hike or bike awards. I would absolutely love to plan a trip with my Jersey scouts to come up here to do a 50-mile trek. It's so beautiful and different from our area which long trails like that are hard to come by. I know many New England scout units would take advantage of it and the length of it if all joined together. (08732)

I would love to use my bike on the trail more and the section I am closest to is fairly short. Biking on roads feels riskier these days and biking on a continuous trail would definitely increase the amount of biking I do. We recently bought new bikes for my family at Whitco and would love to be able to ride from town to town! (01520)

I would prefer to keep the top of the dam off limits to the public but see the trail connection made via a bridge that connects the tunnel on the SE side of Rte. 70 to the trails on the NE side of the reservoir. This structure would certainly be a draw for many folks to come and travel on the trail and over the bridge. (01453)

Some additional amenities on the trail would be nice. We ended up in downtown Rutland hoping for a little bakery. On Google it says it was open, it was closed and dd was only open to cars/drive through. That's kind of specific, but you get the idea. Thanks for the interest and good luck with the project! (01720)

The closed sections of the trail make traveling long distances difficult. If the trail was continuous, that would be amazing! Similar to the Erie Canal Bikeway. Planning on doing a multi-day bike trip for that and staying at a few hotels on the way. I would totally do that for the MCRT if it becomes continuous. (01810)

There is nothing that limits my ability to use the trail but because it is in sections and not a thruway, I find it discouraging. I need /want a very long nonstop bike ride.... several hours long. I think it would be fantastic to have a fully completed trail from Boston to Northampton. I have been waiting for this since 2006, when I

first moved to Massachusetts from New York. My sister lives in Ohio where there is a nonstop rail trail from Cincinnati to Cleveland. (01524)

Section 4: Clinton / Berlin / Bolton / Hudson / Sudbury / Wayland / Weston / Waltham

Shorter Comment

Bridge at the Weston/Waltham line really needs to be completed. Current detour onto the road (if you know to take it...) is prohibitive (01776)

Connecting up the MCRT will give me a safer long distance cycling route to train on. Once it connects to other long distance rail trails, I can lead group rides for beginning cyclists on it! (02493)

I have a road bike, I wish I could use the rail trail to get to work in the next town over, but the Clinton section is not built, I need to get to Sterling. (01510)

I hope I can use an e-bike so I can continue using this when I get older. Having the Bruce Freeman and MCRT so close has motivated us to stay in our town. (01776)

I look forward to biking on the MCRT from Wayland to Hudson for lunch some weekend (01778)

I will not ride on the roads now due to safety concerns. I would use the extended trail to run errands into town and to lengthen my exercise rides - that benefits me and the town! (01749)

I wish that the state was more active in pushing for completion of the trail (01742)

I would be stoked to do a multi-day trip on this path!! So excited to see the Waltham section being worked on. Also, my partner and I's first date was riding the trail (02131)

I would bike to work from Hudson to Maynard if I could do it safely, but from what I understand Stow won't spend the money for their 2+ miles. (01749)

If the path from Charlestown to Sudbury was fully complete, I could bike to the path instead of driving (02138)

I'm interested in the connecting trails, such as the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and the Assabet River Rail Trail. I hope the network of trails is connected while I'm able to ride. (01741)

I'm limited because it's not finished. Go, Go, Go! (02451)

It is crucial to complete the portion of the trail over I-95 in Waltham. I will be able to use the trail far more frequently when that is complete (01773)

It would be so great if the entire 104 miles were an official trail! (02493)

Looking forward to proper access at the Weston-Waltham connection. The missing maintained link between the Weston end and the new Waltham section is vital for access and through-use and should be the top priority. (02453)

Looking forward to the Bruce Freeman expansion in Sudbury connecting. This will remove my need to drive to the trail. (01776)

Looking forward to the trail being completed. Thanks for promoting the trail and informing the public about the progress on the trail (01742)

Looking forward to using the connection from the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail in Sudbury when it is completed. (01742)

My entire family looks forward to having the Mass Central Trail fully developed and connected to Bay Circuit Trail, Bruce Freeman Trail, Wayland's Sudbury Aqueduct/Hultman Aqueduct, and other trails in eastern Massachusetts. (01760)

Thank you! Completing the entire trail as soon as possible should be high priority. This is the best use of public funds that I can think of. Particularly high priority should be connecting to already-built sections. (02451)

The fact that each town has to have its own group of people become active, raise money, deal with NIMBY neighbors. At this rate most of us will never live to see MCRT completed. We really need state government-level leadership around this. (01510)

The trail is excellent, keep up the good work, looking forward to the future of this trail. (02135)

Longer Comment

Bridges being open on the east end of the Westin section are essential, especially the one over the MBTA tracks. The abandoned rail bridge over 95 is safe and comfortable. Crossing 95 via Rte 20 is a vehicular homicide waiting to happen, and using MA is "only" dangerous & unpleasant. Infrastructure like the MCRT is not just a recreational amenity, it's a vital safe connection between different communities. It should be funded & maintained as such. (02155)

Currently I only use the trail for recreation. However, if the segment in Sudbury and Hudson was built, I would purchase an e-bike and use it as an alternative to car commutes for work. The long delays in building the trail have been very aggravating. (02465)

Getting to and from the trail can be dangerous. Biking from Boston to Waltham is harrowing. Worst part of my ride, but once I'm on the trail, I love it. Having a contiguous path where I can exercise without fear or getting run over by a car is wonderful. Any expansion to the trail is great and ensuring that roads leading to it and intersecting with it are safe would make me much more likely to use the trail than I do now. Thank you! (01235)

Having the trail broken up makes my use limited to short trips, primarily walking. If the trail was contiguous then I would use it more often, particularly for biking. I understand that there is an economic return that must be considered to build these trails and get easements, etc. The bigger picture is the quality of life that having these trails provide. Thanks to the volunteers that work to create and maintain these treasures. (01510)

I feel much safer traveling via the rail trail than on roads with cars. The only thing limiting my use are the incomplete trails. Prefer to ride from my house than having to drive my bike. Currently riding from Mass Central Trail than through Waltham to hope on to the Charles River Greenway. Scary riding on the Waltham streets & have to walk my bike across the railroad bridge in Waltham at the end of the Mass central. (01773)

I live in Somerville and commute to Natick. The lack of a Bridge in Waltham primarily, and the incomplete Waltham/Belmont sections secondarily, prevent me from biking through these areas. Instead I take the commuter rail between Porter/Kendall green. If the route were continuous (or at least reasonably passable with the Waltham bridge) I would take the whole route and stop for groceries at the great specialty/regional grocers in Waltham as a part of my errands, or stop for dinner on the river, etc etc. Instead, I bike through Framingham, Wayland, and Weston where there are more limited shops, and I am in a rush to get to my train on time. (02144)

I live in Waltham near Belmont. There is no MCRT here. If there were, I'd ride on it at least 2 or 3 times a week. I drive to Wayland and ride with a friend who is in a wheelchair. I use the Minuteman trail frequently and the Charles River bike path less often. (02452)

In 2021, myself and 3 others used the MCRT as the backbone for an east-west walk across Mass taking 31 half days. We stopped in many towns to explore the area around the trail. Eating lunch and staying over in western mass. In this first trip we stayed 6 overnights in hotels with associated dinner and breakfast. The lack of continuity was a challenge. If completed more people would undertake this walk across mass. (01752)

This completed rail trail would be terrific for many users that fear riding their bicycles on the road. It would allow many more families to take advantage of beautiful landscapes that the Commonwealth has to offer. It would also be nice to take multi-day excursions and see other towns/cities. (02451)

we've visited completed long-distance multi-community trails in Maryland, Virginia, Georgia and several in Florida - the impact after completion was far greater than anticipated, especially for smaller towns similar to Hardwick - - see Winter Park FL as an example. Given our pop density and interest in outdoor exercise in New England, it is reasonable to think of similar impacts here. But its interesting to consider different (non-tourism) economic impacts that might be as substantial on the eastern section (Bolton to Belmont) - where benefits include getting cars off town streets (bike commuting), healthier citizens, diverting shopping trips from malls to local stores, much more biking to school (=less busing and car traffic), and growth of bike and food businesses catering to trail users (as along the Minuteman). A different calculus - but potentially even larger magnitude. (01776)

What limits my ability to use the trail is that it is not completed in Sudbury. My husband and I like to ride the trails. Last year, we went with friends twice to Amherst, spent the night, bought food in Amherst and Northampton, etc. Recently, we did the same on the trails in Providence, RI spending 2 nights with dining in local restaurants, etc. If the trail were completed, we could access it within a mile of our house. It would be great! (01776)

Section 5: Belmont / Cambridge / Somerville / Boston

Shorter Comment

An extended multi-day ride out to NoHo and back is a really intriguing idea! (02476)

As I get older and the traffic on the roadways increases, I feel more comfortable riding on a protected trail. I like to distance bicycle at a leisurely pace, approximately 10 mph. (02476)

Can't wait to be able to ride seamlessly from Boston to Northampton! (02446)

Completing the Belmont/Waltham section would significantly increase my use of the trail. (02478)

Currently, the amount of on-road distances make it less conducive to long-distance riding safely. A completed trail will be an economic benefit to towns along the trail, especially in areas more economically depressed. (02139)

Destinations. Because I don't like biking with the kids on unsafe roads, we're limited to where the trail takes us. More directions would be incredible. (02144)

During rush traffic side roads are so busy with cars I do not ride my bike to access the trail (02478)

I am from the eastern part of the state, and would go there and spend money more often if I and my family could bike! (01002)

I do an annual ride from Worcester to Northampton/North Adams and the trail in WMass is the best part! Love all of the bits of the MCRT on the way but it would make a huge difference to have it be continuous. (02144)

I have bike packed all over New England. Many 3-7 day trips. This completed trail would provide a vital link to connect so many rail trails all over New England. (01887)

I have biked from Boston to North Hampton in the past and a continuous trail would make the journey so much nicer and easier to navigate. I would love an easier way to bike out to central/western mass (02139)

I live in Cambridge and don't drive, but my family is in Longmeadow. A safe route cross-state would allow me to make that trip without relying on a bus or train that can quickly sell out around the holidays. (02139)

I strongly support completion of this trail, which will provide significant recreational, health, economic, air quality and climate benefits. (02138)

I would love to see the trail completed. I live at its Eastern end, and I would bike out to central Mass a few times a year if it were completed. (02140)

I would use this trail more with my children, but any gaps that require us to take a busy road make that impossible. (02140)

I'm much more comfortable biking on bike paths/rail trails and I love Northampton and the surrounding area so it would be so exciting to be able to bike there and not be dependent on bus/rail schedules (I don't have a car)! (02144)

It should be understood that the trail, especially it's connection to Boston and nearby communities, serves a crucial function to those seeking to commute safely by bike as well as those interested primarily in recreation. (02140)

It would be a vital commuter path, and would drive tourism throughout the Commonwealth. We are so close to having a world class path. (02478)

It's not fully connected! Massachusetts needs a bike trail that allows travelers to experience the state! (02115)

Love the rail trail for transportation! I don't have a car so the rail trail is vital for me to get around! (02143)

Not making this happen would be a tragically missed opportunity (02144)

Please invest in all bike/pedestrian infrastructure, including the Mass Central Rail Trail! We need more of these resources to help citizens with commuting, being more active, lowering carbon footprints, and enjoying outdoor recreation. (02145)

These trails are tremendous assets and we appreciate your work to make them more robust and protected and COMPLETE! thank you. (02478)

This will be one of the state's greatest resources once it's complete. That's what happens whenever one of these paths is created. Even opponents see it. (01824)

We recently enjoyed the 350 mile Erie Canal Bikeway in New York, including overnight stays and dining. Would love to do the same in our home state! (02145)

Would that rail trails in eastern Massachusetts were connected to those farther west. Would have been nice not to ride US-20, rather the MCRT from Newton to Sudbury when I worked at Raytheon. (02458)

Longer Comment

A completed trail would provide extensive opportunities for both recreational and commuter riders. It would provide a safe corridor for cyclists from Boston to the western outer suburbs, many of which are currently inaccessible to all but the most advanced riders and those willing to accept great risk for choosing bicycle as their transportation option. (02143)

A separated bike trail is a huge difference maker! Adding bike lanes to existing roads might not be worth the cost in many parts of the state, but a safe multi-use path is a simply a no-brainer. From a biking perspective - people are good judges of risk, so I would expect many more people to take longer or more frequent rides on trail infrastructure like this. (02143)

As Boston becomes less and less affordable, I have friends who are moving West. As someone without a car, having the bike continuous bike trail would allow me to stay connected to them and them to stay connected to Boston. I would absolutely make a multi-day ride end to end multiple times a year. (02130)

I currently use the Boston/Cambridge/Somerville sections for commuting and errands only, but I would like to use the rest for recreation. When I use trails recreationally, I spend more time on them and spend money at nearby shops in a way that I don't do for the central city commuting sections (02143)

I would love to see a completed 104-mile Mass Central Rail Trail in order to safely travel where I need to go. It's scary biking on the roads because drivers have the mistaken assumption that the road is only for cars, instead of sharing it with people. I've almost gotten hit multiple times and these instances would be lessened considerably if I had access to a contiguous trail. (02453)

Last month I biked to and from Amherst. Having this trail would have made it a much more enjoyable experience—and something that I would not only do again, but also convince friends and family to do. Given the current discontinuous sections of the trail, it only made sense for me to use Norwottuck rail trail but no other parts of the MCRT. Upgrading the "Unofficial paths" to stone dust, and the stone dust paths to paved services would certainly have the quickest impact by connecting existing sections—as the "closed" sections are likely much longer projects. I've spoken to people around the country (and from Europe) who want to bike New York's Empire Trail. Completing this trail would not only provide an amazing recreational resource to those from Massachusetts, but also attract people from around the country and world (especially if it one day connected to the Empire Trail in Albany). (02130)

Please keep up the great work. Hag by the option to ride my bike or walk to places locally and further out have a huge positive impact to my life. Being outside and not in a car or in public transportation is mentally I, physically and financially impactful to me. (02452)

The entrance behind the creepy industrial park in Waltham, that sketchy railroad bridge. Please extend the trail! Make MA a cycling destination! I just got a bikepacking tent *today* and would love to use it on a trip starting from home, rather than having to get a train to another state. (02139)

There are very few public transit accessible part of the trail. The central trail would be absolutely amazing for tourism and to connect the Pioneer Valley to the rest of the state. It will make MA less Boston-centric and showcase our beautiful and vibrant towns along the way! (02118)

This past may two friends and I did a bike tour across NY state because of their Empire trail. We stayed at AirBnbs all across the state and visited local restaurants, cafes, groceries, landmarks, and other shops during our 5-day tour. Well-designed cross state paths are not only great for residents but can be a regional attraction. (02143)

When I don't use the commuter rail, I bike from my office in Maynard back home to Somerville. Currently that requires 8 miles of unprotected road riding to get from Maynard to the unpaved Reformatory Branch trail, then to the Minuteman Path. If the MCRT were built, I could ride from my office to the MCRT via the Assabet wildlife refuge (or the proposed Assabet River trail extension) with many fewer interactions with car traffic. (02144)

Wish it was more continuous, like the Erie Canal trail in New York. Would love to do a long overnight trip via bike. Also, the road crossings feel dangerous in locations. Hope that more priority is giving to trail users at crossings and car drivers are compelled to slow down and yield. (02131)