

Mass Central Rail Trail The Golden Spike II Conference

On June 21, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Wachusett Greenways and the Wayside Rail-Trail Committee will hold The Golden Spike II Conference, focusing on the nearly dozen separate projects underway along the Mass Central corridor that stretches 104 miles across the Commonwealth — from Boston to Northampton. The alluring vision of restoring this corridor as a recreational trail from end to end was recently highlighted in a marvelous feature segment on WCVB's *Chronicle Magazine*.

Bentley College's newly expanded athletic field, directly adjacent to the Mass Central RR bridge over Linden Street (Rt. 60) in Waltham, will be the site of the Golden Spike II Conference. This location dramatically illustrates a scenic but neglected railroading vista and engineering wonder that will be revitalized as a multi-use rail trail.

Confirmed speakers at the time of this printing include: MassHighway Commissioner John Cogliano, MBTA officials, MDC officials, State Representative Anne Paulsen, Waltham Mayor David Gately, DEM Greenway Coordinator Jennifer Howard, and a few surprises.

With strong support for the Mass Central Rail Trail, the next governor of Massachusetts can move this project from being a grand vision to a reality. As such, we have invited each of the major gubernatorial candidates to come speak about why they support this project and the many critical environmental, transportation and economic issues it touches.

Please join us Friday, June 21st for an inspiring and informative event. Come meet fellow trail advocates and supporters, key municipal and statehouse officials from communities along the route and beyond, as well as members of the news media. An outdoor barbeque luncheon, including the bluegrass sounds of Waltham's award-winning band "Southern Rail" will follow the speaker presentations.



When: Friday, June 21, 2002 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Shine (we hope!) or rain (under a big tent)!

Where: Bentley College in Waltham. Directions to Bentley can be found on the web at: <http://www.bentley.edu/directions/>. Please follow the signs to the event parking lot off Beaver Street. Campus security and event organizers will direct you to the correct parking area once you are on campus. Safe secure bike parking is available adjacent to the Linden Street (Rt. 60) Bridge.

RSVP: **Please let us know you're coming!** Call Craig or Betsy 508-755-3300 or simply e-mail your name, phone number, and organization affiliation (if any) to rtccraig@transact.org **Please mail a check (see info below) if you'd like to enjoy the barbeque luncheon.**

Luncheon Cost: \$15.00 Checks are payable to "Rails-to-Trails Conservancy." Send to: Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, 2 Washington Square, Worcester, MA 01604. Please include your name and any others covered by your check. Luncheon availability cannot be guaranteed for payments not received by June 14th.

Our luncheon capacity will fill up fast, so please respond as soon as possible. The menu includes burgers, hot dogs, salad, corn-on-the-cob, watermelon, soft drinks and more. *There is no fee for those who do not partake in the barbeque luncheon.*

Additional Info?: Call Craig or Betsy at 508-755-3300 or rtccraig@transact.org. More information available at: www.railtrails.org/newengland/ or www.MassCentralRailTrail.org www.wachusettgreenways.org

