

MASS CENTRAL RAIL TRAIL



Mass Central Rail Trail Coalition

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Boston

—MassBike
—WalkBoston

Somerville

—Friends of the Community
Path

Cambridge

—Cambridge Bike Committee

Belmont

—Friends of the Belmont
Bikeway

Waltham, Weston, Wayland, Sudbury, Hudson, Berlin

—Wayside Trail

Clinton

—Clinton Greenway
Conservation Trust

Sterling, West Boylston, Holden, Rutland, Oakham

—Wachusett Greenways

Barre, New Braintree, Hardwick

—East Quabbin Land Trust

Ware

—Ware River Valley
Greenway Trail

Palmer

—Town of Palmer Trail

Belchertown

—Belchertown Land Trust

Amherst, Hadley, Northampton

—Norwottuck Rail Trail
Advisory Committee
—MassBike Pioneer Valley
—Friends of Northampton
Trails and Greenways

Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

August 10, 2006

Re: Wayland Town Center

Dear Mr. Secretary:

After a recent vote of the Wayland Town Meeting granting its support, the project known as Wayland Town Center has begun to move forward with the submittal of the Environmental Notification Form (ENF).

On page 4 of the ENF, the following text appears. . . *“The applicant is providing \$250,000 to the Town of Wayland for the creation of a bike path and possibly a historic interpretative railroad site along the current MBTA right-of-way that abuts the southeastern edge of the site. . . ”*

We—the MassCentral Rail Trail Coalition—fully support this effort to build out the former railroad as a non-motorized trail open to pedestrians, bicyclists and others that would connect the Wayland Town Center project to existing commercial development in Wayland. This project already has a name—the Wayside Rail Trail, a key component of the MassCentral Rail Trail (MCRT)—the key east-west trail corridor in the state.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the MCRT is listed as a high priority project in *“Commonwealth Connections—a greenway vision for Massachusetts”*—a DCR produced report—as one of the most significant east-west trails in the state.

Our coalition meets on a regular basis to develop strategies to:

- preserve this important corridor from further segmentation
- reassembling segments sold off—or routes around these sections
- encourage and support appropriate policies at the state and municipal level that benefit that MCRT
- strengthening the local groups actively working to improve the trail
- raise awareness of the importance of this corridor for future transportation, recreation, tourism and health benefits.

The Wayland Town Center project would be beneficial to the MCRT and the MCRT will be beneficial to the Wayland Town Center project. We urge you to also support this key project and comment favorably on it and their intent to donate \$250,000 towards the construction of the trail.

Thank you,

Craig P Della Penna, coordinator

For the MassCentral Rail Trail coalition