

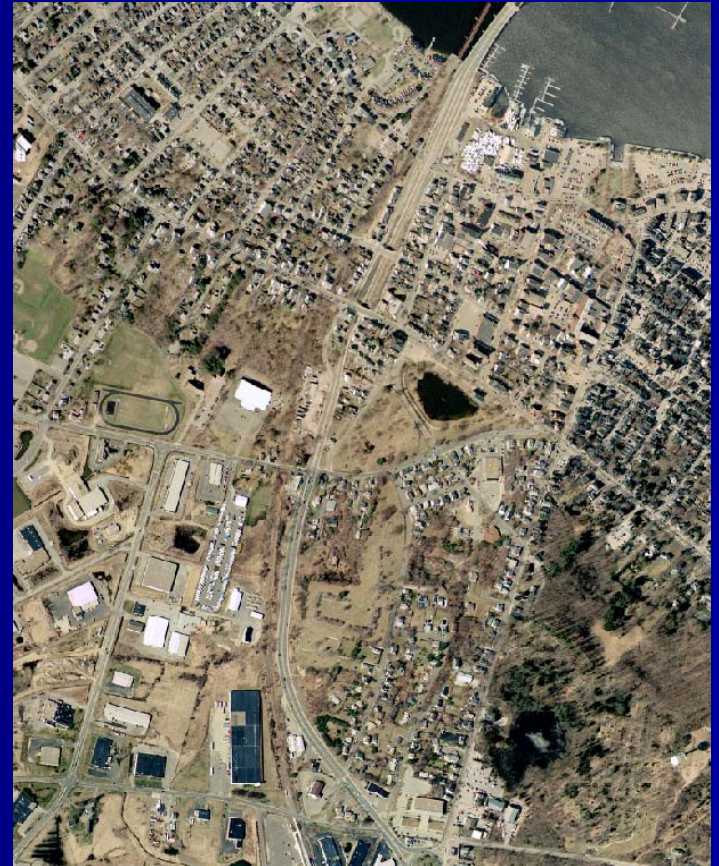
# Newburyport, MA



**Clipper City Rail Trail:**  
1+ mile paved, 10-foot wide, multi-use, off-road,  
non-motorized trail

# Newburyport Clipper City Rail Trail: Overview of History

- Old Eastern Line Railroad: 1840's to 1960's
- Railroad abandoned in 1970's
- 1+ mile corridor between MBTA commuter rail station and Merrimack River
- Master Plan; Open Space Plan; Waterfront Plan; public meetings; Senior Project Manager assignment



# Newburyport Clipper City Rail Trail: Pre-Trail Conditions



**Beaten footpath**



**Rt. 1 bridge underpass**



**North of train station**



**North to Merrimack River**

# Newburyport Clipper City Rail Trail: Right-of-Way Acquisition

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR  
LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
AND  
CITY OF NEWBURYPORT

This Lease Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "Lease" or the "Agreement") entered into as of the 22 day of November, 2005 by and between the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, a body politic and corporate and a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, having its usual place of business at Ten Park Plaza, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 (hereinafter referred to as the "MBTA") and the CITY OF NEWBURYPORT, of Essex County, a Massachusetts municipal corporation, having its usual place of business at City Hall, 60 Pleasant Street, Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950 (hereinafter referred to as the "MUNICIPALITY").

WITNESSETH THAT:

1. **Agreement**

In consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, the parties hereto agree as follows:

2. **Premises**

The Premises consist of the parcel or parcels of land described in Exhibit A attached hereto, consisting generally of that certain railroad right of way in the Municipality extending from the end of the active line of the East Route Main Line at the Newburyport Commuter Rail Station at or about Parker Street and continuing to the shoreline of the Merrimack River near the Salisbury, Massachusetts border, excluding the Merrimack River bridge and abutments. Within the Premises the MUNICIPALITY shall, with the consent of the MBTA, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, designate a contiguous corridor (the "Corridor") within which the uses permitted hereby shall be located.

3. **Use of Premises**

Subject to the terms and conditions herein, the MBTA hereby leases the Premises to the MUNICIPALITY for use as follows:

- (a) The Corridor is to be used for purposes of the installation, operation, maintenance and use of a rail-trail as defined M.G.L. C.82 §35A and in the definition of Owner or Operator in M.G.L.C. 21E§2, and as amended from time to time, and as further defined under M.G.L.C.21E§2(d)(1), as a property converted from a former use as a railroad right-of-way to a revitalized use as a publicly owned, improved and maintained corridor for bicycle, pedestrian and other non-motorized public transportation,

- FHWA & State policy
- MBTA 99-year lease
- Condo Association & Marina easements
- Temporary construction easements
- 5+ years

# Newburyport Clipper City Rail Trail: Fund-Raising (\$4.25 million)



- Federal & state transportation construction funding: \$3 million
- 7 State grants (Recreational Trails Grant program; Mass. Highway Department; Seaport Advisory Council): \$850K
- Massachusetts Community Preservation Act funding: \$200K
- Other: Local businesses and charitable foundations; City; Events (community yard sale; parties); Individuals: \$200K
- Multiple years and 30+ awards (and more requests)

# Newburyport Clipper City Rail Trail: Permitting

- local Conservation Commission
- MA Chapter 91 Waterways
- MA MEPA
- Army Corps of Engineers
- Coast Guard
- Mass. Bay Transportation Authority
- Mass. Highway Department



# Newburyport Clipper City Rail Trail: Design

▶ Design principle of “Connectivity” – neighborhoods, streets/sidewalks, parks, adjacent communities

- Stairways
- Spur pathways
- Boardwalk
- Underpass
- Bridges



▶ Hard surface: asphalt

▶ Amenities: benches; signage; landscaping; sculpture & art

# Newburyport Clipper City Rail Trail: Pedestrian Bridge



- Former railroad bridge location (removed)
- Avoids dangerous grade crossing of Low Street off Route 1
- Critical off-road link between trail halves
- Arched weathering steel bridge = visual statement



# Newburyport Clipper City Rail Trail: Shoreline Boardwalk



- Connection to Cashman Park (playground, soccer field, baseball field, tennis court, basketball court, boat launch, open lawn)
- FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified purpleheart timber
- Eight-foot wide pile-supported structure
- Design: environmentally sensitive + visually appealing

# Newburyport Clipper City Rail Trail: Sculpture & Public Art



**"Brushstrokes" by Rob Lorenson**



**"Eclipse" by Rob Lorenson**



**"Steam Loco" by Scott Kessel and Matt Niland**



**"Native Fish" by Bob Kimball**

# Newburyport Clipper City Rail Trail: Sculpture & Public Art



**"Newburyport Collage" by Rob Leanna**



**"G-Swirl" by Dale Rogers**



**"Wishbone" by James Irving**



**Planters by Ron Headrick**

# Newburyport Clipper City Rail Trail: Sculpture & Public Art



**"Peace Offering" by Michael Alfano**



**"Torrential Flight" by Brian Russell**



**"DogWalker" by Rob Hitzig**



**"Great Blue Heron" by Bob Kimball**

# Newburyport Clipper City Rail Trail: Maintenance



- Very part-time Parks Coordinator with \$10K annual budget
- Adjacent businesses (e.g., Enpro)
- Neighborhoods (e.g., Battis Grove)
- Individuals (e.g., Charles Nickou)
- Regional Arts Group (Green Artists League)
- Local Dept. of Public Services

# Newburyport Clipper City Rail Trail: Extension

- Waterfront and South End loop
  - R.O.W. (B&M acquisition; neighbor lawsuit; Coast Guard; National Grid)
  - Fund-raising
  - Design & permitting
  - Construction
  
- Other communities:
  - Salisbury, MA (north)
  - Newbury, MA (south)



# Newburyport Clipper City Rail Trail: Enjoyment & Quality of Life

- Popular & new recreational and social public space plus alternative transportation corridor
- Community competitiveness and sustainability

