



# SBPC

## Salem Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

C/O Community Development Office  
Municipal Offices, 33 Geremonty Drive, Salem, New Hampshire 03079  
tel: (603) 890-2007 fax: (603) 898-1223

August 26, 2008

Commissioner George Campbell  
NH Department of Transportation  
7 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03302-0483

Dear Commissioner Campbell:

First, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to discuss bicycling and pedestrian opportunities. In addition to my role as Director of Bike-Walk Alliance of NH (BWA-NH), I am a member of the Salem Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee (SBPC). This group was created to coordinate, plan and recommend comprehensive bicycle/ pedestrian pathway improvements, facilities, programs, and plans to the Town of Salem Board of Selectmen.

Our first mission is to plan the Salem Bike-Ped Corridor along the abandoned Boston and Maine Railroad Manchester to Lawrence Branch. This will form the primary non-motorized transportation path from the Methuen town line at Hampshire Road to the existing Windham Rail Trail at Route 111. This plan was envisioned and documented in 2003 when plans were made to widen Route 93. Connections to businesses, residential areas, schools, recreation areas, and Park-N-Ride locations will provide economic growth, more convenience, less traffic congestion, and promote active lifestyles.

The Salem Bicycle and Pedestrian Corridor Project (SBPCP) is a means to provide everyone safe alternatives to vehicles along the Route 28 corridor for multi-purpose uses such as walking or cycling to work, school, shopping, and activities that are beyond the typical recreational use. Route 28 is a five mile long retail corridor with over six million square feet of commercial asserts totaling in excess of a half a billion in property value with an estimated 8,000 employees. The five mile rail trail, adjacent to Route 28 on the west side, is a principal component of an overall transportation approach including the planning of transit connections to the corridor.

*"Salem bicycling and pedestrian opportunities ... For everyone, everyday"*

The dollars invested will result in: emissions reduced, gas saved, health improved, and an economy supported with infrastructure for employees and shoppers. The proximity of the rail corridor to the Route 28 corridor places a large population at the doorstep of an alternative transportation opportunity. In addition to the retail destinations there are over 4,800 households within ¼ mile.

This corridor plan is one component of a comprehensive approach to address traffic issues along Route 28 and coordinate with plans for improvements in areas such as the Depot intersection (Routes 28 and 97). The SBPC understands that the timing cannot be more evident as households struggle with finding alternative methods to their cars.

Our slogan “For everyone, everyday” frames the understanding that the corridor project is more than the typical recreation based bicycle and pedestrian trail; it is an opportunity to provide the public with safe passage throughout the Route 28 area for use everyday.

Our goal is to integrate bicycle and pedestrian opportunities into the thought process of transportation planning, implementation and use. We look forward to working with NH-DOT to outline a direction for bicycle and pedestrian projects to create opportunities: *“For everyone, everyday”* .

Thank you for your attention, and the SBPC hopes to work closely with NH-DOT on this project in the coming months.

Sincerely,



David S. Topham  
BWA-NH Director  
SBPC Vice Chairman  
603.898.9926  
[dave@bwanh.org](mailto:dave@bwanh.org)



cc:

Mr. William Scott, Salem Community Development Director  
Mr. John Maurice, SBPC Chairman  
Mr. Jerry Moore, NH-DOT Bike-Ped Office

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