



## MEDIA ADVISORY

**For immediate release  
October 10, 2008**

**Contact: Wendy Fox  
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### **DCR SCHEDULES PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING ON NORWOTTUCK RAIL TRAIL REHABILITATION**

**WHAT:** The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will hold a public meeting on the planned \$4 million rehabilitation of the oldest sections of the 11-mile Norwottuck Rail Trail, which runs between Northampton and Amherst. State officials will discuss the project and the design process, and the public will be invited to ask questions and offer comments.

The work is expected to include:

- Replacing the existing trail surface;
- Developing a vegetation management plan to address invasive and hazard trees, prevent future root damage to the pavement, and enhance and protect valuable habitat areas;
- Evaluating and addressing impacts by beavers on the trail embankment;
- Improving safety and access to the trail for people with disabilities;
- Improving the condition of bridge decks, tunnels, and parking lots;
- Correcting drainage and erosion problems;
- Improving trail signage.

Funding for the \$600,000 design comes from a state and federal partnership among DCR, MassHighway, and the Federal Highway Administration. Funding for the eventual \$4 million reconstruction of the oldest sections of the 11-mile trail will come primarily from federal funds set aside by Congressman John Olver in a federal transportation bill, and state funds allocated by MassHighway. The design is being developed by Stantec Consulting Services Inc., an international design firm with offices in Massachusetts.

**WHEN:** Wednesday  
October 29, 2008  
6:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Deval L. Patrick  
Governor

Timothy P. Murray  
Lt. Governor

Ian A. Bowles, Secretary, Executive  
Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner  
Department of Conservation & Recreation

WHERE: Hopkins Academy High School Auditorium  
131 Russell St. (Route 9)  
Hadley

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