



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Conservation and Recreation



Norwottuck Rail Trail Rehabilitation Project Update

October 13, 2009

Over the summer...the project team focused on the natural resource aspects of the project primarily by seeking formal approval of resource area boundaries protected by the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act through a process known as the ANRAD, Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation. ANRAD applications were submitted to the Conservation Commissions of Amherst and Hadley for review and approval. After many careful site visits and revisions, the hearings were closed and both Conservation Commissions issued ORADs or Orders of Resource Area Delineations formally approving the delineated resource areas within the rail trail right-of-way.

This gave us a green light to proceed confidently through the next steps in the permitting and design process. An updated project schedule can be viewed on our project webpage:

www.mass.gov/dcr/projects/norwottuck

Coming up...on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 the design consultant, Stantec Consulting Services Inc., will give a presentation at the monthly Norwottuck Rail Trail Advisory Committee meeting to be held from 6:00 – 8:00p.m. in the North Room at the Hitchcock Center.

Hitchcock Center for the Environment
525 South Pleasant Street
Amherst, MA 01002

<http://www.hitchcockcenter.org/map.htm>

We'll review PRE-25% Design drawings and receive comments from the Advisory Committee before revising the package for a MEPA submission in late November. MEPA stands for Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act and refers to an inter-agency environmental review process. After we've received MEPA comments and final 25% design drawings are approved by MassHighway, there will be a formal 25% Design Public Hearing.

Happy Trails!