



'NRG'

Nashoba Regional Greenway

Safe Routes Connecting Communities

MAGIC Presentation – May 3, 2022

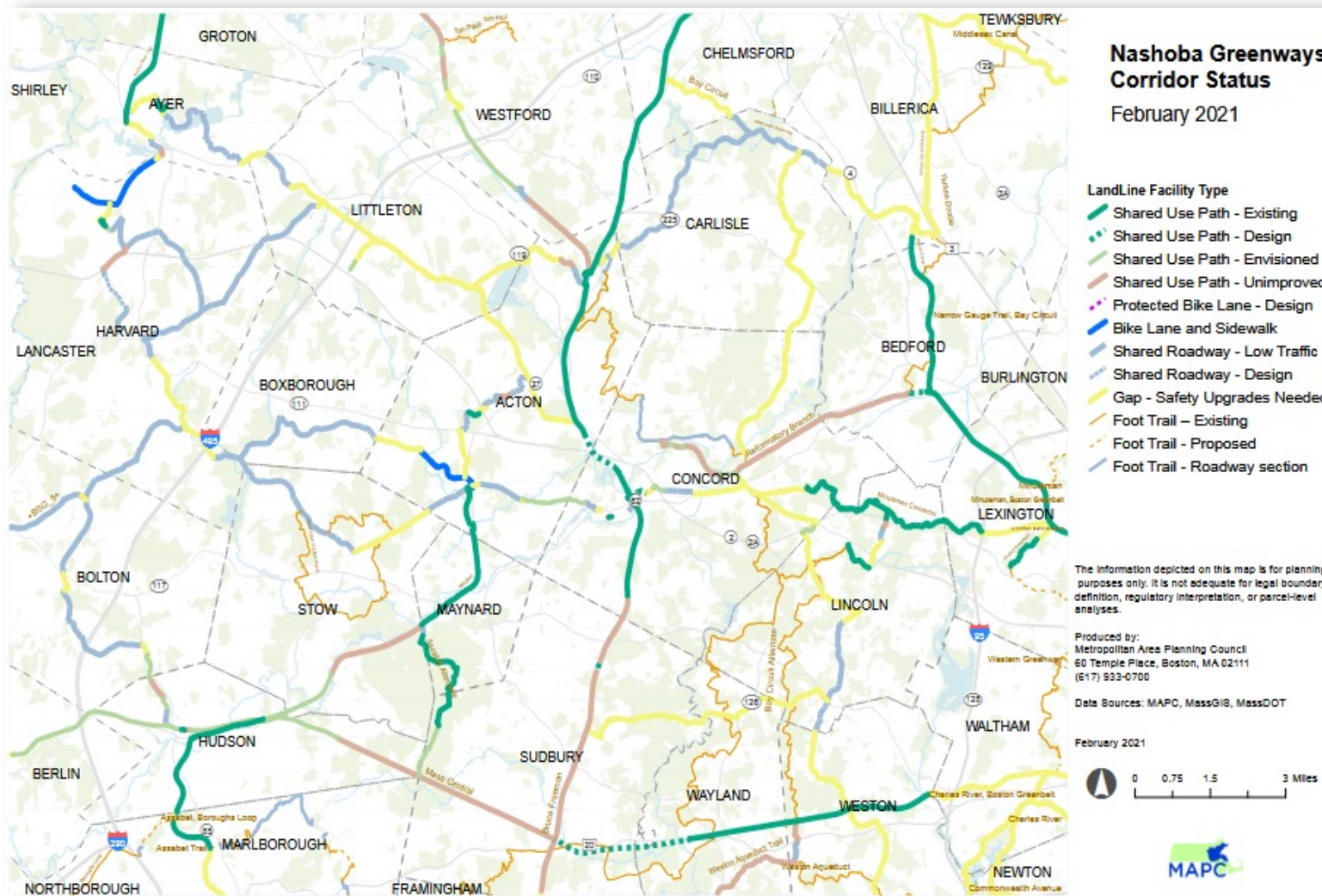
Gary Lacroix – NRG Executive Chair

The Nashoba Regional Greenways (NRG) region – defined as the Nashoba Region/Route 2 corridor west of Rte. 128 - is blessed with many existing major shared-use trails and greenways, notably the Nashua River Rail Trail, the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, the Assabet River Rail Trail, the Mass Central Rail Trail, and the Minuteman Bikeway.

Currently there are no designated safe/appropriate routes to connect these resources to mass transit, community centers, or regional attractions. The NRG initiative is an attempt to fill this gap using the existing road network to create those connections.

NRG Background

- MAPC developed a concept called “Landline” to create or connect the various greenways and foot paths in the eastern Massachusetts region - see <https://www.mapc.org/transportation/landline>
- Working off that idea, Littleton approached Acton and Ayer in late 2019 to establish a network between their towns
- Through word of mouth, volunteers from 16 (!) communities are now engaged in regular meetings with interest from stakeholders that include MAPC, MRPC, Mass Bike, the Solomon Foundation, and MADOT



Updated Network of Communities (16 and growing!):

- Acton, Ayer, Bolton, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Devens, Harvard, Hudson, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, Maynard, Stow, Sudbury, and Weston

Live Route Map:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/8a113bc7db614d4b84fa18b3eeb731cc/?draft=true>

NRG Mission Statement

- To develop and operate safe, friendly, local, and regional connections for cyclists and pedestrians to shared-use paths, community centers, and attractions in the Nashoba Region/Route 2 corridor west of Rte. 128.

The Goals of the NRG Coalition include:

- Improve multi-modal connectivity within the Nashoba portion of the MAPC and Montachusset Regional Planning Council (MRPC) regions
- Provide a viable well-used shared and alternative transportation network to complement existing **Complete Streets** initiatives
- Increase exposure to local agriculture, natural resources, and commercial centers
- Educate other road users to support a 'share-the-road' mindset
- Promote proper road etiquette amongst pedestrians, cyclists and drivers (all road users)
- Work with local DPWs and MADOT to implement bike and pedestrian-friendly roads
- Enhance the quality of life in the Nashoba region

Accomplishments since 2020:

- Development of a mission statement, goals, and operating charter
- Development of a draft route map through each community
- Development of a shared-use information repository (Google Drive)
- Solicited for and received technical assistance grants in 2021 from MAPC and MRPC to further the efforts of the coalition. In doing so engaged community leaders and received letters of support from nine communities (Acton, Ayer, Bolton, Devens, Harvard, Hudson, Littleton, Lincoln, and Stow) plus MassBike.

Accomplishments since 2020 (cont'd):

- With MAPC's help, advanced the development of the road network through community rides in many of the communities and continue to update interactive GIS tool.
- Connect with additional communities (Lexington, Maynard, Weston) and bring them into the network of coalition members.
- Initiate development of a website: <https://www.nrgreenway.org/>
- **In doing all of the above have connected like-minded advocates, volunteers, and community leaders, to the idea of looking beyond their town lines and instead thinking regionally towards the goal of including bicycle and pedestrian amenities in the spirit of the shared streets initiative.**

Next Steps:

- Expand and refine the briefing and communication tools
- Connect with additional adjacent communities that would be good fits to expand the network into.
- Use the communication tools to connect to the audiences that need to hear them and build excitement and support for the NRG's goals.
- Identify a 'to do' list of projects in each community. Help ensure these projects are factored into each town's master plans, their regular maintenance and construction plans, and for potential state and federal funding
- Advance the work of the communications working group – particularly the website – as a key resource in getting the word out.

Where assistance is needed:

- Support NRG's efforts to advance **MAPC's** Landline vision wherever possible.
- Support your local volunteers that represent your community in the NRG coalition
- Spread the word amongst Planning Boards and Community leaders
- Encourage DPWs to collaborate with NRG members on the route and, once established, support physical measures needed (e.g., road markings & signage)

What is the cost? (Answer: very little!)

- Network of motivated volunteers
- Road markings and signage – either in conjunction with existing projects and/or pursuit of regional grants to allay costs

Thank you !

Questions/Comments?

Contact Information:

Gary Lacroix – Executive Chair – NRG

Email: Gaduzabe@yahoo.com

Or your local town representative