



Upper Valley Lake Sunapee
Regional Planning Commission

Lauren Masseria, Regional Planning Coordinator
Policy, Planning & Intermodal Development Division
Vermont Agency of Transportation
[219 North Main Street, Barre, VT 05641](http://www.uvlsrc.org)

11/16/23

Re: Route 5 Bicycle Corridor Survey

Ms. Masseria,

The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) is pleased to support the planning and development of a bike path along the Route 5 corridor between White River Junction and Wells River, Vermont. This section of trail would link two well-established rail trails in Vermont and New Hampshire, providing the entire Connecticut River Valley with better access to bicycling opportunities, drive economic development, and enable the region to address its goal of cutting carbon emissions.

Representing 27 municipalities on the New Hampshire side of the Connecticut River, UVLSRPC supports projects that benefit both sides of the Connecticut River Valley as the region is intertwined between New Hampshire and Vermont. Residents of both states frequently cross back and forth for business and recreation, making the region a true bi-state area. This Route 5 Bike Corridor project would provide safe access to bicyclists commuting up and down Route 5 while also fostering economic growth through outdoor recreation. The Route 5 Corridor is currently a part of the Connecticut River Scenic Byway and a priority of the Byway is to allow safe access for all users to the intrinsic qualities along the route. Providing safe bicycle access along Route 5 would connect the Northern Rail Trail/Mascoma River Greenway in NH with the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail in VT. Allowing direct, protected access between Concord, NH and St. Albans, VT will provide the entire Connecticut River Valley region with an unparalleled bicycling route that would attract riders from around the world. Without this crucial link, there is no connection between the rail trails in the two states and two rail trails would exist independent of each other. With this link in place, however, bicyclists would be able to traverse widely across both states. With the Upper Valley as the connection between both trails, it would be a boon to our local economy and small businesses to provide access to the region's recreational opportunities with multiple access points.

As outdoor recreation is a staple of the regional economy, UVLSRPC supports projects that enhance the development of this sector. Communities on both sides of the Connecticut River will benefit from this bike route as it will bring visitors that will stop and interact with businesses and residents along the route, bolstering our local economy in a size and manner that best suits the region.

UVLSRPC fully supports the development of this bike trail along Route 5 in Vermont. Its implementation will benefit the region greatly through the recreational, economic, and environmental impacts expected from this project.

Respectfully,

Meghan Butts

Meghan Butts, Executive Director