



January 2020  
Morristown, VT  
Lamoille Valley Rail Trail

Since the LVRT ribbon cutting in 2016, the trail has had a very large impact on the Town of Morristown as well as the surrounding region. The economic impacts have been measured by the amount of usage on the trail, how the local businesses have seen financial gains and the health impacts the community.

Local community members talk about teaching their kids to ride a bike on the rail trail because it is a safe alternative to the streets and parking lots. Joggers, families and walkers use the trail and would not be out on the roads due to safety concerns. LVRT has given our community a high-value active recreational and economic opportunity and has become a cherished attribute of our community.

Morristown has aggressively used the LVRT to promote the town by installing an informational kiosk along the trail and adding public art and signage to encourage users of the trail to wander up into the downtown. We have added signage throughout the town to guide users to parking areas and are installing public bathrooms in Oxbow Park, which borders the trail.

Using the trail goes beyond the enjoyment factors, a family living in the downtown uses the town bike share program and rides the trail to get groceries, workers use the trail to get back and forth to work, local walking groups use it weekly as a part of their weight management goals. The LVRT is a great economic driver but it also has been beneficial to the health of our community.

Tim Monaghan, owner of the RiverBend Market, spoke of the many people that have come through his door talking about how fantastic the trail is. He said he would have never guessed that he would have seen as many families and older people from other areas, not just Morristown just to ride on LVRT, which contributes to the growth in his business. We hear about people renting bikes, riding the trail, stopping at Lost Nation Brewing and continuing on to Hyde Park, Johnson and to Cambridge. Completion of the trail will connect towns, cross promote the many assets each town has to offer and bring an uptick in the economic health of Northern Vermont.

Since the LVRT opened in Morristown we have added 52 housing units within 300' of the trail, all with direct access to the trail. Transportation shapes the built environment, especially how providing active transportation choices can improve the physical health and economic wellbeing of a community, and LVRT has done this for Morrisville.

As we all know, people live in Vermont for the lifestyle, completion of the LVRT will have a direct impact on the people that live, work and play in Vermont as well as the financial impact of the tourists that it will bring to the state.

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