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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
 DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
 DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
 BUREAU of TRAILS

172 Pembroke Road Concord, New Hampshire 03301
 Phone: (603) 271-3254 Fax: (603) 271-3553 E-Mail: nhtrails@dnrc.nh.gov
 Web: www.nhtrails.org

June 7, 2022

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
 and the Honorable Council
 State House
 Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 4:8, Gifts to the State, authorize the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Trails to accept a donation from Cross New Hampshire Adventure Trail in the amount of \$16,600 for the purpose of rail trail maintenance throughout the Northern part of New Hampshire effective upon Governor Council approval.

Funds will be budgeted in the following account:

03-035-035-351510-48430000, Trails Donations & Gifts

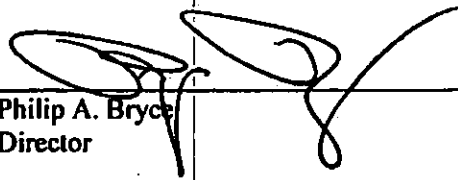
Class-Account-RG	Description	FY22 Current Adjusted Authorized	Requested Action	FY22 Revised Adjusted Authorized
005-401734-20	Private Local Funds	\$6,400	\$16,600	\$23,000
022-500257	Rents-Leases Other Than State	\$6,400	\$16,600	\$23,000

EXPLANATION

The Cross New Hampshire Adventure Trail is a volunteer organization working with Northern White Mountain communities, business, and trail clubs to market and promote the area as a bicycling destination. One of their goals is to support efforts to restore and maintain 2 rail trails known as the Ammonoosuc Recreation Trail and the Presidential Rail Trail which are scenic highlights of a larger trail system that span 83 miles, connecting 13 towns from Woodsville, New Hampshire to Bethel, Maine.

Respectfully submitted,

Concurred,


 Philip A. Bryce
 Director


 Sarah L. Stewart
 Commissioner



Cross New Hampshire Adventure Trail

PO Box 1047, Glen, NH 03838

www.xNHAT.org

crossnewhampshire@gmail.com

Re: Match Funding for the Extension of the Ammonoosuc Recreational Rail Trail

May 25, 2022

**Sarah Stewart
Commissioner, NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
172 Pembroke Rd
Concord, NH 03301**

Dear Commissioner Stewart,

The Cross New Hampshire Adventure Trail (xNHAT) is an 83 mile, primarily off-road and back road bicycle route across the North Country of New Hampshire. The route starts in Woodsville, travels through 10 North Country towns, extends into Maine and currently ends in Bethel. The xNHAT is enjoyed by both cyclo-tourists traversing the state and by locals for day trips or short excursions on their community recreation trails and back roads.

The mission of the xNHAT is to promote and help maintain a pleasurable off-road and quiet back road route for cyclists, walkers, runners, families, seniors, XC skiers and the growing number of people who enjoy cyclo-tourism and bikepacking. We celebrate and promote these outdoor activities, while enhancing the recreation economy of the North Country.

The route includes one section of secondary road, NH State Route 116, because there is no viable quiet back road alternative for the 11 miles connecting Littleton to Whitefield.

A goal of the xNHAT is to get cyclists and walkers OFF of Route 116. Road bike riding on the shoulder of a 50+ mph roadway with car and truck traffic is inconsistent with our mission and goals. Fortunately, the NH Bureau of Trails is working to extend the Ammonoosuc Recreational Rail Trail eastward from Littleton towards Bethlehem. This extension of the rail trail will provide a scenic, safer, quiet and more enjoyable alternative to Route 116. This rail trail extension project offers a pleasant route for local and visiting cyclists, walkers and runners in summer and an improved route for snowmobiles, skiers and snowshoers when the snow falls in winter.

The xNHAT is willing to provide donations, match funding, volunteer time and whatever else is necessary to support the eastward extension of the Ammonoosuc Recreational Rail Trail. To help achieve our mission and goals, the xNHAT is proud to donate \$16,600 to cover the 20% match costs required for the rail removal project as a part of the Recreational Trails Program Grant and also assist with the cost of the grading and compaction required to make the surface enjoyable for use by walkers, runners and bicyclists.

The xNHAT is also willing and prepared to donate match funding in the future to help with the remaining rail removal projects. Every mile of rail trail extension will bring us closer to completing our goal of getting local and visiting recreational trail users off of Route 116 and onto one of the most scenic rail trails in the state. This rail trail will be a gem of the North Country!

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this project!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marianne Borowski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'M'.

Marianne Borowski
President and Founder of the Cross New Hampshire Adventure Trail
www.xNHAT.org