



City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

In the City Council, July 11, 2024

Upon the Recommendation of: Councilor Jeremy Dubs
 Councilor Alex Jarrett
 Councilor Deborah Klemer

R-24.112 A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FINISHING THE MASS CENTRAL RAIL TRAIL

WHEREAS, over the last two decades, this body has deliberated and adopted legislation to increase safety on our public ways by making them more accessible, walkable, and cyclable; and

WHEREAS, the City of Northampton has expanded its shared use paths to create a network that connects to the [Mass Central Rail Trail](#)¹ (MCRT) to further facilitate access to this path and safe transportation for non-motor vehicle travel; and

WHEREAS, completion of the Mass Central Rail Trail is consistent with these efforts, and that completing this 104-mile shared use path will enhance non-motor vehicle access to our city and will solidify Northampton's position as one of the region's premier destinations for business, arts, entertainment, and general enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, Northampton recognizes the importance of community initiatives that contribute to the well-being and prosperity of our residents; and

WHEREAS, the MCRT Coalition, under the guidance of the [Norwottuck Network](#)², has embarked on a vital project to push for the completion of the entire Mass Central Rail Trail from Boston all the way through to Northampton, Massachusetts. Sixty miles are currently open, with 94.5 miles protected and many miles under construction. Northampton's portion is complete, but gaps start in Belchertown and to the east; and

WHEREAS, the MCRT Coalition's mission aligns with our city's strategic priorities, particularly in promoting the health and safety of our citizens, fostering economic development, and addressing key community objectives for the overall well-being of our citizens; and

¹ <https://www.masscentralrailtrail.org/>

² <https://www.norwottucknetwork.org/>

