



THE FRIENDS FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER



A family enjoying the new half mile Connector on a November afternoon.

SENDING THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

Looking Good at “The Connector”

The construction of the half mile Marion Connector began in May and was available to riders, walkers and wheelchairs before the official start of summer!

The Connector project is part of a larger plan to upgrade Industrial Drive. This project paved the old railroad right-of-way from the end of Industrial Drive to the Marion town line. The Town of Marion is expected to begin construction of their bike path in 2023.

Construction was funded using a \$110,000 grant from MassTrails, \$95,000 from our 2020 fundraiser, and a 1:1 match from the Town of Mattapoisett (voted at Town Meeting in 2019 and 2020.)

The half-mile project also includes the new parking lot at the intersection of Bay Club Drive and Industrial Drive.

Again, we want to thank all who donated to and supported the completion of this very important half mile. Below is the donor tribute poster that we displayed at our Harbor Days booth in July.

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\$134,000
 in donations

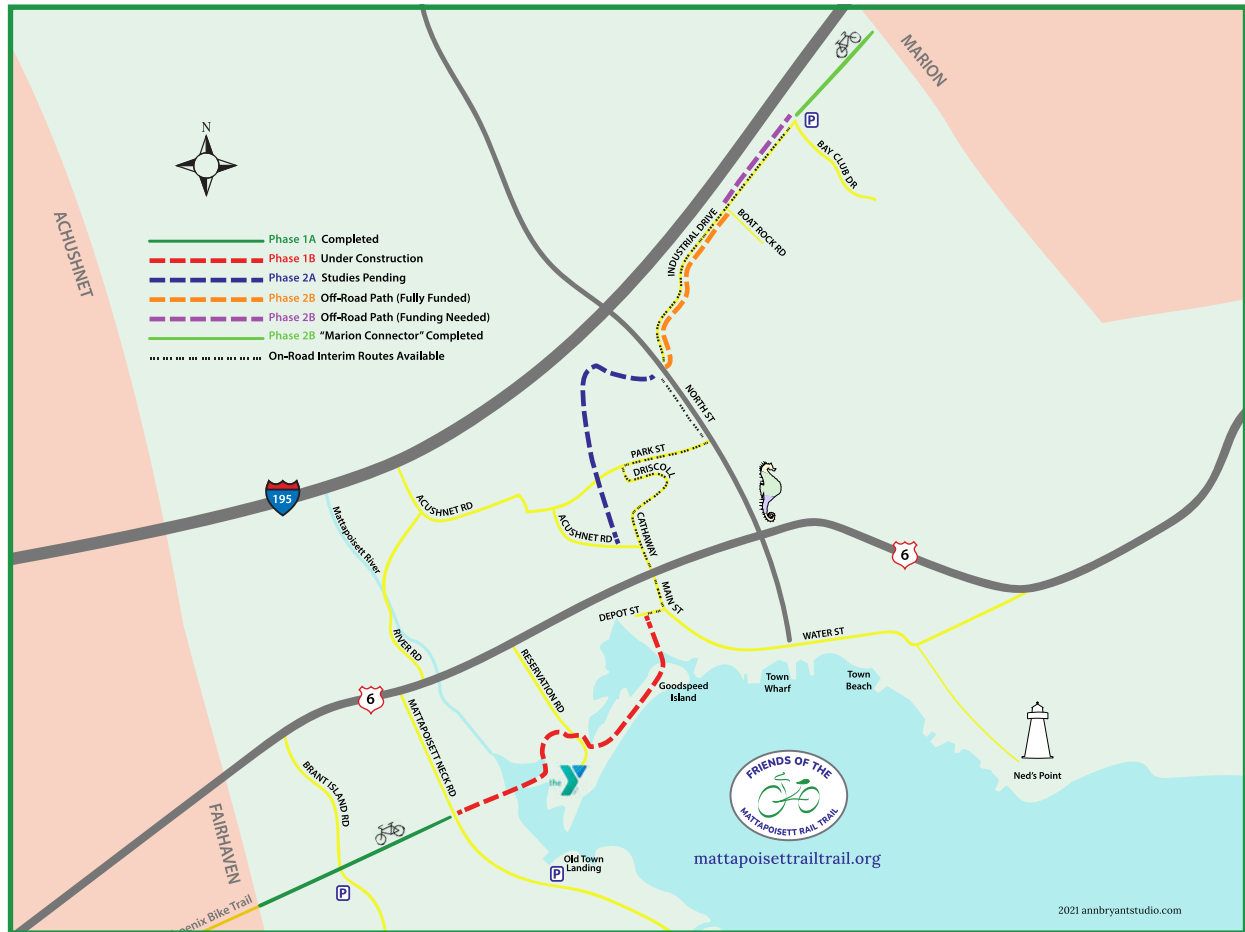
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159+
 Friends donors

CONNECTOR DONOR TRIBUTE

Many anonymous donors fill out this long list of generous contributors.
 And a huge thank you to our anonymous \$10,000 and \$25,000 matching funds donors!

Working Toward a Continuous 4.5 Mile Path



As most of you know, Phase 1B (red on the map) has been delayed because of faulty decking on the portion over Reservation Beach (Goodspeed Island.) According to the Town Administrator's office, Town officials will be meeting with MassDOT in the coming weeks. Following the meeting, the Select Board will likely issue a statement regarding remediation. We will notify our supporters as soon as we know.

Phase 2A (blue) is the most recent focus along the bike path. Several steps must be addressed before this segment can be designed and constructed. We are currently working with the Town to apply for grants that will help cover the preliminary costs. This phase is critical to providing a safe, off-road alternative to North Street. It is also a very important piece in completing a mostly off-road path along the South Coast, from Rhode Island to Provincetown.

Phase 2A will connect to Phase 2B (orange) using an already-designed flashing beacon to get riders safely across North Street. Phase 2B is divided into three subsections. The orange section is completely designed and permitted. When Industrial Drive is reconstructed, riders and walkers will enjoy a parallel path away from vehicles. The middle segment of Phase 2B (purple) – from Boat Rock Road to the Marion Connector – has no immediate funding for construction. The easternmost section of Phase 2B (light green) – The Connector – is completed and ready to connect to Marion's anticipated path.

A Biking Season for All



Bike repair volunteer and newest Friends Board Member Bill Emmons makes a few last minute adjustments for a family of bikers.

Our latest initiative, Bikes for All, has been a huge success! In January, we asked for gently-used bike donations and volunteers that could help fix them up for families needing bikes. Since then, our volunteers have distributed over fifty child and adult bicycles. Thanks to additional donations, every recipient received a helmet, a bell, and basic safety instructions.

If you would like to make a donation to help the Friends purchase bicycle parts and helmets, please go to the donate page of our website. Please be sure to specify on your check or add a note in GoFundMe that your contribution is for Bikes for All.

Another way to help is to volunteer your time and fix-it abilities by helping us to repair the donated bikes.

Also, we are looking for a permanent indoor space to store and repair the donated bikes. If anyone knows of a possible place, please let us know!

Contact Jane Finnerty 508-758-4548, jane.mattrail@gmail.com
or Liz DiCarlo, 508-942-9343, lizdicarlo@comcast.net for more information.

Harbor Days 2021 ☐ So happy to see everyone!



Our newly-elected President (and longtime board member) Renee Pothier (right) with supporter Lenore Henderson in front of our 2021 booth.

We opened our Harbor Days booth with Covid-19 still lurking about and threatening thunderstorms nearby, but the weekend turned out great. We were thrilled to see some of our most ardent supporters once again. As a bonus, over 70 new supporters shared their email addresses over that two day period! We look forward to sharing better news when we see you all again at Harbors Days 2022!

Consider a Donation to the Path this Holiday Season

The Friends recently dedicated up to \$20,000 to help fund amenities for the bike path, including benches, bike racks, water stations, and informational signage. After taking a walk along the path with town officials, the Friends received approval to order 11 benches and 6 bike racks. The shipment should arrive in plenty of time to install before Spring!

The Friends also have been working with the Bike Path Committee and the Town toward completing the last off-road segment of the bike path. This requires an initial investment of funds to cover preliminary activities such as appraisals, pre-design, and environmental work so that the Town is in position to apply for available grants.

We would appreciate any donation amount to help toward the completion of this very important segment of the Mattapoissett Rail Trail.

Please go to ☐
<https://mattapoissettrailtrail.com/donate/>

Thank you!