The Border to Boston Trail is a developing 70-mile shared-use trail that links approximately 20 communities from the New Hampshire border to Boston's northern suburbs for non-motorized uses including walking, bicycling, wheelchairs, strollers, rollerskating, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing in the winter. The trail connects town centers, neighborhoods, schools, parks, recreational facilities, and natural areas in the Essex National Heritage Area. When completed, this trail will be one of the region’s most outstanding assets, facilitating safe, scenic, and healthy transportation and recreation for all to enjoy.

THE BORDER TO BOSTON TRAIL

The Border to Boston Trail follows the rights-of-way of two abandoned rail lines, the Eastern Route Main Line from Salisbury to Newburyport and the Newburyport Branch Line from Newburyport to Danvers.

The Eastern Railroad was chartered in 1836 as a route from Boston to Salem, Newburyport, Portsmouth, NH and into Maine. Passenger service ended in 1965.

The Newburyport Railroad was chartered in 1846 to compete with the Eastern Railroad. After many years of declining service in the 1930s, the line was abandoned between Topsfield and Newburyport in 1941. Passenger service continued to Topsfield until 1950 and to Danvers until 1959. Pan Am Railways can still transport freight between Danvers Junction and Wakefield, but the route is inactive.

FOLLOWING HISTORIC RAIL LINES

ACCESSING THE TRAIL

For more detailed and turn-by-turn directions visit: greenway.org and download the app.

This ongoing effort still has on road gaps between trail segments so please continue to use caution. The Border to Boston Trail is a segment of the Maine to Florida East Coast Greenway. Questions about the Border to Boston trail can be directed to info@essexheritage.org.

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For more information visit: BorderToBoston.org