

SO, WE SET OUT TO DO JUST THAT

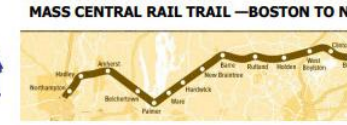
2022: Norwottuck Network puts out an RFP to find a consultant to write a report that would answer the basic question.

The “Elephant in the Room” question.

Just what would a completed MCRT mean to the Commonwealth and the communities along the way?

First time ever in New England that a large scale trail ever asked the question; What is it all worth?

www.nnnetwork.net/rfp



Request for Proposals

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COMPLETING THE MASS CENTRAL RAIL TRAIL

The NORWOTTUCK NETWORK, Inc. (NN) requests proposals to:

- 1.) design and develop an assessment of volume of use, profile of users, and economic impact of the currently open 50± miles of MASS CENTRAL RAIL TRAIL (MCRT) and the currently open and usable intersecting shared-use paths.
- 2.) the projected economic and health impacts to the state and the communities along the route of a completed 100± mile trail.

Proposals are due on **Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at 5:00 PM** to CraigDP413@Gmail.com
For questions, contact Craig Della Penna at the above email address.

About the Norwottuck Network

NN is a 501(c)3 organization set up to help buildout the MASS CENTRAL RAIL TRAIL. A full history can be found on our website. <https://www.nnnetwork.net/about-us> The proponent/firm will be responsible to the Norwottuck Board and/or their representative.

Background

Within 150 miles of the Norwottuck Network base in Northampton, Massachusetts lies the densest network of former steam railroad corridors in the northeast United States. The longest, most complex of these corridors is the MASS CENTRAL RAIL TRAIL (MCRT), which runs 104 miles from North Station in Boston to Union Station in Northampton.

In 2021, the MA Department of Transportation (MassDOT) acknowledged the concept of a statewide rail trail by completing a feasibility study of the 68.5 mile central MA section detailing existing gaps and the work-arounds required to enabling the corridor's successful completion. Over time, these provisional solutions will be authentically restored by replacing missing bridges and by restoring other historic details. A link to the three-volume study may be found here: <https://www.tinyurl.com/massdotstudy>

According to the Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism (MOTT), tourism is an integral part of the state's economy.

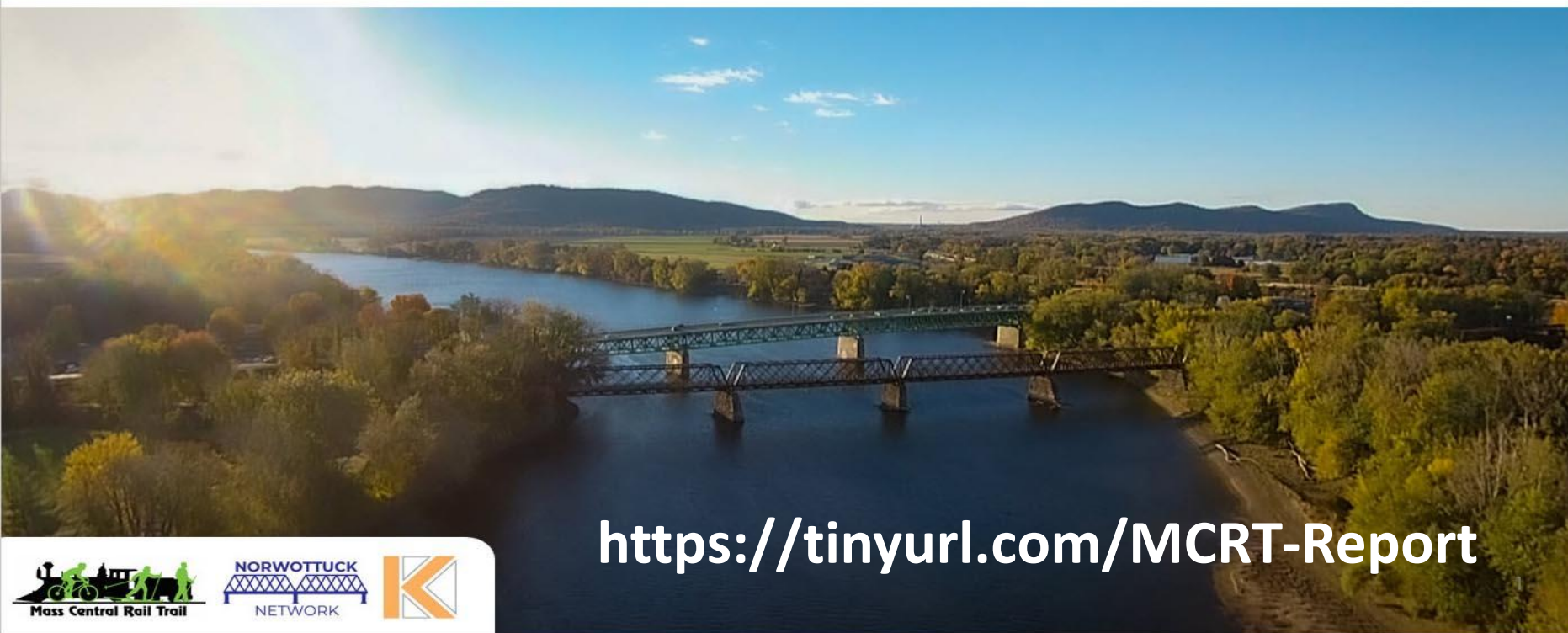
- Tourism generates **\$1.5 billion** in state and local taxes, **\$22.9 billion** in travel-related expenditures, and **149,400** in-state jobs.
- Massachusetts ranks **6th nationally** as a destination for international visitors. Many of them are accustomed to bicycle tourism at home, and our delightful MCRT will invite our visitors to explore Massachusetts's stunning natural beauty and rich history and lore. But we want to know more.

Examples of recent reports providing guidance on how to develop the Economic Impact Report effectively may be found here:

Great Allegheny Passage Economic Impact Report. 2021. [LINK HERE](#)
MassTrails, Impacts of Shared Use Paths. 2021. [LINK HERE](#)
The Economic Impact of the Erie Canalway Trail. 2014. [LINK HERE](#)
Walkway Over the Hudson, Poughkeepsie, NY. 2018. [LINK HERE](#)
Schell Bridge Northfield, MA. 2011. [LINK HERE](#)
Complete George, NYC. 2015. [LINK HERE](#)

THE REPORT CAME OUT AND CAUSED A STIR.

Envisioning a Statewide Connection
Mass Central Rail Trail Benefits Study



<https://tinyurl.com/MCRT-Report>



COMPLETING THE MASS CENTRAL RAIL TRAIL WILL BRING:

- **4-5 million users a year.**
- **950,000+ just in Worcester County**
- **64% of the state's population lives within 10 miles of the corridor**
- **400,000-500,000 overnight visitors a year**
- **\$200+ Million in economic impacts a year.**



THE THREE MOST RESPECTED REPORTS ON THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF A LONG- DISTANCE LINEAR-PARK TYPE PROJECT

Economic Impact of the Erie Canal

<https://tinyurl.com/2026PTNY-Report>

Envisioning a Statewide Connection: Mass Central Rail Trail Benefits Study.

<https://tinyurl.com/MCRT-Report>

Economic Impact Analysis of the New Haven & Northampton Canal Greenway.

<https://www.greenwaysolutions.org/n-s-report>

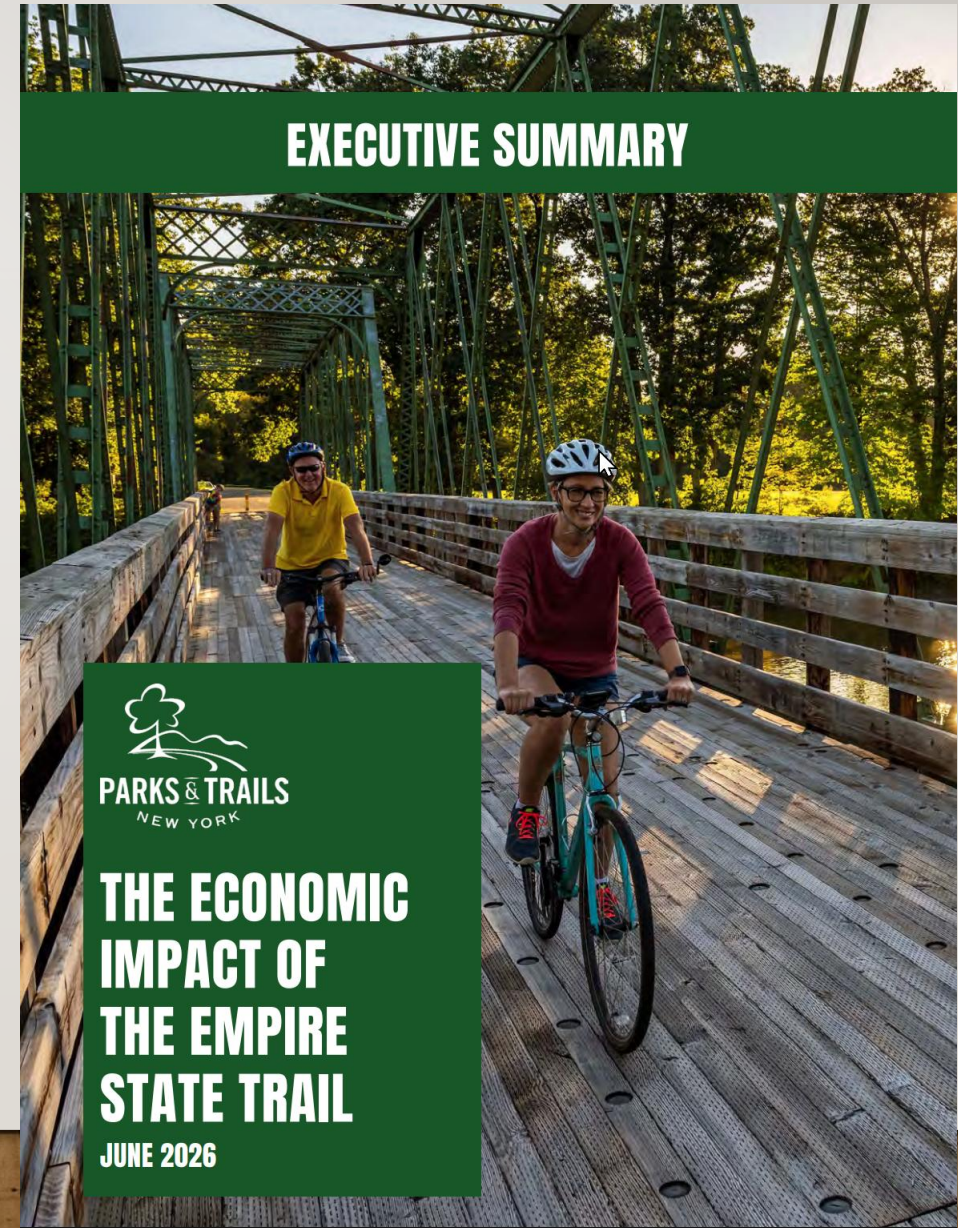


THE THREE MOST RESPECTED REPORTS ON THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF A LONG- DISTANCE LINEAR PARK-TYPE PROJECT

Economic Impact of the Erie Canal
<https://tinyurl.com/2026PTNY-Report>



\$1.87 Billion a year.



THE THREE MOST RESPECTED REPORTS ON THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF A LONG- DISTANCE LINEAR PARK-TYPE PROJECT

Economic Impact of the Erie Canal

<https://tinyurl.com/2026PTNY-Report>

Podcast with Dylan Carey of PTNY who
explains the ramifications of the report.

<https://tinyurl.com/Dylan-PTNY-POD>



\$1.87 Billion a year.



ROADS LESS TRAVELLED
WITH CRAIG DELLA PENNA

EPISODE 35
**WHY MOST CITIES
IGNORE THEIR BIGGEST
ECONOMIC ASSET**

DYLAN CAREY

THE THREE MOST RESPECTED REPORTS ON THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF A LONG-DISTANCE LINEAR PARK-TYPE PROJECT

Envisioning a Statewide
Connection:
Mass Central Rail Trail
Benefits Study.

[https://tinyurl.com/MC
RT-Report](https://tinyurl.com/MCRT-Report)



THE THREE MOST RESPECTED REPORTS ON THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF A LONG-DISTANCE LINEAR PARK-TYPE PROJECT

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