

## **Request for Letter of Support**

The Friends of Lamoille Valley Rail Trail request your support for an important project for non-motorized users of the trail.

**We need support letters in-hand by Friday, August 15, 2008.**

If you cannot write a letter from your organization, we would still appreciate one from you as an individual potential trail user!

### **Project Background**

We are seeking grant funds to develop a plan for trail amenities and community connections important to summer and non-motorized users. As the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) is the primary developer of the trail, how can we provide them the information they need as to what bicyclists, walkers, runners, equestrians, skiers, and mushers need in order to fully use the trail?

While VAST is engaged in the primary development of the trail, their focus at this time, appropriately, is on the preservation and construction of the trail bed, bridges, and surfacing. Moreover, their project funding level does not currently include amenities.

The Friends of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail seek to engage in complementary planning work – to serve users including bicyclists, pedestrians, equestrians, skiers and mushers. The needs of the non-motorized users are different than those of snowmobiles. Notably, we don't move so fast, so that the spacing and frequency of facilities is very different at muscle-powered travel speeds.

The project will focus on creating a plan for trail amenities and community connections, focused on the summer / non-motorized users, including:

- Trailhead and rest areas along the trail with a non-motorized focus.
- Mapping businesses & services of potential interest to these users,
- Connections to downtown areas via bicycle lanes, sidewalks or spur paths, and/or wayfaring signs.
- Development of informational kiosks.

As some communities have already started the development process for these amenities and connections – while others have yet to begin – this grant will provide support to projects in process and link these disparate projects into a comprehensive trail wide plan.

Address your letter of support to Heidi:

Heidi Krantz, President  
Friends of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail  
PO Box 995  
Morrisville, VT 05661

You may return by mail (as above) or email: [hkrantz@morristownvt.org](mailto:hkrantz@morristownvt.org)  
Or FAX to: 802- 586-7584

***We need your letter by Friday, August 15.***

**Draft Letter of Support**

(Letterhead optional – letters are welcome from individuals as well as organizations).

Heidi Krantz, President  
Friends of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail  
PO Box 995  
Morrisville, VT 05661

August 15, 2008

Dear Ms. Krantz:

As a representative of the \_\_\_\_\_(organization), I am writing in support of the Friends of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail’s grant application to create a plan for trail amenities and linkages for the non-motorized users – bicyclists, walkers, equestrians, runners, and mushers.

(Add a sentence about what your user-group would like to see for facilities along the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. )

Beyond the trail itself, the Friends’ plan will also develop community connections to our region’s businesses and town centers. Such connections will provide non-motorized trail users with needed services while also bolstering our local economy.

(Add a sentence or two if your community has already started to work on amenities or connections – how could a trailwide process help your local efforts? For example, this project might assist with site design, develop consistent look & feel along the trail, provide regional workshops, connect you to what other communities are doing, etc.)

(Optional: I would appreciate the opportunity to participate in the development of this plan by providing input, feedback, or comments on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_(organization or user group) via a public planning process.)

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_Your Name  
\_\_\_\_\_Address