



Due to the COVID-2019 State of Emergency, the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee will be holding its meeting remotely using the web-based program, Zoom. Members of the public will be able to access this public meeting through a variety of options, described below. If you encounter any issues accessing this meeting, please call 603-757-0622 during the meeting. To access the meeting online navigate to *Zoom.us* and enter the Webinar ID # **864 8658 1721**. To listen via telephone call 877-853-5257 and enter the Webinar ID: #**864 8658 1721**. When the meeting is open for public comment, callers may press \*9 if interested in commenting or asking questions.

City of Keene

*New Hampshire*

**MUNICIPAL SERVICES,  
FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
COMMITTEE  
AGENDA  
Council Chambers B  
March 10, 2021  
5:30 PM**

Janis O. Manwaring, Chair  
Michael Giacomo, Vice Chair  
Randy L. Filiault  
Bettina A. Chadbourne  
Robert C. Williams

- 
1. Kevin Leary – Amended Request for Property Access off the Old Gilsum Road Through City of Keene Utility Road
  2. Grant Application for the Transportation Heritage Trail - City Engineer
  3. Presentation on Hundred Nights

**MORE TIME ITEMS:**

- A. Maintenance of the Wilson Pond Dam - City Manager

Non Public Session  
Adjournment

3/2/2021

City of Keene

Formal request for property access:

**\*AMMENDMENT 3/2/2021\***

Dear City Council,

I am writing you in regards to a formal request to access parcel# 218-009-000-000 owned by the Fontaine family trust and now under the control of Mark Fontaine. I am asking for formal approval to access the property using the utility road that is already accessed with motor vehicles and managed by the Keene Public Works dept. This utility road would allow me direct access to the property without ever needing to access Old Gilsum Road or any of the trail systems now established.

The owner has given me formal permission to access the land, and now I am looking for the town's approval to access the land 3-4 times per year through the water tower access road.

Thank You for your time

Sincerely,

Kevin Leary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kevin Leary", written in black ink.

27 Meetinghouse Rd,

Keene, NH, 03431



City of Keene  
*Transmittal Form*

March 8, 2020

**TO:** Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee

**FROM:** Donald R. Lussier, P.E., City Engineer

**THROUGH:** Elizabeth Fox, Assistant City Manager/HR Director

**ITEM:** 2.

**SUBJECT:** Grant Application for the Transportation Heritage Trail - City Engineer

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Move that the Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee recommend that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to apply for a Transportation Alternatives Program grant for the Transportation Heritage Trail; and further, that the City Council forward a support letter, signed by the Mayor, to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation on the project.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Description

Project Area Map - Phase I

DRAFT Letter of Support

**BACKGROUND:**

In the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is an extension of the multi-use trail system, called the "Transportation Heritage Trail." The project will build on the success of the City's prior trail projects by connecting the completed "Industrial Heritage Trail" over the historic Stone Arch Bridge to the Town of Swanzey. The City has applied to obtain the historic Robert J. Prowse Memorial Bridge from the State that will be used to carry the trail over NH Route 101. The historic Stone Arch Bridge will have context-sensitive improvements. The CIP proposes planning and design funds for this multi-phase project beginning in FY24.

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) recently announced that they are accepting applications for the next round of Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding. TAP grants are 80% Federal funds and 20% local match. The City of Keene will be applying for TAP funds in the amount of \$515,200 for the first phase. The estimated total project cost would be \$644,000. The deadline for the grant applications is March 19, 2021.

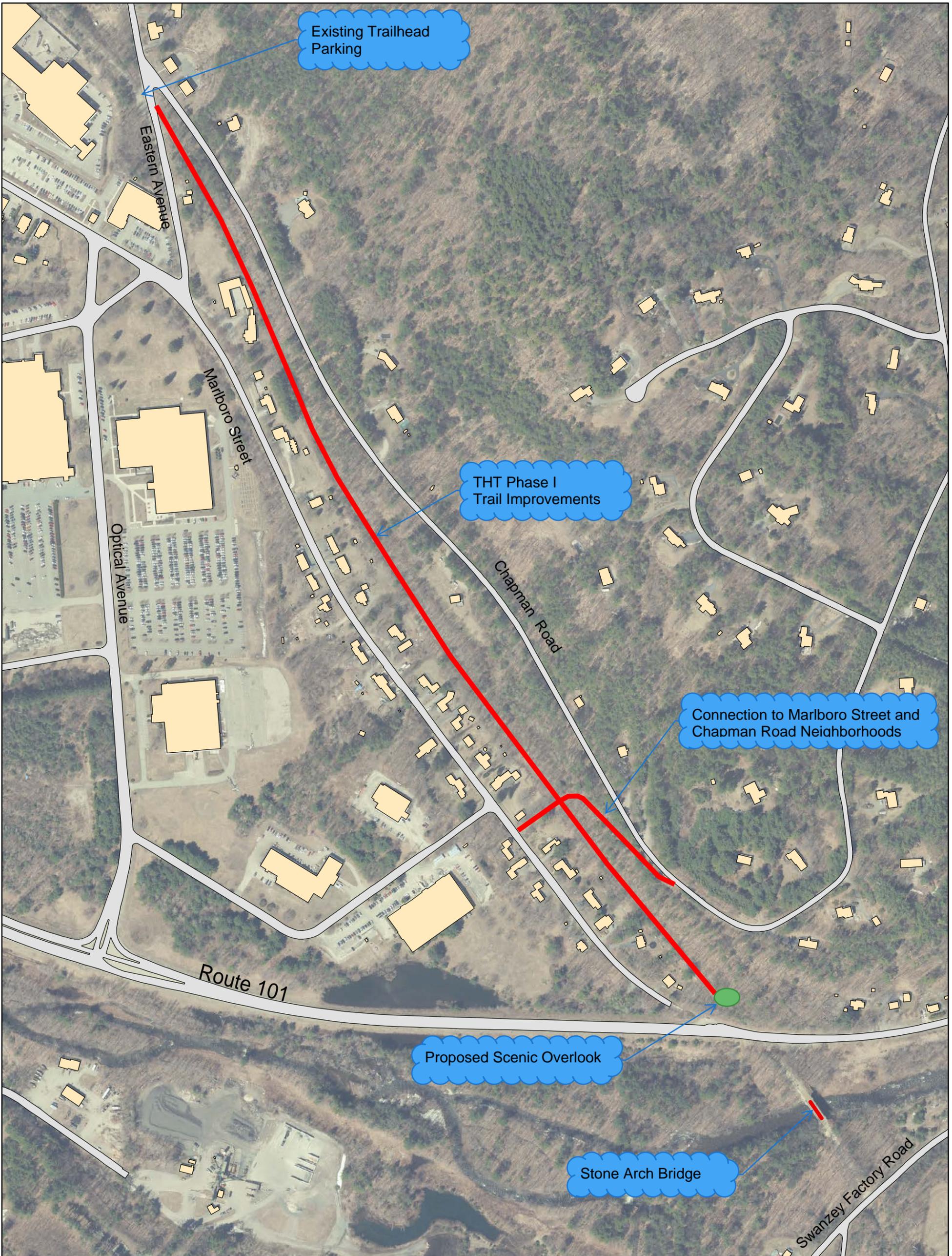
The first phase of this project, and the subject of the City's 2021 TAP Grant Application, will restore the Cheshire Railroad from Eastern Avenue to NH Route 101. This stretch of rail bed travels southeasterly from the eastern terminus of the previously improved section. The proposed project includes the design and construction of 4,100 +/- feet of Rail Trail. The work includes brush clearing, drainage improvements, grading and stone dust resurfacing. This phase of improvements will terminate at a scenic overlook to be constructed as part of this project on the northern side of NH Route 101. At this terminus, an area will be constructed that will include benches and informational signage related to the plan for future phases of the trail extension.

Attached to this memorandum is a draft letter of support and a schematic map of the project area for your information.

# Transportation Heritage Trail

Phase I

City of Keene, NH





# City of Keene

*New Hampshire*

March 19, 2021

Mr. Thomas Jameson, P.E. TAP Program Manager  
NHDOT Bureau of Planning & Community Assistance  
John O. Morton Building  
7 Hazen Drive, PO Box 483  
Concord, NH 03302-0483

RE: City of Keene TAP Application  
Transportation Heritage Trail

Dear Mr. Jameson,

On behalf of the Keene City Council, I am writing this letter to convey the City's support for the proposed Transportation Heritage Trail (THT) project, and for the Transportation Alternative Program grant application submitted for Phase I of the project.

Since 1998 the City of Keene has been committed to improving the quality, safety and functionality of the City's transportation facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized users. To date, the City has improved over 6.5 miles of multi-use paths along the former Cheshire and Ashuelot Railroad corridors. These paths provide safe, convenient non-motorized transportation routes from outlying residential areas to the heart of our downtown. The City will be constructing another 3.7 miles of on-street and off-road improvements in 2021.

The THT will build on that success by connecting our existing trail network to improved rail trails in the Town of Swanzey. During Phase I, the City plans to improve approximately 4,100 feet of the Cheshire railroad, beginning at the existing trailhead parking lot on Eastern Avenue. This phase will also provide connections to the Chapman Road and Marlboro Street neighborhoods.

The City's FY21 – FY27 Capital Improvement Program includes local funding for this project beginning in FY24. The City of Keene has experience in successfully administering Local Public Agency (LPA) projects and has staff that are LPA certified. We are fully capable and prepared to implement a successful project.

Sincerely,

George S. Hansel, Mayor