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CONTACT:
Dan Bolognani
Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area
PO Box 493
Salisbury, CT 06068
(860) 435-9505
email: Info@HousatonicHeritage.org

High resolution photos available

**HERITAGE BIKEWAY RIDE IS PLANNED FROM
BURLINGTON TO LONG ISLAND SOUND**

**Proposed Western New England Greenway To Connect Communities
In Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont**

SALISBURY, CT, July 12, 2014. The Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area (Housatonic Heritage) in cooperation with the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership has announced an end-to-end ride of the proposed Western New England Greenway from July 20-26, 2014. Beginning in Burlington, VT, the group of cyclists will ride the most compatible cycling roadways to Long Island Sound, terminating in Norwalk, CT. Several informational stops will be made along the way, providing an opportunity for interested citizens to learn about the proposed trail.

The Western New England Greenway, when completed, will be a multi-segment, multi-state bike route that links New York City and Montreal. The corridor largely follows Route 7 through the very western portions of CT, MA and VT. It would connect with the East Coast Greenway at the Merritt Parkway near Norwalk, CT. at the Southern terminus, and with the Quebec's Route Verte at the Northern terminus (Canadian border). The Bikeway will eventually contain over 300 miles of mapped routes, and will include lodging, dining, cycling shops and heritage sites nearby.

Since 2010 a group of volunteers from the three New England states have been working to coordinate an annual conference, create a website / Facebook site, and to map and publish the most favorable on- and off-road route.

This regional network of bicycling routes is supported by a number of organizations, including the Norwalk River Valley Trail (<http://www.nrvt-trail.com/>), the Town of Brookfield (CT), New Milford River Trail (www.nmbikewalk.org), Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area (www.HousatonicHeritage.org), Berkshire Regional Planning Commission / Berkshire BikePath Council (<http://www.berkshirebikepath.com/>), Massachusetts Dept. of Conservation & Recreation (<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-west/ashuwillticook-rail->

[trail.html](#)), Bennington Area Chamber of Commerce (<http://www.bennington.com/>), Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing (<http://www.vermontvacation.com/>), and the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (<http://www.champlainvalleynhp.org/>).

For more information about the Western New England Greenway program visit www.WNEGreenway.org or email: Info@WNEGreenway.org.

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