

Greg DeMatteo, White River Junction, VT.

Greetings. I am a resident of Hartford, Vermont and live just down the street from the Wilder Dam. Reopening the dam to pedestrian and bicycle traffic would allow direct access from our community to the incredible biking/hiking trails in Boston Lot, directly across the river from Wilder. This represents an important opportunity to give an easy and safe route to this amazing resource. Our family bikes in Boston Lot often and currently that involves loading up our equipment and driving through some of the busiest parts of the area, taking about 10-15 minutes by car, depending on the trailhead. Opening dam access would get us to a trailhead by bike in under 10 minutes (from my house, closer for many others). This would mean that older children could access this trailhead safely and independently, without needing a car or adult. Those of us who work at the hospital could consider commuting to DHMC through Boston Lot on our bikes. Additionally, the town of Hanover is considering creating bike access trails from their downtown to the trailhead by the dam, which would give the town of Hartford a safe and accessible bike route from Hartford all the way to Hanover. I understand that the dam used to be open to traffic, and I ask that you please give our citizens access to this route once again. Allowing easy bicycle and pedestrian access would be a huge win for our community.

Thank you.

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