

Friends of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail comments

The FLVRT, on behalf of current and future non-motorized recreational users of the LVRT, will be submitting written comments after reviewing the proposed Management Plan. Those comments will include the following points, which we encourage our members to support in their own verbal or written comments:

1. We appreciate the considerable efforts of VAST and the LVRTC to move this project forward and the willingness of these organizations to involve the FLVRT and other non-motorized recreational users in this effort. In this regard we especially want to acknowledge the assistance of Alan Robertson, Project Engineer for the LVRT and Laird MacDowell, Chair of the LVRTC for their efforts.
2. We would strongly encourage the LVRT Management Plan to emphasize and provide a specific commitment to the development and opening, even if on a provisional basis, of appropriate segments of the LVRT in all three counties for the non-winter use of non-motorized recreational users ASAP hopefully by 2009.
3. We would strongly encourage the LVRT Management Plan to make clear that the vision for the LVRT is to be a non-motorized recreational trail, except for snowmobiles in the winter and that AVT usage will be prohibited except for a limited number of perpendicular crossings, the location of which will be determined after an appropriate public process.
4. We would encourage VAST and the LVRTC to develop by September 1, 2008 a schedule outlining in detail all elements associated with LVRT development including any permitted obligation.
5. We would strongly encourage the LVRT Management Plan to make a commitment to the evolution of the current LVRT governance structure to accomplish the following within 3 years:
 - a. Increase the representation of non-motorized users on the LVRTC in recognition that the LVRT will be available to non-motorized users year-round.
 - b. The election or selection of the non-motorized user representatives on the LVRTC be made by non-motorized users.
 - c. A simplified governance structure for the future management of the LVRT.
6. We would strongly encourage a more proactive and supportive involvement of the State of Vermont via agencies that have a mission to support the recreational and economic development aspects of the LVRT.

Again, the FLVRT plans to continue to work and partner with VAST, the current LVRTC and others with an interest in the LVRT to make this trail a reality as quickly as possible.

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