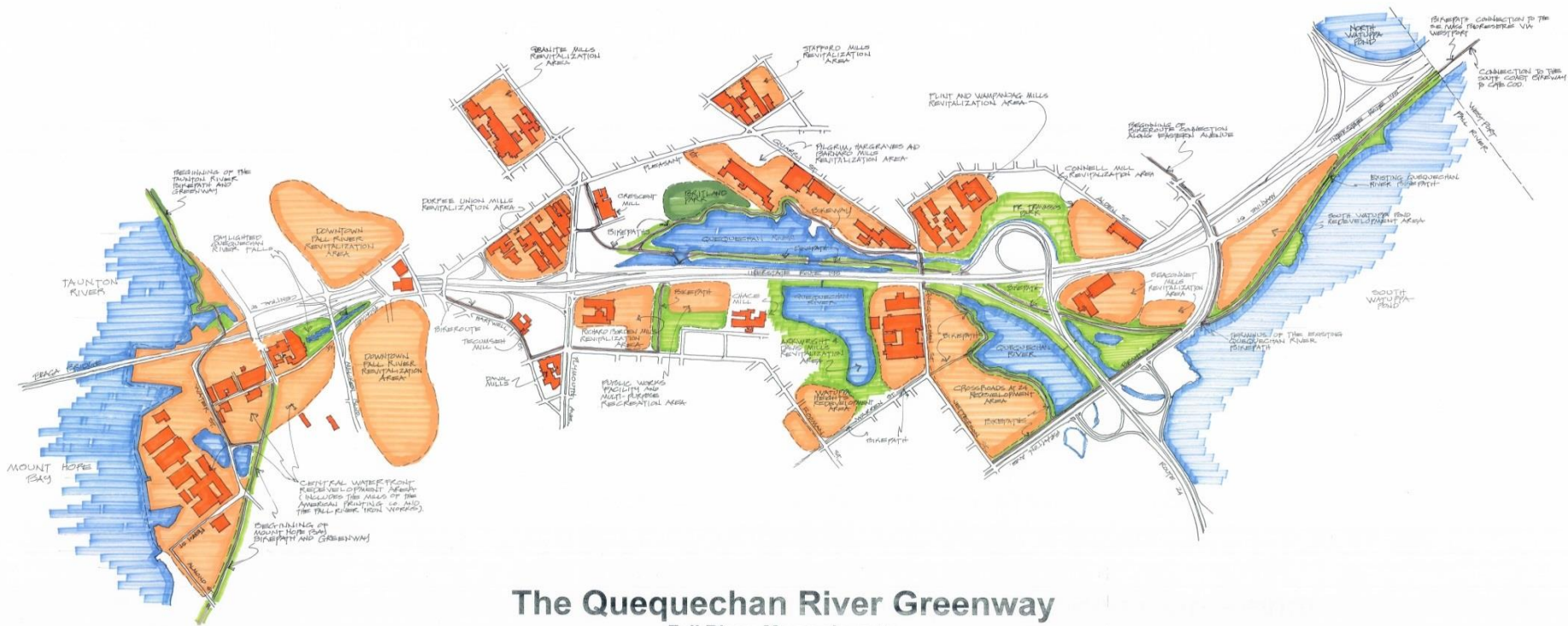


Health Impact Assessment
Fall River 2012
Early Findings

Julianne Kelly

Coordinator, Mass in Motion-Fall River

Health Impact Assessment : Alfred J Lima Quequechan River Rail Trail



The Quequechan River Greenway
Fall River, Massachusetts
A plan for bike/pedestrian paths, greenways, and economic development.

Prepared for the City of Fall River and Mass in Motion
Prepared by Alfred J. Lima, July, 2010. Scale: 1 inch = 400 feet

After Phase 3 opening in June 2016

CHALLENGES

Fall River's population
88,897

Demographics	MA	Fall River
Median Household Income (07-11)	\$65,981	\$34,789
Persons Living Below Poverty Line (07-11)	10.7%	21.4%
Unemployment	6.7%	12%
Smoking Rates	16.1%	26%
High School Completion Rate - Adults	88.9%	68%

Half of the population lives within a 1 mile radius of the rail trail, and has the highest rates of poverty, unemployment, and lowest rate of educational attainment.



FIGURE 3: RECREATIONAL & OPEN SPACE RESOURCES

Quequechan River Bike Path - Phase 2
 Fall River, Massachusetts
 January 5, 2012



Map Source: Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (MassGIS)
 Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs



SCALE: 0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles

Potential Health Impacts

- Physical activity
- Health disparities
- Public safety
- Crime
- Air quality
- Economic development
- Social cohesion and social capital



Recommendations to maximize health benefits

Design and Engineering:

- High visibility signage, traffic calming elements at crossings.
- Trail lighting in non-daylight hours
- Underpass lighting at all times

Recommendations to maximize health benefits

Address Trail Use and Maintenance:

- Sedentary Population
- Fear of Crime
 - Safety Campaigns
 - Trail education to encourage potential new users
 - Promote Trail to Neighborhood Associations, schools, civic, advocacy and non-profit groups
- Advance social and civic engagement opportunities within new community space



If you build it will they come?

1. Wayfinding



2. Intercept surveys



3. Events to draw people to the trail: History walk, YogArt, helmet giveaways, Drums Alive



Fear of Crime:



- Police on walking and cycling beat
- Call Stations
- Keeping trail populated
- Keeping trail maintained



Reduction in Collisions:

1. Creates safe off-road access to shopping, schools parks, health and government offices.

2. Concerns raised regarding the crossings at Quequechan and Rodman Streets and Brayton Avenue



3. Complete Streets inventory of projects that can be addressed after policy is created.

Partnerships

- Using new resources and partnerships
 - CDC 1422 Grant
 - WalkBoston: walk audits, wayfinding, intercept surveys
 - SRPEDD: walkability study



- Planning and Engineering: Complete Streets Policy

Partnerships

- Mass in Motion inviting participation and stewardship:
 - Non-profits, State & City Departments, Volunteers
 - Studio Life Art
 - Boys and Girls Club
 - Groundwork Southcoast
 - Schools, Police, Planning, Water Department
 - Open Space and Recreation Plan Task Force
 - MA Department of Conservation & Recreation, MA DOT
 - Local artists, conservationists, activists, civic minded

Thank you

- Julianne Kelly
- Mass in Motion-Fall River
 - Health Department, 4th floor, Government Center
- 508-324-2405
- jkelly@fallriverma.org

- Dr. David Weed
- Executive Director
- Partners for a Healthier Community
- drweed@cox.net



Physical Activity and Health Disparities

Constructing the QRRT extension will increase opportunities for residents and visitors to be physically active, which in turn helps prevent obesity and reduces the risk of many chronic diseases.



Because the proposed trail runs through densely populated, low-income neighborhoods, the physical activity benefits associated with the QRRT might also help reduce health disparities in Fall River.



Crime & Public Safety

The QRRT extension would likely have a positive impact on Fall River's public safety. While Fall River has high crime rates relative to other cities in Massachusetts, crime rates on rail trails tend to be low.



Real and perceived crime on the QRRT can be mitigated through increased surveillance by encouraging trail use, maintaining the facilities, and lighting the trail and underpasses.



Safety from Collisions

The QRRT extension will create safer recreation and active transportation opportunities for Fall River residents and visitors, preventing injuries and accidents.





Social Cohesion

Outdoor spaces such as the QRRT extension provide opportunities for neighbors to socialize, are convenient meeting locations that can foster walking clubs, and even create incentives for residents to get out of their homes and into their communities.



As such, the QRRT would likely improve Fall River's social environment, helping to build social capital and strengthening social cohesion among residents.



Economic Development

The QRRT extension will likely provide a small boost to local businesses and may increase nearby home values.

By helping to grow the local economy, the QRRT may positively affect health outcomes associated with socioeconomic conditions



Financial gains for small business owners and homeowners may decrease stress and promote spending on healthy behaviors or foods, while additional tax revenue could help the city of Fall River better maintain health promoting resources for residents.



Air Quality

Walking or biking trips on the QRRT are likely to replace a small number of car trips in Fall River.



Resulting improvements in air quality, which protect against asthma and cardiovascular disease, would likely be quite modest.

Scoping and Assessment



DATA COLLECTION

- Health status, Educational attainment, Poverty rate
- Congestion and active transportation
- Air quality
- Recreation facilities
- Traffic accidents
- Crime rate

What would need addressing?

- Sedentary population-
- Fear of Crime-
- Maintenance- will it be kept clean and safe
- Traffic and speed at crossings
- Keeping populated to reduce sense of isolation



Reduction in Collisions:

1. Crossings at Quequechan, Rodman and Brayton-

2. As part of 1422, SRPEDD is conducting intercept interviews to address dangerous crossings and conducting a walkability study

3. Complete Streets inventory of projects that can be addressed after policy is created.

