Mayor of Keene – Kendall Lane
Bicycle Mayor – Tiffany Mannion
Keene, NH Snapshot

- Located in Southwest NH
  - Keene Population: 23,406
  - Cheshire County Population: 76,430

- 37.6 square miles

- 2,000+ acres of recreational spaces

- Higher Education Institutions:
  - Keene State College
  - Antioch New England Graduate School
  - River Valley Community College

- 7 mi Improved separate grade trails
- 28+ mi Unimproved trails
- 5 mi On-street bicycle facilities (as of summer 2018)
- 65 mi Sidewalk facilities
A land use context
The Railroads
Opportunity for Active Commuting

- 74% of workforce lives in Keene
- 75.3% of workers drove alone 😞
- 5.4% workers walk, 2.1% bicycle 😊
- Mean Travel Time to work = 15.5 min

State & Federal funding helped transform former rail corridors

Local fundraising partner, Pathways for Keene, provides match resources

Partnership with local Conservation Organization

Strong network of local advocacy organizations that can mobilize quickly
Economic Significance
Develop and maintain a world class system that:
- Is a destination for travelers and vacationers
- Retains and attracts younger workforce
- Encourages infill and development opportunities
South Bridge Multi-use over pass – Ashuelot Rail Trail

Bike Parking at the Railroad Land Redevelopment and Cheshire Rail Trail

Roadway Advisory Signage

North Bridge Multi-use over pass – Cheshire Rail Trail

Bike Boxes at Central Square Sharrows/Bike Lanes throughout Main Street

Bike Lanes on Washington Street
North Bridge

- Federally Earmarked Project $1.2 million
- Local match over 50% of total project
- $40k fundraised through Pathways for Keene
- Established safe bicycle-pedestrian passage from western neighborhoods to city core at deadly highway crossing
South Bridge

- State DOT 10 Year Plan Project
- Highway By-pass project litigation case
- Multi-use Overpass bridge requested by Keene
- Established safe bicycle-pedestrian passage to from Swanzey and points south
- Keene State College access to athletic complex over deadly stretch of highway
Creating a Sense of Community

Donations of amenities are guided through the “Building a Spirit of Place” initiative
Amenities – Enhancing our System

- Encourage proper trail use
- Foster multi-generational activity
- Provide navigational references for visitors
- Provide a welcome into the community
- Trail enhancement and improvement
- Master Plan priority to establish an Amenity Donation Program
Why Build Bicycle Infrastructure?

- More people ride when cities build protected bike lanes
- Long-term engagement efforts build support for necessary safety improvements
- Bicycling is getting safer as cities build better bike lane networks
- Gains in bike safety are important for low-income riders & riders of color

NACTO, Bike Share Equity Practitioners' Paper #3, July 2016
Why Keene Builds Bicycle Infrastructure?

- **Community Health Goals**
  - Healthiest Community by 2020
  - Vibrant Neighborhoods & Downtown
  - Increased Safety and Quality of Life

- **Multimodal Network Goals**
  - Increase **ACCESSIBILITY**
  - Increase **AVAILABILITY**
  - Increase **COMMUNITY USAGE**

Healthy Monadnock, primary objective; City of Keene, Comprehensive Master Plan 2010; City of Keene, Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan 2018 DRAFT
Policy and Priority Alignment

• **City of Keene 2010 Comprehensive Master Plan**
  Focus areas and strategies: Complete Streets, Walkable/Bikeable Community, Quality Built Environment, Promote Active Living, Vibrant Downtown and Neighborhoods

• **2011 Complete Streets Resolution**
  Keene Young Professionals Network petition City Council to develop a Complete Streets Policy

• **2015 Complete Streets Policy and Design Guide**
  City of Keene, Southwest Regional Planning Commission & Healthy Monadnock develop and release a guiding document for complete street implementation in Keene, NH

• **2018 Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan**
  Staff and Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee in process of creating new plan
Bicycle Pedestrian Path Advisory Committee

- Cross-section of Community Bicycling and Walking stakeholders
- Provides guidance, community input and helps promote initiatives to City Council
- Sounding board for Community Cycling and Pedestrian concerns
- Currently working with staff to complete a new Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan for 2018
A Keene Strategy...

- Address separate grade trail system gaps with on-street facilities for bicyclists
- Improve access to services, facilities & conveniences through on-street bike facility networks
- Implement a Bicycle & Pedestrian level way finding plan to enhance navigability of the combined network
Programing & Collaboration

- Bicycle Friendly Programs (League of American Bicyclists)
  - Application feedback invaluable

- Partnering with Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST) for outreach & goal advancement

- Attracting more Partners and Community buy-in
Tiffany Mannion

- 6000/8/2016
- featured in Rails-to-Trails Magazine
- better known in the cycling world as bellecyle
- published in Urban Cycling Magazine in Victoria, BC, Canada
Cyclespace

- 50/30
- 22,000
- 27%
Bicycle Mayor Program

- Humanizes Cycling
- Connects Bicycle Mayors globally
- Brings a world of innovative ideas, inspiration, and focus home
Program Goals

- Unique to your city
- Identify Stakeholders
Next Steps

- Email
- Share