

A little background about the Schell Memorial Bridge

The Schell Memorial Bridge is a 515-foot long steel cantilever truss bridge donated in 1902 to the town of Northfield by one of its leading citizens, Francis R. Schell, who hoped to obtain easy access from his chateau in downtown Northfield to the East Northfield Railroad Station.

Schell Bridge is the third oldest of five Pennsylvania Truss Bridges and was designed by Edward S. Shaw, an important bridge engineer in Massachusetts from 1873 to 1919. Up until its closing in 1985, the Schell Bridge provided the town with easy transportation between the two sides of the village, which is divided by the Connecticut River.

Lack of funding for maintenance and rehabilitation are ongoing threats to the Schell Bridge. The town has never been able to provide sufficient funding to maintain the bridge, and by 1985 it had deteriorated in structural strength and had to be closed.

MassHwy devised a plan to repair the bridge, but the town could not justify the costs of assuming responsibility for maintaining the rehabilitated structure.

In 1992, with no group willing to take on the responsibility of the bridge, the decision was made to tear it down. Demolition bids were made and contracts awarded in 1999, but the bridge was never torn down.

In the fall of 2003, PreservatiON Massachusetts named it to the state's Top Ten Most Endangered historic resources. Early in 2004, Friends of Schell Bridge, Inc was formed to advocate the preservation and reuse of the bridge.

The Friends of Schell Bridge contacted the Picker Engineering Program at Smith College to see if they would be interested in doing a restoration study of the bridge.

In the fall of 2004, they undertook a project to analyze the bridge to see what it will take to rehabilitate it.

The Smith College team is looking at the cost to make the bridge a hike/bike path or strong enough to accommodate emergency vehicles.

The team will structurally analyze the bridge and propose two rehabilitation options to the town by the end of their project later in the spring. This analysis will take into consideration that the town has budget constraints regarding maintenance of any rehabilitated structure.

More information on the project and the seminar can be found at : www.schellbridge.org

AGENDA for the day

9:00 — 10:00 **Registration** and networking opportunities. We will have coffee, donuts, and other wake-up items at this time.

10:00—10:10 **Opening remarks** by Moderator—Craig Della Penna—along with introduction of audience members and our panelists.

10:15— 11:45 **Panel Discussion**

Vermont update: Steven Ovenden, Senior Planner, Windham Regional Commission.

New Hampshire state update: Bob Spoerl, Program Specialist, New Hampshire Trails Bureau.

New Hampshire municipal update: Chuck Redfern, City Councilor, City of Keene.

Massachusetts update, western region: Beth Giannini, Senior Transportation Planner, Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

Massachusetts update, central region: Brad Harris, Transportation Planner, Montachusett Regional Planning Commission

Issues surrounding historic bridge rehabilitation: Tom Duffy, Bridge Engineer, Hardesty & Hanover, New York City.

11:45-12:30 **Questions and Answers**

12:30—1:30 **Lunch:** A wide array of wholesome food choices for lunch will be provided.

1:30—2:00 **Keynote** by Congressman John Olver who will give an update on the Federal landscape.

2:00—3:00 **Guided walking tour** to the east end of the Schell Bridge. Led by *Friends of Schell, Inc.* We won't be able to walk on the bridge, but we will get a good and informative tour. Please wear appropriate shoes for hiking. The bridge is about 1/2 mile from Moore Cottage and easily walkable.



TRI-STATE TRAIL NETWORK SEMINAR

***Saturday
March 19, 2005
10:00 AM -3:00 PM***

**Moore Cottage
Moody Street
Northfield, MA**

Keynote address by:

**John W. Olver,
Congressman
1st District**

**Join a discussion about one
of New England's most
important developing trail
networks.**

Event will be held in historic Moore Cottage on the scenic campus of Northfield Mount Hermon School in Northfield, Massachusetts

Cost: \$12.00

About the Tri-State Trail Network

In the southwest corner of New Hampshire, the southeast corner of Vermont and across the northern tier of Massachusetts lies over 200 miles of interconnected unused former railroad corridors and low-volume country roads.

A network of trails would stretch from Londonderry Vermont to Brattleboro, across the CT River to Keene, NH, over to Peterborough, down to the Winchendon/Gardner area of Massachusetts and west to the Greenfield/Montague area including Northfield. In a ten-mile stretch of the Connecticut River there will be four bridges across the river that will be used purely by bicyclists and pedestrians.

This represents a golden opportunity to create an off-road and low-volume road network that would be a resource for all the residents of the region. The effort to create this network is called the Tri-State Trail Initiative.

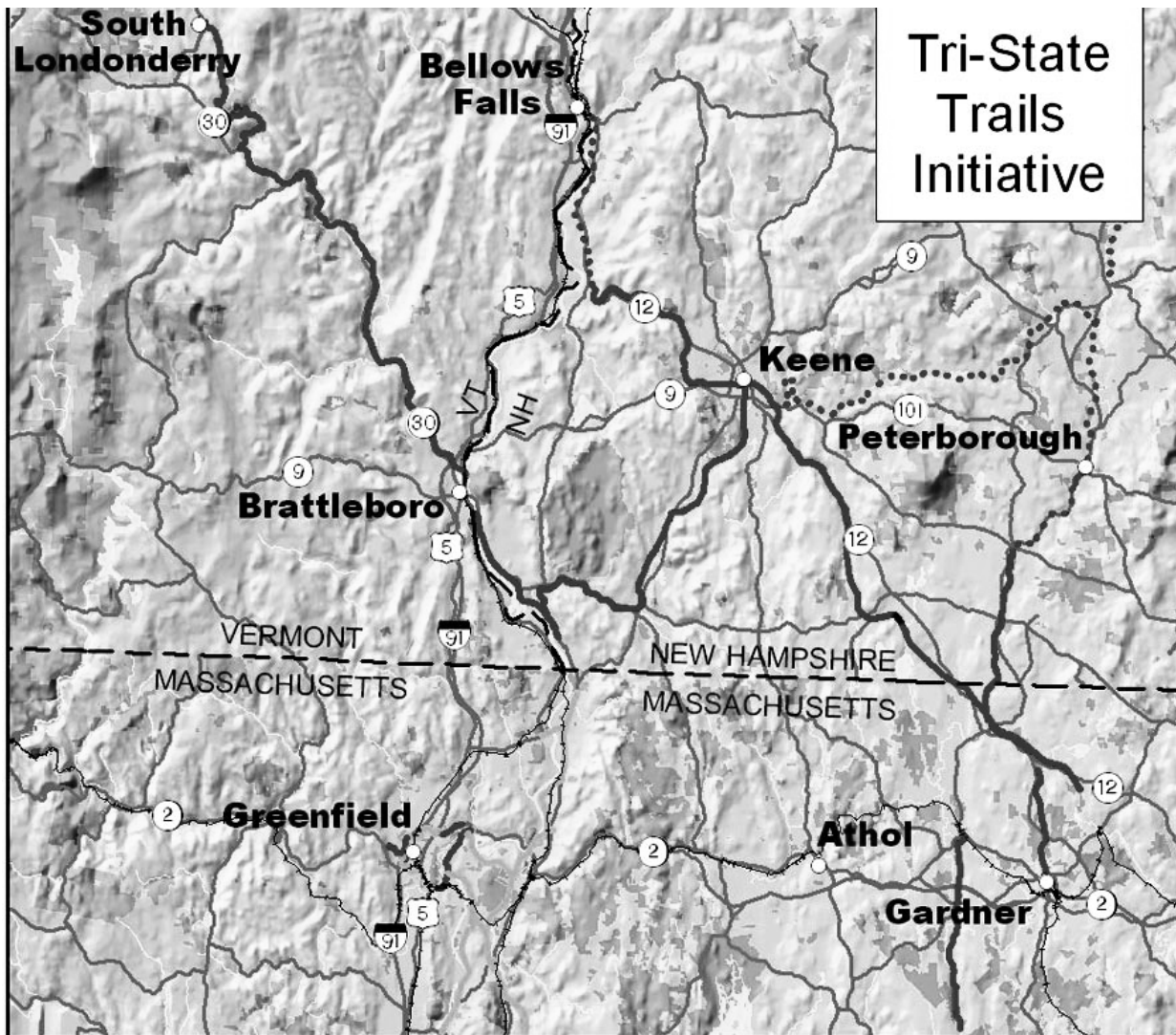
The TRI-STATE TRAIL INITIATIVE is a cooperative and voluntary effort which envisions a system of on/off road multi-use trails which benefits the region and the region's communities by enhancing:

- Linkages across state lines
- Transportation and Recreational Opportunities
- Tourism Opportunities
- Economic and Community Vitality
- Access to Natural Area
- Public/Private Involvement
- Reuse of under-utilized resources

Who should attend:

- Elected officials from the Tri-state areas
- State, regional, and municipal planners
- State DOT officials.
- Environmental and parks agency officials
- Outdoor recreationalists
- Land preservationists
- Historic preservationists
- Tourism or Chamber of Commerce officials
- Bed & breakfast operators and hoteliers
- Business leaders
- Members of the media serving the region

**Capacity is limited to 50 attendees
so please register early**



Tri-State Trails Initiative

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

PHONE	CITY, ST. ZIP	ADDRESS	NAME

RSVP DEADLINE IS MARCH 1, 2005

RSVP TO: Friends of Schell Bridge, Inc. P.O. Box 27 Northfield, MA 01360.

Payment by either CASH OR CHECKS (made out to "Friends of Schell") in person at the event will be welcomed. However, because of room size constraints, we need to operate on a first come, first serve, RSVP basis.

WALK-INS ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT WILL BE ADMITTED ONLY IF THERE IS ROOM.

For more info call 413-498-5539

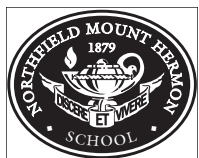
Directions to Moore Cottage in Northfield, Massachusetts

From Eastern Massachusetts: Follow Route 2 west to Route 63, then go north on Route 63 for approximately 9 miles. Go through the town of Northfield until you see the school's sign on your right. Just before the sign, turn right onto Moody Street. Turn right at the second driveway and park in the lot to your left. The large white house is Moore Cottage.

From I-91: Take Exit 28 in Massachusetts and follow Route 10 north for 4.4 miles, past the Mount Hermon campus entrance and over the Connecticut River. At the "T" intersection, turn left on Routes 10 and 63. Go through the town of Northfield until you see the school's sign on your right. Just before the sign, turn right onto Moody Street. Turn right at the second driveway and park in the lot to your left. The large white house is Moore Cottage.

From southwestern New Hampshire: Take Route 10 south and when entering the village of Northfield, take left onto Moody Street. Turn right at the second driveway and park in the lot to your left. The large white house is Moore Cottage.

Event Sponsored by:



Friends of Schell Bridge, Inc.

