



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** November 29, 2012

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## **Community Forum: Shoreline Bikeway**

(Newport, RI) Aquidneck Island Planning Commission (AIPC) and Bike Newport will host a public forum on the proposed creation of an island-wide multi-use bike trail at the CCRI Auditorium on Thursday, December 6 at 6:00 pm.

The presentation and discussion will be led by Carl Knoch, Manager of Trail Development for Rails-To-Trails Conservancy, the national voice for rail trails based in Washington, DC. Knoch is an expert on the creation and economic impact of multi-use rail trails across the country. The forum will focus on *Rail With Trail*, a potential recreational path alongside the rail currently used by the Old Colony Railway and the Newport Dinner Train.

This forum is second in a series that engages the community in consideration of the proposed *Shoreline Bikeway*. This past June, AIPC brought together representatives from the RI Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and several planning experts to present an overview of the proposition and to discuss the economic and engineering benefits and challenges of a shared use recreational path. At the December 6<sup>th</sup> session, Carl Knoch will present some of the best and most relevant examples of *Rail With Trail* initiatives from across the country to help us understand what is possible and some of our local options and challenges.

The *Shoreline Bikeway* holds the promise of improving access to Aquidneck Island's natural beauty, providing a healthy and green transportation alternative, and uniting residents of the island with one another and with the rest of the state. Considering ways to help our residents and visitors spend more time on foot and on bicycle and less time in cars is an interest expressed by officials from all three island municipalities as well as the advocates of Aquidneck Island Planning Commission, Bike Newport, AARP of RI, and numerous local and regional organizations who recognize that active transportation is a primary key to a sustainable and healthy future. Achieving our *Shoreline Bikeway* will depend on the participation and collaboration of officials, experts and residents.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend the forum and to participate in the discussion. Please register by December 4. There is no charge to attend.

RSVP to [jared@aquidneckplanning.org](mailto:jared@aquidneckplanning.org) or by phone to AIPC at (401) 845-9299.

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