



CITY OF KEENE

R-99-16

In the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-nine

A RESOLUTION Requesting the State of New Hampshire to prohibit all terrain vehicles (ATV) from using the state-owned Ashuelot rail trail corridor between Emerald Street and the Ashuelot River adjacent to Keene State College within the city limits of the City of Keene.
Resolved by the City Council of the City of Keene, as follows:

WHEREAS: The City of Keene's recently adopted Bicycle/Pedestrian Path Master Plan recognizes that Keene will become the hub of a regional public system of bicycle paths and multi-use paths occurring along the Cheshire Branch Rail Line (north and south) and the Ashuelot Rail Line and that these state-owned corridors will interconnect to form a comprehensive and meaningful alternative transportation system within the City limits;

WHEREAS: The City of Keene has been awarded federal transportation enhancement funds from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation in FY 2000/2001 to construct a two-directional paved bicycle path along the state-owned Ashuelot Rail Line between Winchester Street and Emerald Street;

WHEREAS: The City of Keene's Bicycle/Pedestrian Path Master Plan recommends that this paved bicycle path be extended south of Winchester Street along the state-owned Ashuelot Rail Line by Keene State College to a new pedestrian overpass to be built by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation over Route 101 as part of the Keene-Swanzey Bypass Project;

WHEREAS: The Trails Bureau of the State of New Hampshire has recently adopted new rules which now allow ATV use (during the winter months only at this time) on the state-owned Ashuelot Rail Line north of Route 101 to Emerald Street within the city limits of the City of Keene;

WHEREAS: The City of Keene's Bicycle/Pedestrian Path Advisory Committee has reviewed these rules and have found that the mixing of pedestrians, bicyclists and ATV's on a paved bicycle path is not safe, particularly in a densely populated downtown area adjacent to a public college; and,

WHEREAS: The federal Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century (TEA-21) strictly prohibits ATV's and other motorized vehicles from using all paved bicycle paths built to federal transportation enhancement funding standards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Keene that the Trails Bureau and the Department of Transportation of the State of New Hampshire install signage expressly prohibiting ATV's and other similar motorized vehicles from using the Ashuelot Rail Trail between Emerald Street and the Ashuelot River within the city limits of the City of Keene.

PASSED

June 3, 1999
In City Council May 20, 1999
Referred to the Planning and
Development Committee.

Patricia T. Russell
Patricia T. Russell, Mayor

Patricia Callahan
City Clerk

A true copy; attest:
Patricia Callahan
City Clerk