



*ECGA's mission is to partner with local, state, and national agencies and organizations to promote the establishment, stewardship and public enjoyment of a traffic-free, multi-user trail linking cities and towns between Maine and Florida.*

## Newark to Jersey City an Important New ECG Connection

June 22nd was a great day for the ECG in New Jersey! At 11:30 AM, Jersey City's Mayor Jerramiah Healy officially cut the ribbon to open a newly-completed section of the ECG between Newark and Jersey City.

This 2-mile segment now permits cyclists and walkers to safely cross a tangle of highways, industries, rivers, and wetlands known locally as the New Jersey Meadowlands. The improved stretch largely follows US Truck Route 1-9.



The ribbon cutting event included NJDOT officials, the Mayor of Jersey City, Newark and Hudson County officials, and ECGA staff and key volunteers who worked on the project. The development of this segment is so significant for the region that it was featured in the Wall Street Journal and a national Fox News TV segment.

Over 40 cyclists, led by New Jersey State Committee Chair Mike Kruimer, rode to attend the event. After the ribbon cutting, many people biked or walked to enjoy the newly completed section, despite the 95 degree heat.

For years, the NJDOT, ECGA, Newark and Jersey City staff worked hard to create a bike and pedestrian accessible route around the multiple highway systems. Before this segment opened, a sign in Lincoln Park in Jersey City warned trail users: "Do not venture further onto Route 1 or Route 9." To continue to Newark and beyond, walkers and cyclists were advised to take a PATH train. *(Continued on page 3.)*

## Grants Support Record ECG Signage

Have you seen more ECG signs on the route near you lately? We hope you have or that you will soon! This year ECGA staff and volunteers are working hard to increase the amount of signage on the ECG route.

Thanks to significant grants from our sponsors REI and Tom's of Maine, and generous donations earmarked for signage from the Helen & William Mazer Foundation, William Penn Foundation, Carolina Tarwheels, Cape Fear Cyclists, Bucks and Delaware County Cycling Clubs in PA, and Narraganset Bay Wheelmen, we've gotten hundreds of miles of ECG signs either posted or in the pipeline in almost every state along our route.

ECG signs and trail markers not only help local and long-distance walkers and cyclists navigate our route, but they serve an important function in getting the word out about the East Coast Greenway. Sometimes they are the first thing someone sees that lets them know about our project.

In addition to regular trail marker signs, we've also installed more than 20 mileage signs in different places that show the distance to Calais, Maine and Key West, Florida from that location. These signs help give perspective of the scope of our 2,900 mile route.

In order to get signs placed on the route, we work closely with a wide array of stakeholders from state transportation departments, state parks agencies, municipal planning and public works agencies, regional planners, and (of course) local trail advocates. This process is often time-consuming, but is quite important and always rewarding.

Look for more signs coming in 2013 too, as we continue the progress kick-started this year!



*ECG Signs in Hartford, CT and Salisbury, MA*

# 2012 Tour Explores ECG from Maine to Connecticut



2012 Week a Year Tour at the start in Portland, Maine on August 19th. Photo by Truda Bloom.

Our second annual Week a Year tour held this past August was a huge success! The tour series began last year with 25 riders cycling in Maine from the ECG northern gateway in Calais to Portland. We are riding 300 to 400 miles of the ECG each year, going from north to south until we reach the Florida Keys. This year's group of 37 riders picked up where we left off in Portland and rode over 400 miles in seven days to Hartford, Connecticut.

Our group experienced the ECG route in five states: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. The route we explored this year is a microcosm of the trail surfaces of the entire ECG: paved, stone-dust, and rougher trail in some places. We rode between 40 and 65 miles a day, most of us on hybrid bikes or road bikes with wider tires due to the varied trail surfaces.

The riders this year hailed from ten East Coast states and the District of Columbia, and we ranged in age from 16 to 89. This year all riders agreed to donate or fundraise a minimum of \$500 to help continue the work of the ECGA. A number of people raised over \$1,000, and one person brought in over \$1500 in donations! Everyone who contributed toward someone's ride became a member, so our tour participants not only raised \$25,000 but grew our organization by over 100 new members!

**THANK YOU to our tour participants for all their efforts on our behalf, and to the fantastic volunteer organizing committee!**

The Week a Year tour benefits the ECG in many ways. In anticipation of the tour, the town of Peabody, Massachusetts finished their trail with a smoother surface the week before we rode through, and the state of Connecticut put up ECG directional signs from the Rhode Island border to Hartford.

These are also working tours that allow our staff and volunteers to get critical on-the-ground knowledge of the route and conditions. Throughout the ride, staff and volunteers tweaked the computer generated cue sheets, identified places needing signs, and tested out electronic files of the route on a handlebar-mounted Garmin GPS. Everyone will benefit from this in the upcoming year as more ECG signs are placed and we make our route available on GPS.

During the week we rode on some newly completed sections of the ECG, including the North Bank bridge in Boston which opened in July. This bridge dramatically

improves our route by going over ten sets of train tracks, eliminating a bit of confusing routing, and connecting two key parks. In Andover, Connecticut we rode over another unique bridge, the new Hop River Trail covered bridge. This is the first covered bridge that goes over a road along our route, and it connects two very pretty sections of off-road trail.

Several times during tour we were met by local officials and supporters of the East Coast Greenway. In Danvers, Massachusetts, Kate Day, the town planner who has been working on their section of the ECG, set up a water stop along the trail and handed out specially made Rail-Trail Root Beer! At the end of the ride, Hartford Connecticut's Mayor Segarra welcomed us with appetizers and a DJ at a celebration for the riders.



This year ECGA members had the opportunity to join us on several day rides during the week. Over a dozen cyclists met us in Newburyport, MA to ride with us to Boston, and on the last day more than twenty ECG members in Connecticut cycled with us into Hartford.

Planning has begun for next year's ride. (Want to be on the email list to receive information? Email us at [info@greenway.org](mailto:info@greenway.org).) -- By David Read, ECGA Board Chair



ECGA staff also saved some wildlife during the tour! Trail Coordinator Eric Weis rescued a baby possum in Sudbury, MA after its mother had been hit by a car. (A kind volunteer later took the little possum to a wildlife rehab center.)

Photo by Eric Weis.

## Attention ECGA Members!

**Join us for our Fall Trail Council and Annual Members Meetings in Richmond, VA**

**November 17, 9 AM - 5 PM**

*Held at the Virginia War Memorial  
621 South Belvidere Street Richmond, VA*

Visit our website, call 919-797-0619, or email [debbie@greenway.org](mailto:debbie@greenway.org) for more info.

**Board elections:** members can vote for new trustees and new by-law amendments at the meeting by mail or email. See details at [www.greenway.org](http://www.greenway.org).

## From the Director

Dear ECG Teammates,

2012 is proving to be a breakout year for the East Coast Greenway! New greenway segments are coming online throughout the corridor and our supporter base has already significantly passed our 2012 goal of 16,000 people.

In two efforts to raise the profile of our project further, we are signing the most ECG miles in our history and have been featured in a record 500 positive articles so far this year, including strong coverage in the Wall Street Journal in May and national Fox News in July.

And more people than ever are biking and walking our route. We hosted the inspiring Cabot Community Tour from Miami to Portland, Maine this past summer – with three through-cyclists going all 2,500 miles, hundreds of day riders, and thousands of people enjoying the community events along the way.

Together, we can keep this strong momentum up toward a healthy & sustainable Eastern Seaboard!

Thank you!

- Dennis Markatos-Soriano

*(Continued from page 1.)* Work on this corridor began more than a decade ago. After the Delaware & Raritan Canal towpath was designated as part of the ECG in 1996, the ECGA began searching for a way to connect through the rest of the state.

In 2002, our staff and key volunteers pitched the East Coast Greenway to NJDOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator Sheree Davis and other state officials. Within weeks, the RBA Group, an engineering/planning firm, was contracted to conduct a “Northern New Jersey Route Location Study” for the ECG. Numerous meetings were held throughout the four-county corridor to devise the best route.

ECGA Board member and former New Jersey State Committee Chair Elizabeth Brody described the process: “We poured over maps, took field trips, listened to presentations, obtained letters of support, and otherwise worked to get ‘buy in’ from a variety of stakeholders. The greatest challenge was how to cross the Jersey Meadowland and its two rivers between Newark and Jersey City.”

This collaborative effort resulted in a May 2004 report that has been the basis for many new trail segments in addition to this one, including Lenape Park, which opened in 2011 and the Middlesex Greenway which opened in September.

Everyone’s efforts throughout the years have certainly paid off! While those in attendance applauded, Andy Hamilton, ECGA’s Mid-Atlantic Coordinator, and Sheree Davis, NJDOT’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, removed the outdated warning sign at the June 22nd ceremony (see picture below).

Generous grants from the Dodge and Mazer Foundations supported the ECGA’s work on this project, which received funding from various sources, including \$1.3 million in state and federal funds.

Thank you to everyone who worked throughout the years to make this segment accessible to pedestrians and cyclists! Kudos to our volunteer NJ State Committee, the NJDOT, the cities of Newark and Jersey City, and to NJDOT’s hardworking Jersey City Crew #222 who completed the construction.



Photos by Steven Faust.

## HELP BUILD AN AMERICAN TREASURE - BECOME AN ECGA MEMBER!

The nonprofit **EAST COAST GREENWAY ALLIANCE** needs your support to make this trail a reality! Please make the commitment to help us create an American legacy by joining as a member. There’s never been a better time to get involved!

- Monthly Sustainer \_\_\_\_\_ per month (provide cc number)
- Individual Life (\$1500)       Family (\$60)
- Close the Gaps Club (\$1000)       Individual (\$40)
- Trailblazer (\$500)       Student (\$25)
- Pathfinder (\$100)       Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Become a Monthly Sustainer!

Want to support the ECGA year-round? Sustainers choose the amount they want to give per month, and it’s automatically deducted from your credit or debit card. EASY! (You can change the amount, start, or stop at any time.) Everyone joining the Sustainer program by November 1 will receive a free ECGA T-shirt! Join today! T-shirt size: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form to:

### EAST COAST GREENWAY ALLIANCE

5315 Highgate Dr. Suite 105, Durham, NC 27713  
919-797-0619 | info@greenway.org | www.greenway.org

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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I’m enclosing a check made out to the ECGA for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my  Visa  Mastercard  American Express

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit - membership and donations are tax deductible.



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## Are YOU in the KNOW?

Be sure to get our monthly e-newsletter  
Email [info@greenway.org](mailto:info@greenway.org) to get on the list!

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The East Coast Greenway is an urban trail system linking together scores of local, firm-surface trails into a unified, 2,900-mile route. It spans 15 states plus the District of Columbia between Maine and Florida. This developing trail provides safe, traffic-free travel, exercise, recreation, and tourism opportunities to 45 million Americans who live near it and millions more visitors to the region.

### ECGA Mission:

To partner with local, state and national agencies and organizations to promote the establishment, stewardship and public enjoyment of a traffic-free, multi-user trail linking cities between Maine and Florida.

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