



BRUCE FREEMAN RAIL TRAIL



Mass Central Rail Trail



The big picture here is that within 125 miles of my house in Northampton, MA there are more miles of dead RRs [both steam RRs and electric trolley lines] than anywhere else in North America.

The interesting fact here is that the network here doesn't lead to played-out, defunct, coal-mine branchlines, where no one lives. The network here leads to old industrial centers where the RRs brought in heavy materials and shipped out high dollar value finished products.

Those old mills, now largely repurposed for apartments, condos, offices or innovative startups are the catalyst for the renaissance in those cities.

These old industrial centers --now called "Gateway Cities" will be a part of the densest network of converted RRs into Rail Trails. I'm glad to see these paths start to knit together and glad that DOT's consultant just finished a detailed look at what it will take to piece together the Mass Central Rail Trail's missing sections or gaps a little further west of this area.

Also, I'm just so glad to see this Governor and his team doing astounding work building this network.

Amazing stuff going on.