



## MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Edwards Square to MassCentral Rail Trail Access Funded

Mayor David J. Narkewicz announced today that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has awarded the City of Northampton a \$78,605 Complete Streets grant to build an access ramp from North Street and Edwards Square to the MassCentral Rail Trail. Currently, there is no access to the trail for 8/10<sup>ths</sup> of a mile from the east side of the active railroad. This project will cut that distance roughly in half.

“This investment will make one of our most densely populated neighborhoods in Northampton more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly,” said Mayor Narkewicz. “This is one of the most effective ways to make our citizens healthier and happier, reduce pedestrian and bicycle crashes, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, congestion and parking shortages downtown.

The project is part of a larger effort to expand shared-use paths in the city. “Just as we did last year, when we opened a new one-mile paved shared-use path from Sandy Hill Road to Burts Pit Road, we want to continue to expand our trail network, our sidewalk network, and provide alternatives to single-occupancy motor vehicles,” said Mayor Narkewicz.

The Northampton Office of Planning & Sustainability will oversee the project, and expects to go to bid in the spring. The project has been made possible by National Grid and ServiceNet, who are providing access across their property, and by donations from many Northampton residents that funded the design.

For any questions please contact Mayor David J. Narkewicz at [mayor@northamptonma.gov](mailto:mayor@northamptonma.gov)