



## Letter: Kids need a safe place to ride their bikes

Tue, May 06 2008

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To the editor:

I think that the rail trail is a good idea and I have some good reasons, too.

The rail trail would let people do stuff they ordinarily wouldn't be able to do on their bikes. Biking to New Hampshire from places like Topsfield is an example of what I mean. With the rail trail you could bike to New Hampshire. Without the rail trail you can't bike to your friend's house in the next town over.

The rail trail is also a place where there are no cars.

Now, there are a lot of people who think that if we make the rail trail there will be kids biking into horses. But the thing is there are not very many horses left in town, so I don't get the point of worrying about that.

Think about this: Some people think sidewalks are entirely safe. Think again. What happens if a car spins off the road and hits a kid on a bike? Now that we are on the subject, sidewalks are not really meant for bikes, or are they?

In our part of Topsfield we barely have sidewalks anywhere, so kids can only bike when they go on trips, or at Bradley Palmer, or in front of their house, and that's all. I think this is a problem because we don't get the exercise we need. Biking is a good way to strengthen leg muscles.

But still, if we bike on our roads there are cars, and if you're thinking Bradley Palmer is still a choice? Wrong. In the summer the pool is open so they let in cars.

So if we had the rail trail we could ride our bikes more, get stronger legs, get more exercise, and we would have more fun. I like riding my bike a lot, but can't do it in Topsfield. The rail trail would also make it easier to ride to place like Hood's Pond or Pye Brook Park.

When I go down to Cape Cod I always ride on the rail trail. If we had a rail trail here, I wouldn't have to go to Cape Cod to have longer bike rides. I could bike more often, and longer, and see the nice sights too.

I'm sure all my friends would agree. So that's why I ask you when it's time to vote for the rail trail, please think about it from a kid's point of view and VOTE YES!

NICHOLAS JEAN, fourth-grader

Topsfield

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