



## Providence

# Ribbon-cutting marks opening of next phase of bike path

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PROVIDENCE — Officials from the Rhode Island Department of Transportation yesterday cut the ribbon to officially open the next phase of the Northwest Bike Trail/Fred Lippitt Woonasquatucket River Greenway.

The ceremony took place at the start of the off-street section of the path in Riverside Mills Park, off Aleppo Street. Bike lanes on city streets constitute part of the path and the rest is off-street blacktop.

“RIDOT has built bike paths in many communities in Rhode Island, however, this is the first major bike path built in Providence and Johnston and the first in such a densely populated urban area,” Jerome F. Williams, state director of transportation, said in a statement.

The bikeway runs 3.6 miles from Valley Street in Providence to Lyman Avenue in Johnston, largely along the path of the former New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. A majority of the \$5.3-million path, or 2.9 miles, is off-street, starting at Aleppo Street.

The newest segment opened yesterday links with a 1.5-mile on-street route between Valley Street and Providence Place mall, which opened in 2002.

The Transportation Department, which partnered in the project with the state Department of Environmental Management, plans additional segments and spurs that will eventually result in an 8.5-mile path to the Smithfield town line. The path will follow the river for its entire length.