

WASHINGTON, D.C. , Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced that the U.S. House of Representatives has allocated \$4 million for Berkshire County bike and pedestrian paths. "Bike paths are a recreational attraction for tourists and can be a magnet for bringing people into downtown towns," Olver said. The funding will be used to construct rail trails in Berkshire County. One project that could benefit from this funding is the construction of a trail from North Adams to West Adams. This transportation funding will benefit the entire county. The ultimate goal of this funding is to establish a network of bike and pedestrian paths throughout Berkshire County. The funding is included in a \$286 billion surface transportation reauthorization bill, known as the Transportation Equity Act of 2021. Olver is the senior Democrat of the House Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, which will be responsible for funding this project. Olver said, "Communities have been patiently awaiting this reauthorization so it's critical to have this money available as soon as possible. The Transportation Equity Act of 2005 builds upon the successes of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. "This bill ensures that Massachusetts , particularly western and central Massachusetts , will continue to receive funding for transportation infrastructure projects."

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