

Golden Spike 2022 Walking and Biking Tours

TOUR #	START TIME	START LOCATION	TOUR TITLE	TOUR LEADER	MODE	MILES	TIME
1	2:00 PM	Outside Stone Church	Reading the Historical Landscape: Gilbertville Seen Through Its Architecture. Take a walk down Gilbertville's Main Street and learn how the styles and types of dwellings, factories, churches, and public buildings help tell the tale of the history and growth of this still-very-much-intact 19th-century industrial village.	Phillip Warbasse is an architect and president of Warbasse Associates, LLC, providing historic preservation services. Since 2014 he has worked toward stabilization and reuse of the Stone Church as one of 130 buildings in the Gilbertville National Historic District (National Register of Historic Places 1991). His related interest is the promotion of Historic District awareness for Gilbertville residents' pride and for tourism.	Walking	1.7 miles	90 MIN
2	2:00 PM	Outside Stone Church	How a 19th c. New England Mill Town Worked Join us for a 90 minute walk through Gilbertville exploring its change from an 1862 mill town to today. This tour includes factories, public buildings, canals, railroads and a future part of the rail trail; all part of George Gilbert's single enterprise community plan. By 1930, the Gilbert Company was gone, but most of the industrial buildings remain.	Cheryl Nye Wolfe is a member of the town of Hardwick's Finance Committee. Working with the Hardwick Historical Society, she has developed several Gilbertville tours. An avid cyclist, she also serves as Vice President of the Friends of the Stone Church—the venue for our conference.	Walking	1.7 miles	90 MIN
3	2:00 PM	Outside Stone Church <i>This tour has a capacity of 30 attendees and we are likely to break it into two groups of 15 in order to ensure safety in a construction zone.</i>	Redevelopment of the Gilbertville Mill complex. Did you wonder how old mills become renovated for 21st century uses? These sorts of projects are happening all over New England. This one will have a 100 mile trail alongside. See what is about to happen and what sorts of spaces will become available.	Dan LaFrance is a Professional Engineer (PE) working for Fuss & O'Neill. He has experience in leading the renovations of several antique mill complexes in the region to become assets to the community. David Wluka is a leader in the Massachusetts Real Estate Industry with a strong focus on Smart Growth.	Walking	1.5 miles	90 MIN
4	2:00 PM	Outside Stone Church	Bike on sections of the MCRT East of Gilbertville out to the Wheelwright Village going past some of the Commonwealth's most bucolic scenery. The tour also goes over a few bridges including one that is the last of its type still standing in southern New England.	Pete Sutton is MassDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Coordinator. He is a big advocate of alternative transportation models and was the Coordinator for MassDOT's recent Feasibility Study about the Mass Central Rail Trail. He's been on virtually all the rail trail projects underway in Mass.	Biking	10 miles	2 HR
5	2:00 PM	Outside Stone Church	Bike on sections of the MCRT south and west of Gilbertville along the former RR corridor now owned by National Grid and into Ware where the EQLT has developed an accessible trail that is adjacent to one of their iconic properties, the Froloff Farm.	Denis Ouimette first got involved with rail trail advocacy in 1993 when he conducted a survey of riders on the Norwottuck section of the Mass Central Rail Trail for for the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) In 1997, he moved to Ware and for the past 16 years, he's been working for the Town of Ware Parks Department. He serves on many town committees including 15 years on the Finance Committee (11 as Chairman). He is also on the Open Space/Rail Trail Committee.	Biking	7 miles	1.5 HR