

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee
Thursday September 6, 2018
Harvey Wheeler Community Center

Meeting called to order 7:00 pm

Committee members present: Jim Lyon, Carol Steele, Suzanne Knight

Members of the public: Marcia Rasmussen, Barbara Pike, Stephen Goodman,
Dean Sullender,

Recorder: Carol Steele

1. Minutes approved as amended. The committee thanked Marcia Rasmussen for leading members on a tour of the Junction Park section of the trail.
2. Phase 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D Updates.
 1. **Phase 2A Update:** This phase of the trail construction has been completed and is open for all to enjoy!
 2. **Phase 2B Update:** GPI submitted plans at the end of June; they have been posted on the BFRT Advisory Committee's website at <http://concordma.gov/980/Bruce-Freeman-Rail-Trail-Committee>. The Phase 2B 75% design is listed on the left side of the page. I sent a message to the MassDOT Project Manager Sreelatha Allam requesting an update today.
 3. **Phase 2C Updates:**
 - a) MassDOT project engineers were following up with Keolis Commuter Services (under contract to the MBTA) regarding installation of the crossing gates and paving the path over the rails. No update yet available.
 - b) The change order requesting additional landscaping at the Main St./Commonwealth Ave. intersection (both sides of Main Street at the Junction Park extension and area opposite Junction Park plus an area near the Assabet River bridge behind 72 Cottage St.) was submitted (July 25th) but no response has yet been received from MassDOT.
 - c) Several email messages from concerned residents and business owners have been sent to me, the Town Manager, Public Works Director, Town Engineer and Police Chief regarding the redesign of the Main Street and Commonwealth Ave. intersection. People perceive that the intersection is not adequately designed for the turning movement of large trucks, which may place pedestrians at risk. Engineering/Design Consultant Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. has provided schematics indicating that the intersection has been designed in conformance with safety standards and is also exploring (at the Town's request) potential redesign and change-order to relocate the curbing, sidewalk and traffic standards to further enhance perceived pedestrian safety. More to be done on this issue.
 - d) Concerns submitted by a Concord resident about the edge treatment of the path were addressed by the MassDOT resident engineer this morning. The resident thought it was good to see the construction activity but expressed concern that there were only 18-inches between the pavement and the fencing, not the 2-foot surface that had been promised. MassDOT resident engineer Greg Kwon provided two photos, which illustrate that the construction project is not yet done. The Concord resident was viewing the base course of pavement and had mistaken the existing base course asphalt as the final pavement. Additional asphalt pavement, or top course, is yet to be

installed. The base course is wider than the top course of pavement to provide additional pavement strength at the edges. Additionally, stone dust has not yet been installed in the area between the top course of pavement and the fence line, which will provide the 2-foot alternative surface for people who don't want to use pavement.



MassDOT and Town of Concord staff continues to remind residents and visitors that the trail continues to be a construction zone in 2018; neither residents nor visitors should be walking on or using the trail, especially during the week when construction activity is underway.

4. **Phase 2D Sudbury:** Friends member Barbara Pike provided the following – Sudbury is seeking final funding for 100% funds to advance the design of 4.4. BFRT to MassDOT standards in the amount of \$650,000.
3. Operations & maintenance – Marcia mentioned that historical signage is in process.
4. Public comments:

The Traffic Impact Study was passed along to Patricia Bruttomesso. This should give her clarification for Main Street to help her understand the congestion impacting her home.

Questions were raised about whether there was trail access to Wright Road and to the Gerow property. Marcia said that currently there are no plans for trail access to Wright Road or the Gerow property.

Members had several concerns about plantings along the trail:

- It appears that Pine trees are sometimes planted too close to the stone dust border and trail.

- Would it be possible to plant Oak trees further back from the trail to avoid acorn dump in fall endangering cyclists?

- There are minimal plantings on Department of Corrections property, using the agricultural fields as a border (Rte 2 to Commonwealth Ave). Can plantings be done to give shade to those using trail?

- The question was raised as to whether motorized vehicles were allowed on the trail. Marcia's answer was "No."

- Questions were raised about bathrooms near the trail. As of now, there are no plans for bathrooms. However, Marcia explained that there might be a possibility of the town purchasing the Beaudoin Brothers plumbing building in West Concord as a visitor center.

5. No committee reports.

6. Next committee meeting: Thursday, October 4, 2018 at Harvey Wheeler Community Center.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.