



TOWN OF CONCORD

Department of Planning and Land Management

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MEMORANDUM

To: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee
From: Marcia Rasmussen, Director DPLM
Re: **Update of Phases 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D**
Date: December 5, 2018

1. **Phase 2A Update:** This phase of the trail construction has been completed and is open for all to enjoy!
2. **CPA funding request:** It appears that this year's request to the Community Preservation Committee will not be funded due to the current sentiment that there is already \$40,000 available from this past year's appropriation which should be expended before additional funds are granted compounded by the fact that there are multiple other requests considered to be of a higher priority that exceed funds available. A final vote on the CPC recommendation and warrant article is expected at the December 17th meeting.
3. **Phase 2B Update:** The 75% design plans for Phase 2B, the 0.8 mile bridge over Rte. 2, were submitted to the state at the end of June. The plans are posted at <http://concordma.gov/980/Bruce-Freeman-Rail-Trail-Committee>. The Phase 2B 75% design is listed on the left side of the page. Most of the comments from State agencies have been submitted and are being reviewed. The BFRT Advisory Committee submitted its comments and received a response from GPI (copy attached). I have received 2 additional comments from residents.

Advertising for the Phase 2B project is expected in August 2019 with construction anticipated to begin in fall 2019, with a completion date in fall 2021 or spring 2022.

4. **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. It appears that some work has been done, but this has not been completed.

b) Reconstruction of the intersection at Main Street and Commonwealth Ave. will be completed this year – paving was installed last Thursday and pavement striping will be done on December 6th.

The contractor was working to complete installation of pavers at the Junction Park extension shortly after Thanksgiving when it was discovered that the wrong pavers were being used and the pattern did not follow the pattern in Junction Park – that work was removed and corrected as of Wednesday, December 5th.

The contractor expects to complete paving, fence installation, road crossings, and pedestrian signal installations by mid-November. MassDOT has requested a final inspection at the end of the

construction season, with a punch list (items remaining to be completed) generated at that time. The Town will then be responsible for maintenance of the trail after the winter season.

c) A revised planting plan and plant list was submitted to MassDOT and D.W. White on November 29th, but further revisions may be coming with review of the plan and list by the Green Thumbs and the Garden Club. This landscaping will be installed in the spring 2019.

e) There have been several calls from residents concerned about the quality of signs installed along the trail (they are typical MassDOT road signs). These signs will be evaluated when conducting a site walk later this year to determine whether alternative signs (smaller, wood, routed) might be used instead, which the Town would be responsible to replace.

f) One property owner along the trail near Sanborn School has raised concerns about signage and fencing installed along the trail. I will be meeting with School Dept. representatives on Monday, December 10th to view the fence and determine whether it's needed as installed. While there, I'll also review concerns raised by the property owner regarding inappropriate vehicular traffic.

5. Phase 2D Sudbury: Sudbury Selectman Len Simon provided the following update –

“Since the October 15 Special Town Meeting the Board of Selectmen (BOS) held a Goals Setting Meeting on November 6. About 25 goals were listed. Of the 25 goals, 6 were determined to be 'High Priority'. The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail was one of the six. The BOS then discussed the deliverables for each of the High Priority goals. See below for the 2019 Deliverable.

On December 4, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to ratify the November 6 goals, including the BFRT goal, which means they are now 'official' BOS policy. The Town Manager will use the BOS goals to prepare her own set of goals. It is expected that the BFRT to be on that list with the deliverables as noted below.

From conversations with Town officials and others there are two tasks remaining to be done to prepare the 25% design to MassDOT:

- 1) relocation of site approach and borings at two locations (Pantry Brook and the site of the proposed boardwalk), and
- 2) further survey of the flood plain near Pantry Brook (Possibly due to beaver activity)

I have met Town officials and reinforced the necessity of having the Notice of Intent (NOI) for these activities (particularly the borings) submitted to the Conservation Commission by the end of 2018. I have also spoken with Town officials about preparation of the RFP for the 75/100% design contract since the funds have been appropriated, again urging speedy action. I have been told that contract will be done by May Town meeting.

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has been informed of the highly successful October 15 Town Meeting vote for full funding of the remaining design.”

And from Sudbury Planning staff member, Beth Suedmeyer:

- Phase 2D remains on the FY 2022 TIP.
- Additionally, the Town of Sudbury has received a Recreational Trails Grant to purchase the first ¼ mile of the CSX corridor, which would connect the terminus of Phase 2D to Route 20. We are trying to determine if the Town can allocate more funds to the effort to purchase more of the corridor or the whole Sudbury section.