



TOWN OF CONCORD

Department of Planning and Land Management

141 Keyes Road - Concord, MA - 01742

Phone: 978-318-3290

MEMORANDUM

To: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee
From: Marcia Rasmussen, Director DPLM
Re: **Update of Phases 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D**
Date: October 31, 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:** The public meeting with the Community Preservation Committee to discuss the funding request for an additional \$60,000 is scheduled for Tuesday, November 13th and will be held at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center. I have been asked to provide more detailed information about the use of these funds (e.g., the Concord on Tap signs, additional bicycle racks and shelters for the West Concord parking area, bike repair stations and potential BFRT directional signs) as part of my presentation. I have also been asked to consider reducing the amount requested, and given other projects and Town priorities, may request half the amount or \$30,000.
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 may want to submit its comments on the 75% plans this month.

At the October 11th meeting with MassDOT Highway and Rail & Transit Divisions (and Acton Planning Division staff), there were no questions asked about the prior title work prepared by Town Counsel Anderson & Kreiger for Concord or Acton. I also learned that the one easement required for Phase 2B from Dept. of Corrections is being handled by MassDOT because it's **adjacent to the Route 2 Right-of-way**. I also asked when a public hearing for the 75% design might be scheduled and was informed that, given the level of support for the project, a public hearing was not required. MassDOT project manager Sreelatha Allam suggested that if the BFRT Advisory Committee wanted to host a public information session just to bring residents up to date that you could do so and MassDOT would plan to attend. Whether to hold a public information meeting should be decided at the November 1st meeting to get it on the calendar with a location reserved.

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 Update s:**

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. However, as of late-October the work of installing the crossing gates and paving the path over the rails where the trail crosses the MBTA commuter rail has not been completed.

b) Design revisions to the intersection at Main Street and Commonwealth Ave. are underway. The reconstruction of the intersection of Main Street and Commonwealth Ave. will be completed this **November**. **The design reduces the length of the trail across Main Street**, creating a safer crossing for trail users and pedestrians while providing for adequate turning movement of larger vehicles and retaining existing parking spaces.

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) 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 on July 25th, but with proposed revisions to the Main Street/Commonwealth Ave. intersection this work has been delayed landscape installation to the spring 2019.

d) Town of Sudbury staff forwarded a complaint from a resident that lives just north of Route 117 about a cyclist using the dirt path southerly from Powder Mill Road then cutting through their yard and driveway when the vegetation was too thick on the trail. Signage and fencing is part of the design package (to be located on the north side of the Powder Mill Road tunnel) and was intended to discourage such use going south, but there was no intent to completely block access for pedestrians. I will ask if the signs and fences have been or remain to be installed this fall at the November 1st construction meeting.

e) 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.

5. Phase 2D Sudbury: At a Special Town Meeting on October 15 Sudbury residents voted to appropriate \$650,000 from free cash to fund the final design of the BFRT Phase 2D to MassDOT standards. The Sudbury Town Manager has authority, and duty, to contract with a design firm to complete design for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. The Board of Selectmen cannot veto this authority. **Once the design is finished**, the project will move to the construction phase. The funding article was presented as a Citizen Petition by Sudbury Selectman Len Simon. Below is a photograph taken at the Williams Road entrance to the trail in Concord and used as part of the presentation to the Sudbury Special Town Meeting.

