



**TOWN OF CONCORD**  
**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**  
141 KEYES ROAD, CONCORD, MA 01742  
TEL. (978) 318-3290 FAX (978) 318-3291

**Application for CPA Funding**  
**Due no later than 4:00pm on Friday, October 9, 2020**

Applicant: Town of Concord

Co-Applicant (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Project Name: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

Project Location/Address: 141 Keyes Rd. / West Concord

Purpose: (Select all that apply)

- Open Space       Community Housing       Historic Preservation       Recreation

Project Budget:

Amount of CPA Funds Requested: \$ 25,000

Amount from Other Funding Sources: \$ 0

Total Project Budget: \$ 25,000  
(If multi-year project, note current phase only)

Please check which of the following is included with this Application:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One Paragraph Project Summary *  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timeline *   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map (if applicable)              | <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural plans, site plans, photographs<br>(if appropriate)                                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Narrative *                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Audit or most recent Financial<br>Information ( <u>Non Profit Organizations Only</u> )* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Selection Criteria and Needs Assessment     | <input type="checkbox"/> Letters of Support (if any)   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Detailed Project Budget *        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feasibility Assessment                      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Statement of Sustainability (if applicable) |  |

\* Required Documentation

The Contact Person for this Project is: Marcia Rasmussen

All Correspondence should be mailed to: 141 Keyes Rd. Concord, MA 01742

The Contact Person can be reached by phone at: 978-318-3290 or by email at: mrasmussen@concordma.gov

Signature of Applicant: Marcia Rasmussen

Signature of Property Owner (if different): [Signature]

**For Historic Preservation Projects Only** – please check the box below left and acknowledge:

- I/We have read the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and understand that planning for and execution of this project must meet these standards.

## Brief Project Summary

The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is a non-motorized, ADA accessible, multi-use trail serving as a recreational and transportation resource for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities. Phase 2C was completed in 2018; Phase 2B is currently under construction with completion anticipated in November 2021 and the final design of last ½ mile of Phase 2C from Powder Mill Road south to the Sudbury Town line is underway. The design and construction of the BFRT is consistent with the goals outlined in the Community Preservation Plan, the Concord Open Space and Recreation Plan and the 2018 Envision Concord Comprehensive Long Range Plan. The additional funds requested in this application will be used to provide additional landscaping, fencing, paving, other amenities to enrich and enhance the visitor experience.

## Narrative

The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) is a regional trail that has been constructed and is in active use in Lowell, Chelmsford, Westford, Carlisle, and Acton. The 2.7 mile portion of the trail in Concord (Phase 2C) has seen active pedestrian and bicyclist use this past spring as residents were asked to quarantine and group activities were limited. Sudbury is currently in design, with construction funding listed in the State's Transportation Improvement Program for 2022. The trail will ultimately extend approximately 25 miles along the former New Haven branch of the Old Colony Railroad and is named in memory of former State Representative Bruce Freeman from Chelmsford. Phase 3 of the BFRT (the final 4.6 miles) includes sections of South Sudbury and Framingham; these communities are working to obtain ownership of the right-of-way.

With completion of Phase 2C and residents actively using the trail for walking, hiking, biking and other purposes, the Town is receiving comments and concerns about the conditions observed, as well as requests and input on additional amenities. For example, there are areas where pavement should have been installed but was not; and, suggestions where enhanced planting could be beneficial; and, where bicyclists are going off the trail where additional fencing is needed (see photos below).



Photo left: Area between the rail trail and commuter train platform where additional pavement and plantings are recommended.

Photo right: Area near traffic signal at Main Street and Commonwealth Ave. where pavement was not installed but pedestrians need to access the traffic signal.





Photo left: an area near the Powder Mill Road serpentine path where bicyclists are ‘cutting through’ and not staying on the path which results in significant erosion. Additional wood fencing would prevent this activity.

Phase 2B is currently under construction. Once the work is completed, there may be a need for additional signage, fencing or other amenities to enhance the users’ experience on the trail. Additionally, with regard to the final ½ mile of trail in Concord, MassDOT asked the Town to complete the design of this portion of the Phase 2C trail (the thinking back in 2016 was to incorporate the final design into the Sudbury contract, but challenges with engineering responsibilities and liabilities led to the request).

### **CPC's Selection Criteria and Needs Assessment**

This application meets the following Selection Criteria as found in the 2020 Community Preservation Plan:

*a. The project's eligibility for CPA funding under the CPA legislation.*

The application meets the criteria for Recreation under the CPA legislation as it will provide funding for the support of recreational use.

*b. The project's consistency with Town-wide planning efforts and reports that have received broad-based scrutiny and input.*

As noted in the 2005 Comprehensive Long Range Plan, in the 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan and the 2018 Envision Concord plan, the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail has been identified as an important trail providing an alternative means of transportation and recreation for residents and visitors that connects people to conservation lands, schools and playing fields and the West Concord Village Center. These studies and plans acknowledge the efforts of advocates for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail to gain support to convert 25 miles of abandoned rail bed into a multi-purpose trail connecting Lowell to Framingham which meets the CPA criteria for both open space and recreation.

*c. The project's support by relevant Town boards and committees and community groups and its consistency with recent Town Meeting actions.*

The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee and the Recreation Commission have both indicated the importance of completing this Rail Trail project in Concord. The Select Board has supported the funding of this program through the CPA and the Inter-Municipal agreement that was signed by the former Town Manager to accept the State funds for Phase 2C and 2B.

*d. The extent to which the project preserves, protects or enhances existing Town-owned open*

*space, recreation, historic and/or housing assets.*

This project directly relates to the preservation, protection and support of Concord's open space and recreation opportunities, and potentially, historic resources (such as retention and restoration of railroad artifacts and interpretive panels that provide information on the area history).

*e. The extent to which the project serves multiple or underserved populations.*

As a non-motorized, ADA accessible, multi-use trail, this project directly serves multiple populations as well as people with disabilities.

*f. Whether or not the project fulfills more than one purpose of the legislation: housing, historic preservation, open space or recreation.*

This project fulfills two purposes of the legislation – recreation and open space.

*g. Administrative and financial management capabilities of the applicant.*

The project will be administered through the Town of Concord's Department of Planning and Land Management (DPLM). To date, DPLM has been primarily responsible for administering the Town's efforts in designing the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and has worked directly with Acton Planning Director to promote Phase 2B of this project (Acton's Community Preservation funds are being directed toward the Acton portion of the bridge over Route 2). Together we were also able to leverage additional State funds up to \$350,000 toward design of Phase 2B for that portion of the bridge within the State's right-of-way. The Department also has extensive experience in administering CPA funded grants and projects. The Town has completed all of the requirements of the program and grant funds to date.

*h. The extent to which the applicant has successfully implemented projects of a similar type and scale or otherwise demonstrated the ability and competency to implement such a project.*

As noted above, the applicant has had a key role in the design for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and has extensive familiarity with the work proposed. The Planning Division has overseen numerous grant funded projects and has the expertise to implement a project of this scale.

*i. Demonstrated financial need.*

Phase 2C has been completed in Concord in the spring 2019; construction of Phase 2B is underway as of May 2020. Without CPA funding available in 2021, we are unable to address needs that arise as the trail is in use.

*j. Whether or not there will be multiple sources of funding for the project, including leveraging of other public and/or private funding.*

As noted above, the State, the Town of Acton and the Town of Concord provided funding toward 2B design and the project was successfully bid in 2019. The State is providing the construction funding for all of Phase 2B that is determined to be within the scope of the project (trail connections are considered not within the scope of the project at this time, the towns will be expected to provide funding for this work). This request is for funds that may be needed as additional work is identified.

*k. The feasibility of the project plan and whether or not the most reasonable approach for implementing the project has been selected.*

The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee continues to serve as a clearing house for any additional projects or scope of work that may be requested, desired or required. With

construction and design work underway, it is important to have contingency funds available to not jeopardize the current timelines.

- I. *The urgency of the project, the flexibility of the schedule and the impact of any delay in initiating the project.* Without resources available, further degradation of the surfaces may occur due to erosion; opportunities to provide an enhanced experience for trail users will be lost.

### **Budget**

A specific budget for this request has not been prepared; the funds are needed as contingency in response to unforeseen requirements and desired enhancements (i.e., additional landscaping or screening in areas that were not anticipated at the time bid documents were prepared), upgrade in materials (e.g., blue stone/flag stone vs. asphalt), or elements that are considered by MassDOT to be “non-participating” (e.g., connections to existing trails at Route 2). These funds would allow greater flexibility for the Town to participate in the design and construction process.

### **Feasibility**

Once construction is completed, the Town of Concord is responsible for the ongoing maintenance and improvements along the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail; residents using the trail are identifying areas in need of attention or proposing ideas that are worthy of consideration.

### **Timeline**

The funds need to be available in 2021 to allow improvements along the trail for pedestrians and bicyclists.

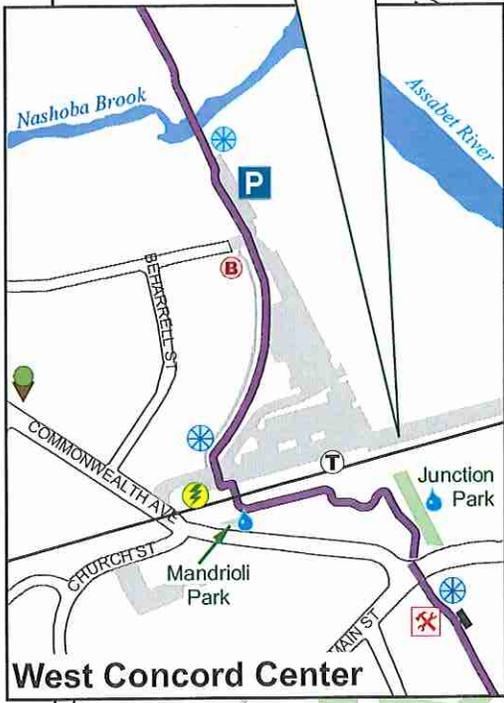
# Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

## Phase 2C in Concord, MA

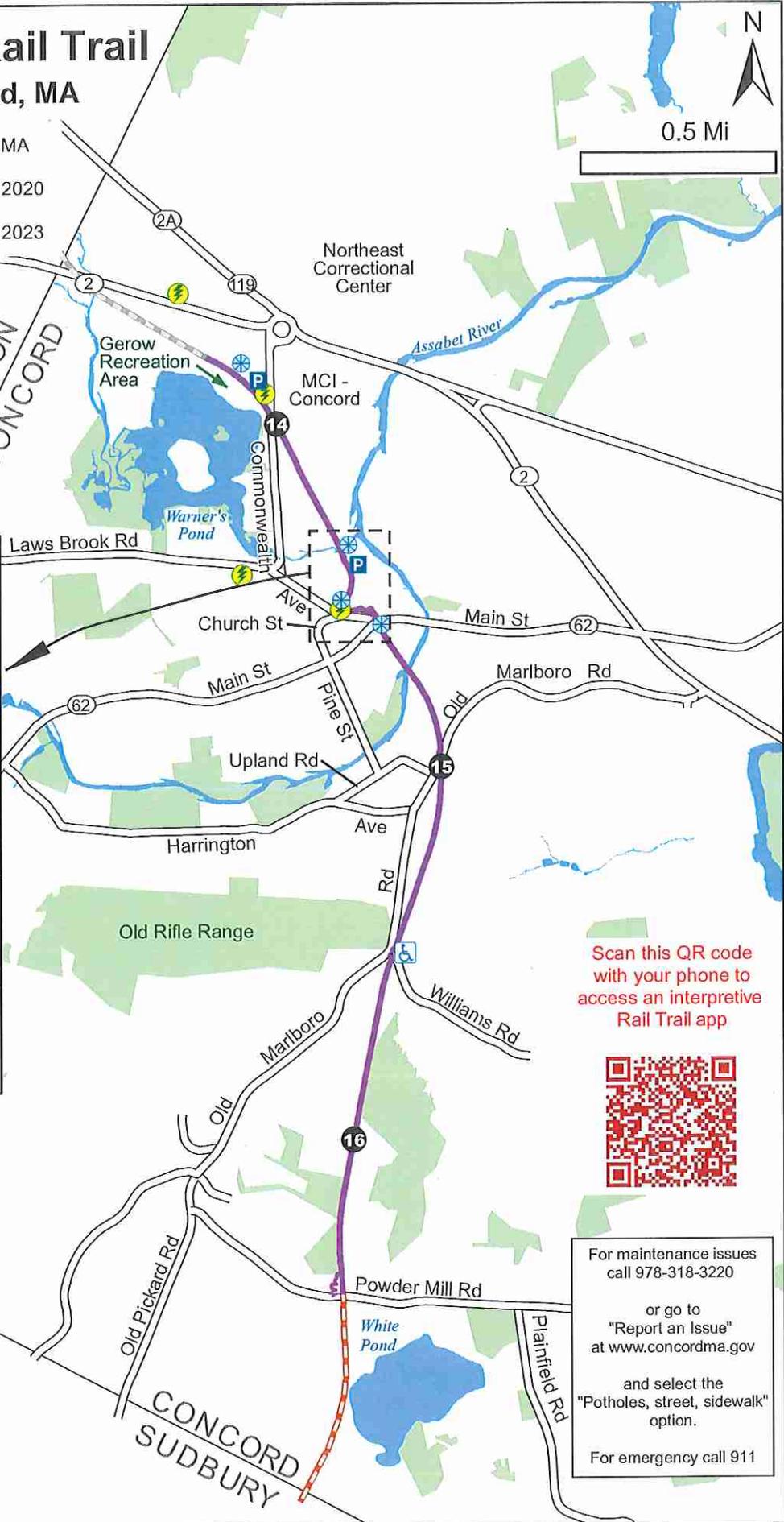
-  Phase 2C, Concord MA
-  Future Construction 2020
-  Future Construction 2023



**Keep Everyone Safe**  
Please walk your bike through Junction Park



**West Concord Center**



Scan this QR code with your phone to access an interpretive Rail Trail app



For maintenance issues call 978-318-3220  
or go to "Report an Issue" at [www.concordma.gov](http://www.concordma.gov)  
and select the "Potholes, street, sidewalk" option.  
For emergency call 911

-  Rail Trail Parking
-  Bicycle Parking
-  Handicap Parking
-  Future Bike Repair Stand
-  Minuteman Bike Share Rental
-  EV Charging Station
-  Ice Cream
-  Water Fountain
-  Railroad Mileage Posts
-  Commuter Rail Station