



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, the last ½ mile of 2C, and 2D**
Date: February 3, 2021

1. **Phase 2A Update:** This phase of the trail has been completed and is open for all to enjoy!
2. **Phase 2B Update:** The Contract amendment with Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. was finalized in late December. I have been working with West Concord residents Nancy Crowley and Suzanne Knight on the historic interpretive panel for a location along Phase 2B near the former Gerow land. The latest draft of this panel will be sent to you and available on line for your review and approval at the meeting. My hope is with your approval of the design/format/general information that my staff can begin creating the final document for submittal to the contractor for fabrication.

According to Senator Jamie Eldridge, who attended Tuesday's Conservation Coffee, the installation of the steel bridge over Route 2 is expected to be done this summer – so work is progressing and is on track

3. **Phase 2C Updates:** In follow up to questions and concerns raised about Junction Park in West Concord, I contacted MassDOT staff at the Central Transportation Planning Staff offices to discuss their protocols for counting people using trails (both cyclists and pedestrians) as well as requesting assistance in evaluating park usage relative to the concerns raised about potential conflicts between pedestrians and people on bikes, skateboards, and rollerblades. They provided preliminary information about the collecting use data for rail trails and paths and would be willing to work with the Town to conduct counts in late April/early May.

Concord town staff from Planning, Natural Resources and Public Works met on January 21st on the trail near 38-42 Williams Road to review the current conditions and discuss scheduling work to be done this winter/spring to: 1) remove the existing chain link fence near the Sanborn School playing field, 2) install additional wood rail fence to better define the trail north of the existing driveway; 3) plant additional trees and shrubs, and 4) locations for wood signs to replace existing metal signs (stop sign and private property). I will be preparing the landscape plan for the planting, which will be reviewed by Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye.

4. **The last ½ mile of Phase 2C:** Information has been received from the White Pond Advisory Committee regarding extending the fencing along the eastern side of the trail from the culvert south, and from Stone Root Lane abutters regarding the type of fencing desired on the west side of the trail from the Powder Mill Road culvert south. When discussing

these requests with the Design Consultant, he raised concern with the additional fencing being requested on both the east and west sides of the trail (greater than had been shown on the 25% design plans) and the number of gates that may be needed. The fence design and gate locations should be part of the site visits conducted in March. 100% design plans are expected to be submitted to Sudbury/MassDOT in April 2021.

Additionally, the Design Consultant is working on the Notice of Intent under the Wetlands Protection Act application for submittal to the Natural Resources Commission.

5. **Phase 2D Sudbury:** According to Environmental Planner Beth Suedmeyer, Sudbury Design consultant Fuss & O'Neill is making good progress with preparations for 75% design. They have completed survey and wetlands delineation to fill gaps, are updating path and bridge plans, coordinating with MassDOT, etc. There was a coordination meeting in early January between F&O, GPI (for the Concord section), and MassDOT on the development of submissions of plans to MassDOT between the two firms.
6. **Community Connections Grant follow up:** On December 28, 2020, the Town of Concord was informed that the contract and documents required for the Community Connections grant (the Town's application for a \$100,000 grant to install bicycle shelters and racks in West Concord near the commuter train station that was submitted in December 2019) were now available and the Town can proceed to review and finalize the documents. The program is an 80:20 match and uses federal funds for the purchase of the equipment through MAPC's (Concord's regional planning agency – Metropolitan Area Planning Council) collective purchasing program with the Town responsible for the cost of shipping and installation of the equipment. I will be coordinating with Concord Public Works as to whether Town staff can install the equipment or if an outside contractor is needed.

In reviewing MAPC's program, I realized that the shelter I had hoped to use in West Concord was not included in the program and, after asking if it could be added, MAPC staff informed me that it could not. There are two alternative designs available; I think the Vizor shelter (pictured below) may work best for West Concord location given that it has only two supports (vs. four). Additionally, if there is a price savings from using the different shelter, it may be possible to consider additional/alternative bicycle storage facilities – a.k.a. bike storage lockers (see the photo of the South Acton train station's bicycle parking and storage facility). I would welcome input from the Advisory Committee.

