



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: July 13, 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 plan to set steel beams over Route 2 as part of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail 2B project from Friday night July 16th at 8:00PM until Saturday afternoon July 17th at 1:00PM has been confirmed and agreed upon by Acton PD, Acton DPW, Concord PD, Concord DPW/Engineering, Concord Planning, and the MSP. Just like the culvert installation this past spring, Route 2 WB will be detoured onto 2A at the Rotary and back onto Route 2 via Wetherbee St. The high-speed lane of Route 2 EB will also be closed during this time. Advanced notifications, message boards, and communications will all be implemented as before.
- 3. Phase 2C Updates:** After consulting with CPW Town Engineer Steve Dookran, I reached out to GPI to obtain a detail for a curb-ramp at the West Concord commuter lot/Nashoba Brook bridge location for improved handicapped access to the trail. I have requested that this item be included in the contract for the Commonwealth Ave. improvements with funds provided by the Community Preservation Committee's grant approved at the 2021 Town Meeting.
- 4. The last ½ mile of Phase 2C:** Natural Resources Commission issued an Order of Conditions, which is being recorded as required.

MassDOT comments on the 75% design plans have been shared with the design consultants for both sections of the project. GPI Project Manager Matt Kearney notes "Within our plans, one comment regarding the fence reads: "District 4 Projects Section is asking for justification in using Timber Rail Fence in cut section areas." However, on the Sudbury plans, there is a general note that states: "Appropriate fencing proposed inside the RR ROW can only be installed when required for the safety of the Trail users. Fencing outside of this category should be removed from the plans or requested as "non-participating". The designer should identify all relevant locations. Reviewers discovering locations late in the process that do not comply may delay the project." Based on the MassDOT design guidelines the only [timber rail] fence that's required is the fence near the vernal pool. The Town will need to decide if the fence should be included in the project as a non-participating cost (which means that the Town and/or others will provide the funds)." I will need to follow up with MassDOT and GPI regarding this statement.

Site visits for the neighborhood on each side of the trail will be conducted on Tuesday, July 13th at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

- 5. Phase 2D Sudbury:** Environmental Planner Beth Suedmeyer reports that MassDOT comments are being compiled and reviewed by the Design Team after which a comment resolution meeting will be scheduled, and the 100% design will begin in mid-August. The current estimated advertising date and target design completion date continues to be June 11, 2022, although the schedule could be further revised following the full MassDOT comment review and resolution.

The draft Notice of Intent for Phase 2D was submitted to MassDOT for review on June 16, 2021. MassDOT will be the permit applicant, and the expectation is to begin preparing the final application by the end of July with submission to the Sudbury Conservation Commission in October.

- 6. Community Connections Grant follow up:** Final authorization to order the equipment was received. The order was placed with the Dero bike consultant on Monday, July 12, 2021. Anticipated delivery is late August 2021 with installation to be coordinated with Concord Public Works in the fall. A request to MassDOT to extend the completion of the project beyond September 30th may be necessary, given the delays in contracting and the delivery date of the equipment.