

The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Basics

What is the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail?

The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) is a 25-mile shared multi-use path that spans from Lowell to Framingham.

The BFRT is open to non-motorized uses such as walking, cycling, inline skating, cross-country skiing and is designed to accommodate accessible equipment.

Phase 1 – Opened for use in August 2009

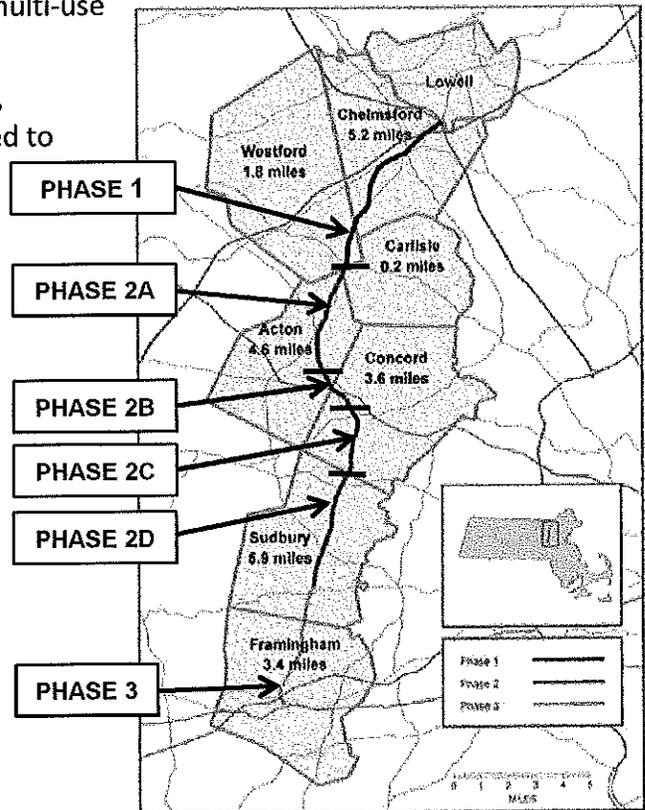
Phase 2A – 100% design in progress,

Phase 2B – 25% design in progress,

Phase 2C – 75% design in progress,

Phase 2D – Funds being secured to start the 25% design.

Phase 3 - The corridor for Phase 3 is owned by the railroad company, CSX
The design is conceptual.



State and federal fund allocations for construction for Phases 2A, 2B, and 2C are shown in the table.

STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CONSTRUCTION

Fiscal Year	Trail Segment	Amount
2014	Phase 2A (Westford, Carlisle, Acton)	\$ 11.1 M
2016	Phase 2C (Concord)	\$ 6.2 M
2017	Phase 2B (Route 2 Crossing)	\$ 6.7 M

The Vision for the BFRT in Concord (summary)

The Town of Concord envisions a trail to serve as a historical, recreational and alternative transportation resource for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities...

The trail will provide opportunities for nature education, quiet reflection, minimal-impact enjoyment of flora and fauna, and exercise that refresh and strengthen mind, body and spirit.

- The complete vision statement is available on the BFRTAC website

Produced by the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee (BFRTAC), Town of Concord

What is the BFRTAC?

The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee (BFRTAC) consists of Concord residents that serve as members, appointed in 2005 by the Board of Selectmen.

The purpose of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee is to advise the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager on matters concerning the design, development, and long-term maintenance of the BFRT.

The BFRTAC Duties and Responsibilities include:

- To make recommendations to the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen concerning the steps to be followed toward the design, planning, and development of the rail trail, including identifying any issues, concerns and constraints that are likely to arise during the design, permitting and construction phase.
- To solicit from the Town's engineering and public safety staff input concerning traffic and safety issues involving the BFRT, particularly in areas where the rail trail intersects with existing roadways and railroad crossings;
- To consult with relevant Town boards and committees concerning strategies for the development and maintenance of the Rail Trail;
- To make recommendations concerning:
 - Permitting and Design
 - Construction
 - Financing
 - Annual Operating Cost, including trash removal, repairs, resurfacing, seasonal operation, and related financial considerations;
 - Other related matters.
- To submit a draft report of its findings to the Board of Selectmen, and after making any necessary revisions, to submit a Final Report to the Board of Selectmen.

- the complete charge can be found on the BFRTAC website

Public Outreach of the BFRTAC

130+ Committee Meetings	8 Public Information Meetings
6 Public Workshops	Multiple Public Site Walks
5 Town and Special Town Meetings	MassDOT 25% Design Hearing
An additional public information meeting at the 75% Design Review	

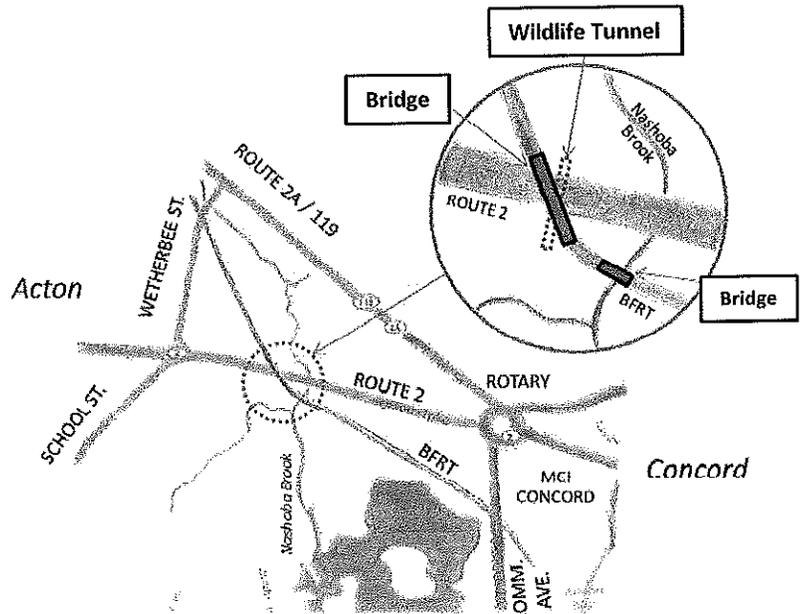
Existing Coordination with Town Staff, Administration, and Committees

Board of Selectmen	Public Works	Public Safety
Town Manager	Natural Resources Division	Natural Resources Commission
Planning	West Concord Task Force	White Pond Advisory Committee
Schools	Historical Commission	Concord Housing and Development

BFRT Phase 2B Update

What is Phase 2B?

- Phase 2B includes:
- ~0.9 mi of trail
- Bridge over Route 2
- Wildlife tunnel under Route 2
- Bridge over Nashoba Brook



PHASE 2B: FROM WETHERBEE ST (ACTON) TO COMMONWEALTH AVE (CONCORD)

Request of CPA Funds

- Mass DOT has funded the 25% Design of Phase 2B.
- The cost to complete the design is estimated at ~\$1.2 million.
- **The BFRTAC has requested CPA funds to be used towards the completion of the design of Phase 2B.**

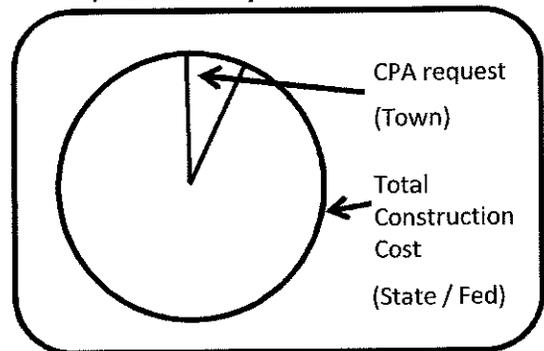
The State has allocated an additional \$200K for the 100% design project. It is the responsibility of the towns of Concord and Acton to fund the remaining ~\$1M. All of the design and construction cost estimates are preliminary, as the project status is still pre-25% Design submission.

The BFRTAC has requested \$500K from CPA funds to be used towards the 100% design of Phase 2B. **The CPC recommends \$250K in FY2014** with the expectation that the BFRTAC will request additional funds next year. The CPC has stipulated a condition that Acton commit funding towards the 100% design for the \$250K to be utilized by the BFRTAC.

TOTAL ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST \$6.5M STATE/FEDERAL FUNDS

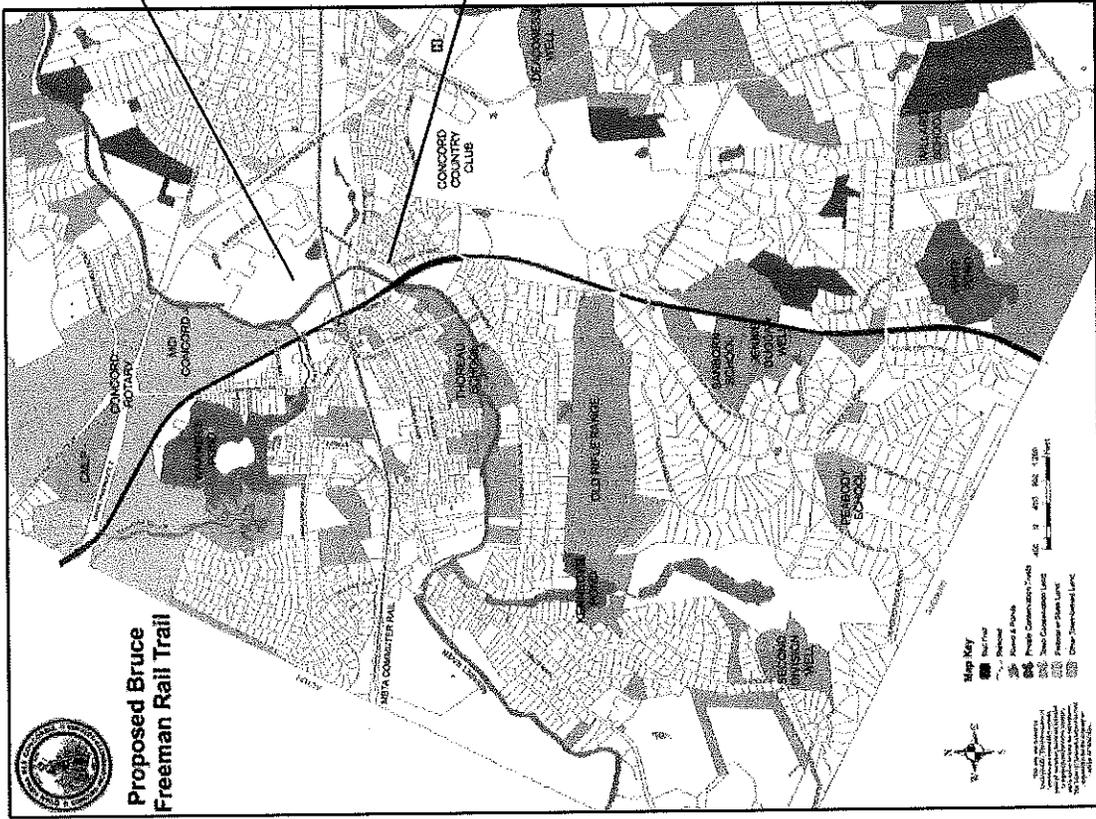
PRELIMINARY (pre 25%-Design) ITEMIZED CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATES

Route 2 Bridge (including ramps)	\$ 4.2 M
Nashoba Brook Bridge	\$ 560 K
Wildlife Tunnel	\$ 620 K
Trail and Contingencies	\$ 1.1 M

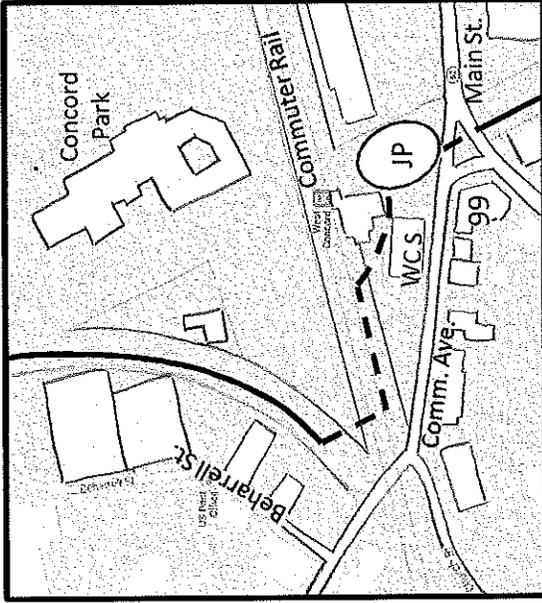


Produced by the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee (BFRTRAC), Town of Concord

The BFRT in Concord



The MBTA Commuter Rail Crossing



A new crossing of the commuter rail has been approved by the MBTA.

From the north, the conceptual design will:

- follow the railroad spur,
- cross the MBTA parking lot driveway
- Have a dedicated crossing gate located west of the mini-high platforms
- Follow an easement along the rear of the former West Concord Supermarket (WCS) parking lot into Junction Park (JP)
- Cross Main St. at the pedestrian signal in front of the Ninety-Nine Restaurant (99)
- Travel south to the Assabet River

Final design details will be completed as a collaborative effort with the various entities with interest in West Concord

The BFRT Environmental Assessment and Review

During the design and construction of the trail, the BFRT is subject to state and federal environmental regulations, assessments and review. At the request of the BFRTAC, the Concord's Natural Resources department performed additional wildlife assessments for Phase 2C.

Work Completed to Date

- BFRT Environmental and Engineering Assessment (2005)
- 25% Design Submission (2008) -
 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Review
 - BFRT Natural Resources Technical Memorandum (including two bird surveys and preliminary wildlife habitat evaluations)
- Additional NHESP Rare Species Surveys: Rare Plant and Dragonfly
- Blue Spotted Salamander and Wood Turtle Surveys
- Hazardous Material Assessment (2013)

Work In Progress

- 75% Design Submission (Projected 2014)
- 100% Design Plans, Specs, & Estimates (Projected 2015)
- Federal – Army Corp of Engineers PGP II
- State - Chapter 91 License for the bridge over the Assabet River
- State - 401 Water Quality Certification
- State - MA Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Environmental Notification Form (ENF), if required
- State/Local – Wetlands Protection Act: Notice of Intent -> Order of Conditions (OOC)

Future Work

- Federal – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit
- Preconstruction site meeting with Concord Natural Resources Division
- Construction (Projected 2016)

Local Environmental Oversight

The Concord Natural Resources Commission (NRC) administers the MA Wetlands and Rivers Protection Acts and issues the environmental permits. The process includes:

- The BFRT 75% Design Submission includes submitting a Notice of Intent to the NRC.
- The NRC then schedules a public hearing for the project. At the hearing, the NRC will review the design with the applicant and possibly request modifications.
- When the permit is granted, the NRC issues an Order of Conditions (OOC).
- There are 19 standard conditions for any project permitted within a wetland resource area.
- In addition, the NRC typically imposes special conditions for projects.

The BFRT Safety and Maintenance

Trail Rules

The BFRTAC contributed to the development of the rules for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail in 2009.

Design and Construction

- The state already has regulations and procedures in place to ensure safety of workers and the public during construction.
- The trail will be designed according to state and federal guidelines and will be reviewed by the appropriate agencies to maximize the safety of:
 - Street crossings
 - Bridge crossings
 - MBTA commuter rail crossing



Police Patrols

- **The Town will conduct routine police patrols** on the trail.
- If problems are identified or complaints received, the Police Department will evaluate the problem and enforce as needed.

People management

The BFRTAC and the White Pond Advisory Committee have formed a joint subcommittee to work on the people management aspects of the rail trail.

Parking

- Commonwealth Avenue - ~10-15 spaces
- West Concord - ~50 additional spaces.
- Williams Road - One handicap parking space.
- Official trail parking will be identified in the BFRT brochure for Phase 2C.

Maintenance

Maintenance will be coordinated by Concord Public Works and may include cooperation with volunteer groups, such as the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

Typical maintenance activities include:

- As needed: Tree and shrub trimming, shoulder mowing, trail sweeping, litter and graffiti removal, sign and amenity maintenance
- Seasonal: Culvert cleanout, fallen tree removal, planting / re-beautification
- Long term: Trail resurfacing, pavement spot repair, fence repair, bridge and tunnel inspection

