



# 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, plus**  
Date: May 5, 2022

- 1. Phase 2A Update:** This phase of the trail has been completed and is open for all to enjoy!
- 2. Phase 2B Update:** At this morning's project update meeting on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, Town staff learned that the contractor has submitted a request to extend the completion date to November 30, 2022 due to the scheduling of weather-dependent activities. The staining and application of anti-graffiti material will take place later in May; the staining will take 3-4 weeks, will cure for 8 days and then the anti-graffiti material will be applied, which will be at the end of June. The planting season ends in June, so the planting schedule has been extended to the fall (late September/October/early November). Additionally, the top course of paving is expected to be done in July.
- 3. Phase 2C Updates:** The BFRTAC Subcommittee met on April 26<sup>th</sup> and should have an update for the full committee on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Attached is another memo regarding questions raised by residents during Junction Park discussions and answers found from a review of written records (lease agreements, easement language, town meeting votes, Public Works Commission meeting minutes, etc.).
- 4. The last ½ mile of Phase 2C:** The Town has not yet had a definitive response from MDOT regarding the granite mile markers and the interpretive signs; nor the additional funding/financial assistance identified in last month's update.



I sent an email to the MDOT Rail Division identifying the encroachment of the State's right of way as suggested by the representative from MDOT Right-of-Way division but have not heard back.

In response to the WPAC email regarding the 5-foot opening in the wood fence near White Pond noted in last month's update, I walked this portion of the trail with Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye and Land Manager Will Holden beginning at the tunnel and heading southerly toward the Sudbury town line. The three of us agreed that the 5-foot gap in the fence to connect to the first path could be closed as requested by the WPAC if the fence were not extended to that point where the embankment begins to rise where there is a second path. This second path would allow access to other trails as well as a trail for the Old Pickard Trust 2 members to access their land (we did not want to preclude access by OPFT2 since we had had

no indication from the Trustees that they would be willing to give up their access easement). I have since been contacted by a member of the OPFT2 that they are unlikely to give up access to their land via the existing path and hope to meet with them the week of May 16<sup>th</sup>. The revised plans for the 100% design dated April 2022 have been posted on the BFRTAC web page here <https://concordma.gov/2844/Phase-2CD-Plans-and-Information>.

Additionally, this morning the Trails Committee conducted a site walk with Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye (attended by WPAC Chair Josh Galpar). Delia reported that the Trails Committee agreed with the proposal to end the fence short of the existing embankment to allow access to an existing trail that connects to Old Pickard Farm Trust 2 land and will connect to the Town of Concord land to the south.

- 5. Phase 2D Sudbury** – On Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> Sudbury Town Meeting approved two articles related to private easements and approval of the lease with MassDOT which will allow advertising, and then construction, of the BFRT in Sudbury to move forward. Advertising should take place this summer and construction should commence in the fall 2022 or spring 2023. On Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> Sudbury Town Meeting approved Articles 47 and 48 to provide design funding for the ¼ mile of former CSX Right-of-way from the Mass Central Rail Trail to Route 20 and a feasibility study for Phase 3 to the Framingham town line.

- 6. Community Connections Grant follow up:** The work to install the bike shelters and racks has begun as of May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Photo of the construction site at the right was taken Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.



- 7. Concord Prison Cemetery:** An initial estimate for producing the interpretive panel was provided by the same company that prepared the other panels found along BFRT 2C and 2B and was forwarded to Concord Prison Outreach and others promoting this addition.

- 8. MOTT wayfinding grant awarded to the Town of Acton:** Earlier this spring, the Town of Acton submitted a grant application in partnership with Concord to the Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism to provide wayfinding signage along the BFRT in Acton and extending to West Concord Village. Acton has contracted with design consultant Mark Favermann of Favermann Design to design the system and get contracts for fabrication in place by the end of June 2022. Mark will be attending tonight's meeting to give his presentation and hear your feedback.