

Heather Carey

From: Philip Posner <philposner25@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 12:42 PM
To: Heather Carey; Alyssa Sandoval; Elizabeth Hughes; Mark Gailus
Subject: Rail with Trail

Please pass this memo along to the TAC members. Thx.

Folks - Elizabeth and I attended a zoom meeting with various stakeholders, MBTA staff and MPO staff regarding the 'Rail with Trail' idea. The quick takeaway is that MBTA staff is developing policies and procedures for ideas of this nature to be reviewed in a coordinated manner. The 'policies and procedures' task is supposed to be completed by mid-2026. The MBTA has assigned staff to assist with the coordination efforts to bring projects like the proposed 'Weston to Lincoln to Concord and Beyond' Rail with Trail through feasibility and potentially to completion.

see: https://www.mbta.com/plans/mobility-integration?utm_campaign=curated-content&utm_medium=whats-happening&utm_source=homepage&utm_term=null&utm_content=Mobility+Integration+Plan
<https://railroads.dot.gov/sites/fra.dot.gov/files/2021-06/Rails%20with%20Trails%20Best%20Practices%20and%20Lessons%20Learned.pdf>

The meeting was encouraging to me. MBTA has clearly reversed its prior policy of "no rail with trail" to "let's see what may work." The extension of the Mass Central Rail Trail in Belmont (also on the MBTA Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line) is an example of what can work and is now at the 75% design stage). <https://www.nitscheng.com/project/belmont-community-path/#:~:text=Located%20adjacent%20to%20the%20Fitchburg,abutting%20residents%20to%20the%200project>. <https://belmontcommunitypath.com/belmont-community-path-phase-1/> The MBTA may also finally be ready to think about access, connectivity, etc. which, in my mind, would include ADA upgrades to various train stations like Concord Center/Thoreau Depot and reconceived 'last mile connections' (i.e. bike parking and car parking). (compare South Acton Trail Station to West Concord to Thoreau Depot)

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Best, Phil Posner

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