



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 and 2C**
Date: April 5, 2017

1. **Phase 2A Update:** The Town of Acton has posted a blog about construction activity along Phase 2A at <http://www.acton-ma.gov/Blog.aspx?CID=10>. There has been no update posted since December 2, 2016, but construction activity can be viewed by driving on Route 27 and 119 in Acton. The MassDOT project information page indicates that construction of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (Phase IIA) including 6 bridge replacements and new bridge construction Br. No. A-02-014 (Steel) over Route 2A/119 (Great Road) remains at 55% complete.
2. **Phase 2B Update:** The Town received three responses to the Request for Qualifications – from Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., AI Engineering and Stantec. Planners Roland Bartl and Kristen Guichard from Acton will be meeting with Concord Town Engineer Bill Renault and me on Friday to review the submittal packages and determine the consultant. I will follow up with MassDOT Project Manager Sreelatha Allam after that meeting. I anticipate awarding the contract later this month, after meeting with MassDOT.
3. **Phase 2C Updates:**
 - a. **The pre-construction meeting** for Phase 2C was held on March 24th. The Contractor, D.W. White anticipates beginning at the southern portion of the route, replacing the Powder Mill Road culvert this summer during July and August (while school is out of session). The Contractor would also like to install the bridge over the Assabet River this year, but this is dependent on the bridge manufacturer/supplier. The pre-construction site walk is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19th with Town staff, MassDOT staff and the Contractor.
 - b. **Invasive Species Mitigation** – At the pre-construction meeting, I talked with MassDOT staff about the proposed Norway Maple tree removal and replacement with native trees as invasive species mitigation for that portion of the trail between Main Street and the Assabet River as follow up to an email received from a Derby Street resident. MassDOT was not willing to revise the plan for the mitigation because of the inherent benefit to removing these trees and felt that the size of the trees recommended as replacement planting was as large as they could go.
 - c. **Right-of-way (ROW) Process** – Update on ROW-related items that required follow up from this past summer:

- (1) The State Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance has prepared a deed for the Town's review. The deed has been forwarded to Town Council for that review. The ANR plan has been finalized and will be submitted to the Planning Board for endorsement prior to scheduling a closing to transfer the property to the Town.
- (2) The final easement agreement for the trail over MBTA land in West Concord resulted in the loss of six parking spaces adjacent to the West Concord Depot. Town Council has prepared a draft of the easement for MBTA review and a draft plan has been prepared by Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. One issue that has been raised is whether the MBTA needs a separate easement over EOT/MassDOT land to access the parking spaces. There is an article on the 2017 Annual Town Meeting Warrant to authorize the lease/license of six parking spaces on Town land for exclusive use by the MBTA tenant in the West Concord Depot.

4. **Phase 2D Sudbury:** The Town of Sudbury website indicates there was a public meeting on March 9, 2017.

Planning Director Roland Bartl and I both submitted emails to the Boston MPO in support of including BFRT Phase 2D in Sudbury in the next Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) 2018-2022. Here's what I submitted:

"Good afternoon. Just wanted to add the Town of Concord's voice in support of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) project Phase 2D in Sudbury being included in the FFY 2018-2022 TIP. With Sudbury at 25% design, inclusion of Phase 2D in the draft TIP Table is both timely and appropriate.

As you are aware, the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail consists of several phases through many communities and, when completed, will connect Lowell with Framingham – a 25 mile multi-use trail! The first phase (Lowell to Chelmsford) was completed several years ago; Phase 2A (Acton) is currently under construction and expected to be completed this year; Phase 2B (the Bridge over Route 2) 25% design has been completed and we expect to have a consultant on board this spring to begin 100% design; construction of Phase 2C (Concord) of the trail is expected to begin this spring. Currently the trail is proposed to end at Powder Mill Road in Concord, ½ mile short of the Sudbury/Concord town line. Completion of the trail in Concord cannot proceed until Phase 2D is under construction (because of public safety and environmental impact concerns).

I continue to believe that construction of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail will help relieve traffic congestion locally, and with future construction, regionally. Construction of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail will offer a safer option for walking or bicycling to the West Concord commuter rail station in addition to area businesses in West Concord. This Trail will promote use of public transportation, improve air quality through a reduction in fossil fuel use, and improve public health through provision of additional exercise options.

Given the ongoing and persistent public support locally and regionally for this multi-use rail trail and the Town's interest in providing sustainable transportation options, we are pleased to know that Sudbury's portion of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is at 25% Design. Concord urges the MPO to keep the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail on track for construction by providing construction funding for Phase 2D in the FFY18-22 TIP."