



TOWN OF CONCORD

Department of Planning and Land Management

141 Keyes Road - Concord, MA - 01742

Phone: 978-318-3290

MEMORANDUM

To: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee
From: Marcia Rasmussen, Director DPLM
Re: **Q & A with Barbara Pike (representing the Friends of the BFRT)**
Date: July 13, 2018

As Phase 2A in Acton is being used, there have been issues with some design elements.

Q. The raised islands with curbing at the intersections are a hazard. There have been reports of cyclists hitting the vertical curbing and falling - at least once into the intersection itself. Also it is difficult for cyclists to enter the trail from the street.

A. MassDOT believes that these splitter islands are designed and installed as required because cyclists are NOT slowing down at intersections; MassDOT will NOT entertain any redesigned splitter island. And, MassDOT is very concerned about potential motorized vehicular activity similar to what happened in NYC a couple years ago.

Q. The warning lights used at busy street crossings require the trail user to push a button to activate. I think Acton will try to change them to automatic activation.

A. The warning lights have already been purchased by the Contractor for BFRT Phase 2C; MassDOT will NOT entertain any requested change order.

Q. The trail rules signs that have been posted do not conform with the rules agreed upon at the multi-town uniformity committee meetings.

A. There were no trail rules signs included in the contract. We should be able to get these added, or use funds from the CPA to install the trail rules as agreed. I will need to follow up with GPI.

Q. The shoulders are stone dust - which is washing out and covering the asphalt surface.

A. This is a design detail that has been revised for 2C. Phase 1 in Chelmsford used stone dust shoulders, but did not add a weed barrier underneath the stone dust - there was no long term problem with washouts onto the asphalt. Phase 2A did install the weed barrier, which is part of the reason why the washouts are occurring. The weed barrier has been eliminated from the Phase 2C design. The stone dust shoulders were provided for those running along the trail who didn't want to run on the asphalt surface.

Q. The kiosks have locks which do not work. Literature boxes will be an add-on provided and installed by the Friends.

A. The design details in Phase 2C do not show locking kiosks, so there should not be an issue. Literature boxes will need to be added, if desired.

Q. The streets, themselves, do not have signs to name them.

A. Street signs have been included in the construction drawings (although one may be missing) so this should not be a problem.

Q. Acton is in the process of incorporating maintenance and management of the trail into the town departments: event registration, maintenance, litter pickup (organizing volunteers), long-term repairs, safety. siting additional porta-potties,...

A. As we discussed, the Town Manager has added funding to the Concord Public Works budget to address maintenance, the Police have accepted responsibility for patrolling the trail, permitting and programming have yet to be identified but discussion would likely begin with the Town Manager's office.

Phase 2B

Q. What is the status of designing the off-ramp from Phase 2B to the conservation land in Acton and Concord? I get asked about this a LOT.

A. 75% design drawings will be posted on line the week of July 16th. A hard copy of the full set of plans is available in the Planning Office at 141 Keyes Road.

Phase 2C

Q. Will there be handicap parking south of the Assabet River?

A. The construction drawings continue to show a handicapped accessible parking space and path on Williams Road – see attached plan.

Q. What is the construction schedule for 2018: RR crossing, intersection re-construction, final paving, etc.?

A. A construction schedule has not been provided to me, however, work on the Main St./Commonwealth Ave. intersection is expected to start in earnest the week of July 16 – the contractor anticipates removing the traffic island next week, then beginning incremental work at that intersection with a completion anticipated by the end of August. They will try to coordinate the work schedule to minimize impacts to the morning and evening commute.

Q. I was wondering how the new plantings will be watered. They look nice now.

A. I observed a Contractor's water truck watering trees this morning – the Contractor is required to maintain the plantings and replace any that die.

Q. The Friends have created and are distributing a map of Phase 1 and 2A. (Very popular, by the way.) It is available on the Friends website. SOMEDAY...we could have one for the whole trail from Lowell to Powder Mill.

For now it makes sense to have a separate one for Phase 2C, and the one Jill made for us would be a good start. Who would decide what to add - historical info, public restrooms, ice cream (!), ...

A. If you have info that you think should be added let me know. The BFRT Advisory Committee may want to provide input, too.

Q. Do you have any more information about the bike rack that Buddy Bates has donated money for to honor his friend?

A. No, I'm waiting to hear more from Carlene Hempel.