



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: **Revised Update of Phases 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D**
Date: updated April 5, 2019

1. **Phase 2A Update:** This phase of the trail construction has been completed and is open for all to enjoy!
2. **Phase 2B Update:** GPI Consulting Engineer and Project Manager Matt Kearney hasn't heard anything from MassDOT on the review of 2B, but comments are expected soon. GPI is working on the submittal of the Notice of Intent under the Wetlands Protection and Rivers Protection Acts, which should be ready for submittal in the next couple of weeks
3. **Phase 2C Updates:**
 - a) I received a proposal from the designer of the Assabet River/Scenic River sign panel and will be following up later this week or early next.
 - b) No update available regarding the dates for start of construction or potential completion.
 - c) A draft map was prepared by Town GIS Analyst Jill Moonheron using some of the Friends graphic features and distributed last Friday to the BFRT Advisory Committee for member's input – I will have copies with me tonight and will take any comments/input from the committee members.
 - d) The draft Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety brochure was updated by Administrative Assistant Heather Carey and my favorite was distributed last Friday to the BFRT Advisory Committee for member's input – I will have additional copies and the alternatives with me tonight for your consideration and discussion.
4. **Phase 2D Sudbury:** Information provided below was submitted by Sudbury Select Board member Len Simon for the Friends' spring newsletter:

25% Design Nears Completion in Sudbury

Sudbury continues to make progress on the design of Phase 2D of the BFRT. Last October's Town Meeting overwhelmingly approved a Citizen Petition by Selectman Len Simon to appropriate \$650,000 of free cash to fund the remaining 75% and 100% design. Friends of BFRT Board member Dick Williamson spoke eloquently in support. An attempt by opponents to reduce the design funding to \$100,000 was soundly defeated.

Funding for the construction of Phase 2D is included in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and is slated to receive \$9,684,778 in federal and state funds for construction in 2022.

In January and February the Conservation Commission gave the green light to Jacobs Engineering, the design contractor, to proceed with field work to obtain geotechnical data needed for the 25% design submission. The borings will be done on the north and south sides of Hop Brook and Pantry Brook. The test pits for the boardwalk section, about 700 feet, will be dug just south of Hudson Road. New England Boring Contractors has been selected for the geotechnical work. A survey of Pantry Brook and the adjacent area is needed to collect data to design the replacement Pantry Brook bridge abutments and for the design of the new bridge. A similar survey will be done at Hop Brook, but those abutments are intact and will not need replacement. The flood plain elevations adjacent to both brook crossings will be delineated. That survey work is actively in progress.

The geotechnical data for the boring and test pits, along with the bridge sketches, are the last pieces of information needed to complete the 25% design. They will be submitted to MassDOT by the end May for review and comment, after which the Design Public Hearing will be held in Sudbury. The day when the Sudbury portion of the BFRT links up with the completed sections in Concord and further north is drawing closer. With 21.3 miles of unsurpassed scenic beauty for exercise and recreation that connects towns and people, who could ask for anything more?

On a separate note, last year Sudbury received a \$100,000 Department of Conservation and Recreation Recreational Trails grant toward acquiring the CSX right of way, Phase 3 of the BFRT. The Town has applied for an additional grant to further that acquisition. A decision is expected in late summer/early fall. Stay tuned.