



# 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**  
Date: March 4, 2021

- 1. Phase 2A Update:** This phase of the trail has been completed and is open for all to enjoy!
- 2. Phase 2B Update:** After final edits of the historic interpretive panel administrative staff in the Planning Division is converting the panel into InDesign, a software program that is used by the fabricator, and work should be completed by the end of March. I learned that the same fabricator that created the panels for Phase 2C will be creating this panel.
- 3. Phase 2C Updates:** A discussion of concerns raised regarding use of Junction Park in West Concord and conflicts between those on wheels and those walking will be part of the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting agenda next Wednesday afternoon. I will also be following up with MassDOT staff at the Central Transportation Planning Staff offices next week to request assistance in conducting counts in conjunction with other trail counts being done in May.
- 4. The last ½ mile of Phase 2C:** Information has been received from the White Pond Advisory Committee regarding extending the fencing along the eastern side of the trail from the culvert south, and from Stone Root Lane abutters regarding the type of fencing desired on the west side of the trail from the Powder Mill Road culvert south. When discussing these requests with the Design Consultant, he raised concern with the additional fencing being requested on both the east and west sides of the trail (greater than had been shown on the 25% design plans) and the number of gates that may be needed. Four site visits have been scheduled for March 18 (late afternoon) and 19 (early morning), with letters being mailed to abutters this week. The revised 75% design plans are still expected to be submitted to Sudbury/MassDOT in April 2021, but may be delayed due to filing the NOI, which the Design Consultant is working on for submittal to the Natural Resources Commission.
- 5. Phase 2D Sudbury:** From Sudbury Planner Beth Suedmeyer –  
The Sudbury- Concord BFRT project is presented in the TIP programming scenario for the MPO meeting tomorrow morning to remain in 2022.

Town staff and the design team from Fuss & O'Neill had a meeting with the MassDOT Project Development Engineer John Bechard and Project Manager Eamon Kernan Tuesday to discuss project readiness and TIP programming. Town staff stated we want to ensure the best possible outcome for the project, are interested in understanding the concerns MassDOT has, and that the

Town and our consultants do not have concerns about delivering the project by third quarter FY 2022.

Chapter 91 permitting was discussed, as this was the primary concern identified by MassDOT at the Boston MPO meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup>. The Town's consultant Fuss & O'Neill are submitting a request for determination of applicability to MassDEP this week for the Ch. 91 permit. It was clarified that if a permit is required, and if MassDOT has concerns about the timing of the application submission as currently scheduled, we can revisit the schedule and accelerate filing if needed. All parties felt comfortable with this approach.

Ultimately, John Bechard stated he, on behalf of MassDOT, will recommend to the MPO that the project remain programmed in the FY 2022 TIP.

6. **Community Connections Grant follow up:** I completed review of the scope of work and contract documents for the grant and am waiting to receive the final contract documents from MassDOT. I've also received the Town Manager's approval for the MAPC collective purchasing program so we will be able to order the equipment as soon as the contract for the CC grant is finalized. I will be coordinating with Concord Public Works as to whether Town staff can install the equipment or if an outside contractor is needed.