

Hi Tracy-

We have plans tonight, and won't be able to be at much of the forum, but I am glad to have an opportunity to share thoughts with you now (please share with other BFRTAC) about two items of concern to us---Junction Park, and the loss of the pedestrian walk way over Nashoba Brook with the building of the new bridge over Route 2.

1. **Junction Park**---we are BIG West Concord walkers (and the bulk of multi-modal traffic on the BFRT through West Concord is pedestrian), and are very aware of bike traffic through Junction Park, even though there are "Walk your Bike" signs. This is dangerous for many---including elderly--who enjoy foot transport, and it is not abating. I've never seen any enforcement, and I walk by there almost every day. It is also obnoxious that bikers (kids, teens and adults) show zero regard for the signs, and are very disruptive to the park feel, or concern for others. I think to re-route the BFRT to avoid Junction Park entirely is the only real answer. (And to add signage that says "NO BIKE RIDING" at both sides of the entrance to Junction Park.) Like The Minuteman Bike Trail in Arlington Center, bikers have to go across Mass Ave, and down a few blocks to "get back on the trail", BFRT could require people, through re-routing to WALK their bikes (another problem..bikers on sidewalks) down Commonwealth Ave. to turn at the parking entrance after the RR tracks. Ground pavings of different materials/color that show that route could be helpful.

I had suggested in the survey, as a way to get bikers OFF their bikes in JP, the idea of creating seating for talking and games (checkers/chess tables) through the entire walk way to make it virtually impossible for bikers to ride through....but having watched bikers, I don't sense they will actually dismount. They need to NOT be in the Park on their bikes

2. **The New Bridge over Rt. 2, and loss of foot bridge.** One of our--and MANY West Concordians, walking routes went from the Wright Road woods, through to the field at Route 2, and walking over Nashoba Brook on the old (now dismantled) RR bridge. The footings for the old bridge are still there, and I am requesting that BFRT build a footbridge at land level so walkers can resume their loop including over the brook. Our only option now if we want to do a walking loop is to come out onto dangerous Rt. 2, and literally run 50 yards before jumping back over and through the woods to the trail. The BFRT is a multi-modal trail, as stated earlier, and finding ways to include walkers and not reduce our access is important. Instead, what has happened with the removal of the bridge is an unfortunate and probably unintended consequence of the building of the Rt. 2 bridge that walkers can't do a loop.

Thanks for reading and considering. How can we follow up with the request for #2?

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