



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: **Update of Phases 2A, 2B, 2C, the last ½ mile of 2C, and 2D, plus**
Date: April 7, 2022

- 1. Phase 2A Update:** This phase of the trail has been completed and is open for all to enjoy!
- 2. Phase 2B Update:** MDOT Resident Engineer Michael Winnick provided the following update on Friday March 25th: The landscaping subcontractor will be on site on Monday, March 28th to begin loaming and seeding operations which will address a lot of the **stabilization comments**. There are several areas (**bio basins, rockfill slope at north abutment, abutment form-liner staining & anti-graffiti coatings**) that will continue to be maintained with erosion controls (silt fence, hay bales, compost filter tubes) until they are completed. The equipment, lifts, scaffolding, and foot traffic in the active areas will **prevent temporary seeding from growing and control erosion**. All erosion controls and tracking pads will continue to be maintained as has been done throughout the project. The camera traps for the wildlife monitoring were installed March 4th and the tracking pads will go in the week of March 28th.

Additionally, due to the sloped hillside and location of cemetery markers at the top of the slope on the northerly side of the trail at STA 48+25 and the relatively flat, level area on the south side of the trail (Warner's Pond/Gerow Park side), MDOT and the contractor have asked the Town to consider relocating the rest area (8' by 21' paved area with 2 benches) which I approved.
- 3. Phase 2C Updates:** The BFRTAC Subcommittee met on April 5th with Town staff from Police and Concord Public Works to discuss the various scenarios to date and listen to their comments and questions. The subcommittee will provide an update at the regular meeting on April 7th.
- 4. The last ½ mile of Phase 2C:** The Town has not yet heard back from MDOT regarding the granite mile markers and the interpretive signs; nor about the additional funding/financial assistance identified in last month's update.

I did reach out to MDOT regarding the encroachment of the existing house at 70 White Ave. and what additional actions are necessary to address this. The representative from MDOT Right-of-Way division has suggested reaching out to the Rail Division to determine the importance of addressing this encroachment

and the steps needed. I am waiting to hear back from ROW for the best contact information for MDOT Rail Division.

The White Pond Advisory Committee submitted a letter to the Select Board recommending that the proposed 5-foot opening in the fence between the rail trail and White Pond to allow access to existing trails be closed. This suggestion will be discussed by the Trails Committee and the Natural Resources Commission for input to the BFRTAC at the next meeting in May. The opening in the fence was recommended at this location because of the existing trail and the number of people who regularly use this point of access to the Town's land further south. As I observed to WPAC Chair Josh Galpar, it does not make sense to close off this existing path which is so heavily used throughout the year to access public lands even though there are concerns by WPAC about the summer months. The other point of access to town land is located further south and requires scrambling up log steps that are not in good condition. Allowing access to the existing trail would be a more practical and reasonable solution.

5. **Phase 2D Sudbury** - No update available on the Town of Sudbury web page (<https://sudbury.ma.us/>)
6. **Community Connections Grant follow up:** The work will be scheduled for this spring, with installation required prior to May 31, 2022.
7. **Concord Prison Cemetery:** The meeting scheduled for March 23rd with members of Concord Prison Outreach and others to discuss possible fund-raising ideas was held. The next step is to get estimates for features of the project and prepared two outreach documents that will help in grant writing and seeking contributions for the project.