



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 30, 2023

- 1. Phase 2A – 2D Update:** The Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail convened a follow up meeting of BFRT community representatives to review two draft signs for possible implementation, after receiving approval from all BFRT communities. All but Acton and Carlisle attended the meeting. While those present agreed on the language and graphics of one of the signs, there were differences of opinion on the size needed in different communities given existing conditions in the various communities (Concord's signs are on double posts and need to be 24-inches wide by 36-inches tall). The Friends group believes they can provide multiple sizes requested and will follow up with Acton and Carlisle to assure agreement on language and graphics. There are four locations (entry points) in Concord where these rules will need to be replaced: 1) Commonwealth Ave. parking lot; 2) Nashoba Brook bridge parking lot; 3) south side of the Main Street and Commonwealth Ave. intersection; and, 4) Powder Mill Road serpentine path.
- 2. Phase 2B Update:** The completion date has been extended to the end of July 2023 to allow installation of plant materials and benches, additional chain link fence near the Police Horse Barn site and top course of asphalt on the Acton portion of the trail, plus any remaining “punch-list” items that need to be addressed. MDOT may be unwilling to host a formal opening of the bridge until the contractor has completed all required work.
- 3. Phase 2C Updates:** After a site visit from MBTA representatives in early February, it was confirmed in mid-March that a formal “canvas” of the proposed short-term site improvements to Junction Park by MBTA staff was required. The application with supporting documentation was submitted to the MBTA this week. Anticipating approval of the short-term improvement plan, nine planters with self-watering inserts have been ordered this week. Purchase of other elements identified in the short-term improvement plan will be ordered after July 1st, if Article 26, the Community Preservation Act funding which in part requests \$50,000 for the BFRT, is approved at Annual Town Meeting later this month.

A Request for Proposals for Engineering and Design Services to design a contemplative space adjacent to the BFRT and near the Concord Prison Cemetery has been issued with proposals due to be submitted by April 6th.

Concord Public Works Engineering Division has confirmed that they are seeking a change order to the contract for Commonwealth Ave. improvements to include the installation of a handicapped access ramp at Nashoba Brook bridge. Additionally, CPW Highway and Grounds staff are

evaluating whether they may be able to do this work if the contractor is unable to add this to their contract.

Also, after inquiries from a resident regarding replacement of evergreen trees and from Willard School representatives regarding the annual service day for the fifth grade, Land Manager Will Holden and I walked the section of the trail from Powder Mill Road north to Williams Road to assess the situation. The dead evergreen trees (14 total) have been confirmed to be White Pine and are located near the Williams Road intersection and former CMLP site. A follow-up site walk with Public Works Highway and Grounds Superintendent Aaron Miklosko will be scheduled in early April to discuss tree replacement (an alternative shade-tolerant species is recommended for this location) and maintenance. The area near the serpentine path at Powder Mill Road will again be the location for additional invasive species removal, planting of pollinator species, and general clean-up along the trail for the 5th Grade service day.



- 4. The last ½ mile of Phase 2C and Phase 2D in Sudbury:** Progress continues with the work for Phase 2D, photos provided from Sudbury (see separate attachment).