



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: Erin Stevens, Senior Planner
Re: **Update on BFRT**
Date: October 26, 2023

- 1. Work on the BFRT Phase 2D (update from Sudbury)** I know many people are excited to see asphalt pavement on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (note that this is only the base course), however, PLEASE BE AWARE that this is still a very active construction zone under the control of the Contractor and you should not be trespassing or using the trail until it is completed, which is anticipated later next year.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase-2D Construction □ Construction continues to progress – the base course asphalt was installed from Union Ave./Station Rd. to Morse Road. Paving continues this week from Rt. 117/North Road to the Concord end of the BFRT near Powder Mill Road in Concord. Unfortunately, the base course asphalt may not be installed this fall on the portion of the trail between Morse Road and North Road due to high water conditions. Also due to high water levels, the bridge over Pantry Brook may not be installed until next spring.

The design for the driveway at TI-SALES has been revised to improve sight distances and better accommodate truck traffic entering and exiting. The Contractor will be constructing the revised plan this fall, including improving sight distances for the rail trail.

Two hydration stations are included in the current construction plans for BFRT 2D; one is located at the Peakham/Hudson Roads intersection and the other is at the Morse Road parking area at Broadacres Farm. The water lines are likely to be installed next year, rather than this year, coordinating with the Sudbury Water District and Department of Public Works.

The next construction update meeting with MassDOT, the Contractor (AA Will), Town Consulting Engineer (Fuss & O'Neill), and the Town is scheduled for early November.

- 2. Bruce Freeman Rail Trail 2B bridge:** The ribbon cutting has been scheduled for October 31st at 10am at the Commonwealth Ave parking lot adjacent to the BFRT.
- 3. Junction Park “Walk Your Bike” Sign:** At the request of the Highway and Grounds Superintendent, this request to remove the sign went to the Traffic Management Group. It was decided that the Select Board should be making the decision as to when signs are removed as part of their regulatory purview and will need to be included with the Junction Park discussion.

4. Letter of Support for GPI: The Town submitted a letter of support for GPI's application for their engineering work on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase 2B work to be considered for the ACEC/MA Engineering Excellence Award which was due on October 24th. A copy of that letter is attached to this memo.

5. Comments and concerns that have been provided from public:

- Add signs saying "Keep to the right". People are all over the trail and someone is going to get hurt.
- Keep the trail cleaned. She watched two young boys wipe out after going through a pile of pinecones that had built up along the trail.
- People walk with their dogs off leash. She was almost attacked by a German Shepherd and she is worried a dog will attack and someone will get seriously hurt, either from the dog or falling off a bike.

- A caller wanted to voice his concerns over the lack of signage on the trail telling bicyclists that walkers have the right away and that they need to announce when they are coming up on someone else. He said that the bicyclists go upwards of 25 miles an hour and can easily startle anyone else on the trail. He asked if more signage could be added to the trail.
- He noted that he sees ebikes and electronic scooters on the trail quite often.
- He also noted that there are solar powered motion activated cameras that could be placed on the trail to help with enforcement.