



Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase 2C – Concord FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – August 2016

Q1. When will the trail be open for use?

Answer: Construction of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) Phase 2C in Concord is expected to begin in late spring/early summer 2017; expected opening date will be spring 2019.

Q2. I am confused about all these “phases” - which is which?

Answer: Phase 2A is in Acton (A is for Acton); Phase 2B is the Bridge over Route 2 that connects Acton and Concord (B is for Bridge or Between); Phase 2C is in Concord (C is for Concord). Phase 2C will be constructed before Phase 2B because the design was moving forward more quickly and crossing Route 2 was more complicated.

Q3. Where will parking for trail users be located?

Answer: Two parking areas will be constructed as part of this plan specifically for trail user parking – 18 spaces off Commonwealth Ave. opposite MCI-Concord and 16 spaces at the end of the existing MBTA commuter parking lot. An additional 30-35 parking spaces will be constructed along the railroad ‘spur’ in West Concord (an area behind the Beharrell Street businesses with access through the existing commuter parking lot) – these spaces will be available for use by all people looking for a parking space, although the length of time to park in these spaces may be limited.

Q4. Will there be adequate parking?

Answer: Given that there are an additional 100+ existing spaces in the West Concord commuter parking lot that can be used on weekends, the addition of 64+ parking spaces should be adequate.

Q5. How much will the trail through West Concord cost and where did the funds come from?

Answer: The construction of Phase 2C (that portion of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail from Commonwealth Ave. to Powder Mill Road) has been estimated at \$9,222,000. The majority of funds are available from the Federal Highway program for Statewide Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) improvements; some aspects of the trail project that may be ineligible for CMAQ funds may need to be funded locally through the Community Preservation Act funds that have been appropriated for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

Q6. Will there be sidewalks or paths children and families can use to access the trail from home without having to ride on the road with cars?

Answer: Additional sidewalks and paths will not be constructed as part of this construction project; however, the idea of connecting neighborhoods to the trail is being studied at this time through a grant from the Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS).

Q7. Will there be a path from the trail up to Sanborn?

Answer: A path from the trail to Sanborn School is not proposed as part of this construction project.

Q8. What safety measures will be taken where the trail crosses busy streets?

Answer: There will be warning signs and flashing beacons at two intersections to alert drivers of the rail trail crossings (at Commonwealth Ave. and Old Marlboro Road) as well as a pedestrian/bicycle signal at the redesigned intersection of Main Street and Commonwealth Ave. There will also be warning signs provided to cyclists using the trail as they approach road intersections.

Q9. Where is the northern end of the part that goes through West Concord (Phase 2C)?

Answer: The northern end of the Phase 2C will be a small parking area on the west side of Commonwealth Ave. opposite MCI-Concord.

Q10. How will the trail cross the Commuter Rail line in West Concord?

Answer: The trail will cross the commuter rail tracks westerly (on the Commonwealth Ave. side) of the mini-high platforms. There will be new gates that will prevent access across the tracks at the trail intersection when a train is approaching the station. An illustration will be posted on the website in September.

Q11. What does the intersection of Commonwealth Ave. and Main Street look like?

Answer: The intersection is redesigned to remove the triangular traffic island and extend Junction Park with new traffic signals. An illustration will be posted on the website in September.

Q12. What will the bridge over the Assabet River look like?

Answer: The bridge is intended to reflect an old-time railroad bridge. An illustration will be posted on the website in September.

Q13. What historic artifacts are left? Where are they? How will they be preserved and interpreted?

Answer: There are several artifacts remaining (rails, whistle posts, mile posts, a semaphore, cross-buck signs) that will be interpreted through signage. See one of the proposed historic interpretive signs posted on the website.

Q14. What will the rebuilt culvert under Powder Mill Road look like?

Answer: The rebuilt culvert will have straight sides and a rounded top; it will be poured concrete with a stone-like form that will be colored, similar to the MassDOT retaining walls at Crosby Corner on Route 2. An illustration will be posted on the website in September.

Q15. What is the significance of the blue and red tree ribbons on trees near the Jenny Duggan swamp? Does one mean keep and the other cut?

Answer: The significance of these colored ribbons is unknown; these ribbons were not tied to the trees by the Design Engineer or by Town staff.

Q16. When will the trail south of Powder Mill Road to the Sudbury Town line be built?

Answer: This section of the trail will not be constructed until the Town of Sudbury is ready to construct the trail from Route 117 to the Town line; the Town of Sudbury is currently developing the 25% design plans for the trail through Sudbury. Funding and scheduling may be identified after the 25% design plans for Sudbury have been completed.

Q17. What measures can be taken to protect White Pond?

Answer: Measures to protect White Pond have been included in the 100% design plans, but are not part of the plans for construction since this work is delayed until Sudbury moves forward. However, in 2016 the Town of Concord approved funding from the Community Preservation funds for a White Pond Restoration Project.

Q18. How and when will the trail cross Route 2?

Answer: Crossing Route 2 is part of BFRT Phase 2B. A bridge will be constructed to cross over Route 2 and there will be a wildlife culvert for crossing under Route 2. There is hope that an existing culvert near this project can be replaced at the same time. The 25% design plans for the bridge project have been completed and are being reviewed by State agencies. A public hearing to review the 25% design should be scheduled for the fall 2016. The funding for construction of the bridge is scheduled in the 2018 Transportation Improvement Plan, which means construction should begin in 2019.

Q19. Where can people send their questions?

Answer: People can send their questions via email to Director Marcia Rasmussen at mrasmussen@concordma.gov or by regular mail to the Town of Concord, Department of Planning & Land Management, 141 Keyes Road, Concord, MA 01742.