

Massachusetts Highway Department – District 4

Project Need Form (PNF)

This form is intended to provide preliminary information about the proposed project. It is not expected that all information that is asked for is available or known but applicants are encouraged to complete the form as fully as possible.

From: Marcia Rasmussen **Title:** Director of Plan. & Land Mgmt.

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Project Reference No. (to be filled out by MassHighway): _____

PART I – LOCATION IDENTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION OF NEED

Municipality: Town of Concord

Route and/or Street(s): Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

Bridge ID Number (if applicable): RR Bridge No.'s 13.86, 14.81, 15.16

Who owns the roadway/facility? Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Estimated project limits by mile marker and station from MassHighway's roadway database or other distinguishing landmarks such as cross street(s). Include a locus map of the project and photos illustrating project need:

Start: Route 2 at the Acton Town Line

End: Sudbury Town Line (south of White Pond)

Total Mileage: 3.5 miles

Please provide a brief description of the project need:

Please see Attachment A

Estimated Construction Cost: \$6.1 million

Does the project have Federal Funding? Yes No

If yes, legislation: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Is the project authorized in a state transportation bond bill? Yes No

If yes, bill: _____ Amount: \$ _____

PART II – PROJECT BACKGROUND

In what type of area is the project located? *Project limits may include more than one type of area. For a definition of areas, please refer to Chapter 3 of the Guidebook.*

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Natural | <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban High Density |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Village | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suburban Village/Town Center |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural Developed | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Residential or CBD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban Low Density | |

How does the roadway/facility function in the community? N/A

- High-speed, primary corridor with limited access
- Moderate speed, major corridor between towns/regions
- Low to moderate speed corridor between towns/regions
- Moderate speed, major street connecting residential areas to a town center or major connector
- Low to moderate speed street connecting residential areas with other streets
- Primarily or exclusively a residential street

What is the federal functional classification of the road? N/A

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interstate | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Principal Arterial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Principal Arterial | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Minor Arterial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Minor Arterial | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Major Collector |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Collector | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Minor Collector |

Is the proposed project on the National Highway System? Yes No

Does the project have any Intelligent Transportation System Components?

Yes No If yes, describe: _____

Is the project a footprint road project? Yes No

Is the project a footprint bridge project? Yes No

Provide whatever information is available to characterize the current, general use of the facility (attach traffic counts).

CHARACTERISTIC	USE/DATA	DATA SOURCE	NOT AVAILABLE/ Comments
Number of Lanes			See report
Lane Width			See report
Shoulder Width			See report
Sidewalk Availability/Width			See report
Bicycle Facility Availability/Width			See report
Existing Right of Way	Varies – 64-ft. minimum		See report
Current Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT)			See report
Current Peak Hour Vehicular Volume			See report
Current Peak Hour Bicycle Traffic			See report
Current Peak Hour Pedestrian Traffic			See report
Percent Truck Traffic			N/A
Current Transit Operations/Facilities			See report
Traffic Control (signal, flash, signs, etc.)			See report
Roadway Lighting			N/A
Pavement Condition and Markings			See report
Posted Speed Limit			See report
85 th Percentile Speed			See report

PART III – TRANSPORTATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Choose a project type – Roadway, Sidewalk or Multiuse Path; Bridge or Other. Answer the questions that apply to the proposed project. Depending on the nature of the project, not all questions need to be answered. For all projects, answer **For All Projects**.

Roadway, Sidewalk, Multiuse Path

- Preventive Maintenance
- Rehabilitation/Resurfacing
- Reconstruction
- Widening
- New Facility
- Intersection, Roundabout or Traffic Signal Improvements
- New Interchange or Interchange Reconfiguration
- Safety

What is the condition of the facility, e.g. extent of cracking, deterioration, rideability/walkability, surface condition, structural adequacy, etc.? Include a pavement management system (PMS) condition rating from a MassHighway approved PMS, as appropriate, and attach photo documentation with this submittal showing typical facility surface or site conditions.

N/A

What year was the last repair made to the facility (at minimum a preventative maintenance treatment)?

Railroad use of the rail corridor south of West Concord was abandoned in the mid-1970's; north of West Concord the rail corridor was abandoned in the early 1990's.

What repair was made to the facility? (Use repair typed above and describe)

N/A

What is the crash history or other safety concerns of the facility? (For safety projects, consult MassHighway's Traffic Division for more detailed analysis requirements).

See the Design Report

Are there mobility issues for motorists, bicyclists or pedestrians? (As an alternate to this question, attach Transportation Evaluation Criteria Form.)

See the Design Report

Are there congestion issues? Provide level of service analysis results if necessary. (As an alternate to this question, attach Transportation Evaluation Criteria Form.)

N/A

What other conditions exist that warrant this project? (As an alternate to this question, attach Transportation Evaluation Criteria Form.)

See the Design Report

Evaluate the impact of the project on the following resources/environmental conditions. If major impact”, “ minor impact”, or “will improve” are selected, describe below. (As an alternate to this question, attach Transportation Evaluation Criteria Form.)

RESOURCE/ CONDITION	MAJOR IMPACT	MINOR IMPACT	NO IMPACT	WILL IMPROVE	UNKNOWN
Cultural Resources		X			
Wetlands		X			
Hazardous Materials				X	
Air Quality				X	
Noise			X		
Other					X

Bridge

- Maintenance
- Rehabilitation
- Replacement
- New or Widening

What is the bridge rating and date of inspection?

See Report

- Structurally Deficient?
- Functionally Obsolete?
- Posted?
- Unknown?

What is the condition of the bridge elements?

See Report – three existing railroad bridges; one new bridge proposed

What is the condition of other infrastructure elements?

Trail will follow the horizontal and vertical alignment of the existing Railroad bed.

What is the schedule of preventative maintenance?

The Town of Concord will assume responsibility for maintenance.

If a new bridge or a bridge that does not meet current eligibility requirements, describe why the project is proposed.

N/A

Other

- New or Expanded TDM/Park and Ride Lot
- New or Expanded Traffic Management System
- Traffic Calming, Streetscape, Lighting, or Transit Improvements
- Intelligent Transportation Systems
- Other

Describe the conditions that warrant the project.

N/A

For All Projects

Describe Right of Way Issues

- Probably adequate
- Probably will require takings
- Probably will require easements and/or rights of entry
- Unknown

Describe known project area concerns or constraints.

Environmental impacts to White Pond and other resource areas, trail

alignment through MBTA station – Fitchburg commuter rail line, and contaminated soils.

Describe the project’s effect on multimodal accommodation.

The proposed trail will include a paved riding surface to accommodate pedestrians and bicycles.

PART IV – PUBLIC PROCESS

Please describe the public process associated with the project to date.

None to Date

There was a series of 9 public outreach meetings to discuss design features of the trail conducted during the spring of 2007 (these meetings were videotaped and aired on the local television station – CCTV); all of the BFRT Advisory Committee meetings (bi-weekly since Committee’s creation in spring 2006) have been open meetings and video-taped for CCTV beginning in mid-2007; two public hearings leading up to Town Meeting 2008 and votes taken by Town Meeting in 2006, 2007 and 2008 support the Trail.

What is the expected level of community interest in the project?

High

Medium

Low

Unknown

Describe issues of concern raised by the public during the public process to date.

Potential impacts to abutters; concerns about potential liability of private property owners; rules and law enforcement on the trail; emergency access; maintenance; environmental impacts (impacts due to construction and use); safety; preservation of historic and cultural resources; and, noise pollution.

Attachments:

- 1) Project Locus
- 2) Attachment A
- 3) Preliminary design plan (design plan to be amended per 2008 Town Meeting votes to replace Powdermill Road culvert and use asphalt surface for the entire length of the trail).
- 4) Preliminary design report (design plan to be amended per 2008 Town Meeting votes to replace Powdermill Road culvert and use asphalt surface for the entire length of the trail).
- 5) Copies of 2008 Town Meeting Votes