



TOWN OF CONCORD

Department of Planning and Land Management

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Phone: 978-318-3290

MEMORANDUM

To: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee
From: Marcia Rasmussen, Director DPLM
Re: **Revised Update of Phases 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D**
Date: December 5, 2019

- 1. Phase 2A Update:** This phase of the trail has been completed and is open for all to enjoy!
- 2. Phase 2B Update:** MassDOT's advertised projects list included BFRT Acton-Concord with bids due on January 14, 2020.

The Select Board voted to accept and sign the grant of easement for use of highway property in Concord from MassDOT. The signature pages will be forwarded to MassDOT, where MassDOT's signature page sets will be executed in duplicate by the MassDOT Highway Administrator and, thereafter, returned to the Town an original fully executed agreement. At that time, MassDOT will also arrange for the recording of the Grant of Easement with Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds. This easement is for construction of the bridge over Route 2 and maintenance of the bridge by the Town of Concord.

- 3. Phase 2C Updates** – Not a lot going on. I am working on a grant application to purchase and install two bike 'shelters' that will accommodate 22 bicycles to be installed near the commuter rail parking lot along the trail. The cost is estimated to be \$100,000 (each shelter is approximately \$27,000 and bike racks are \$1000 each, allowing bicycle parking on each side and under the shelter). The grant application is due December 20th. Additionally, the following items from last month's update are still underway.



- a) Planning Division staff is still working on preparing the artwork for the final interpretive panel to be installed at the intersection of Main Street and Commonwealth Ave. Once the artwork is finalized, it will take the fabricator approximately 20-days to prepare and return to the contractor, who will then be responsible for fastening it to the Kiosk.



- b) Delia and I will be working with the three property owners over the winter to prepare planting plans and order materials for planting in the spring. Previously approved CPA funds are available for this work.
- c) The owner at 38-42 Williams Road has observed some confusion and unsafe behavior by people in vehicles when they approach the intersection of their driveway and the rail trail. Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye and I believe installation of additional wood fencing will help define and delineate the rail trail, which we'll work to have installed in the spring. Previously approved CPA funds would be used for this work.
- d) The 100 feet of chain link fence along the CMS/Sanborn School site was included in the contract, but is too urban a material for this woods trail and isn't a useful addition when there's actually 500 feet of school frontage along the trail. We will be coordinating with the Town's Facilities crew or CPW crew to remove this fence.
- e) Additional private property signs have been requested in several locations. Previously approved CPA funds will be used for this work.
- f) I received the updated Concord-On-Tap signs from proponent Janet Rothrock. I will be researching posts and mounting systems over the winter for installation in the spring. Previously approved CPA funds would be used for this work.
- g) If there are funds remaining after the above-noted planting, fencing, posting of Concord On Tap signs and private property signs, we'll look at additional bicycle racks, shelters, and maps. Additionally, yellow 'flag posts' have been installed on the raised islands at street intersections in the Acton portion of the BFRT; Concord will be doing the same in the spring since there have been reports of people hitting the 'splitter islands'. It has also been suggested that a sign be added along the trail from the Powder Mill Road sidewalk alerting people to use caution because of the steep slope.
- h) I've heard from Concord residents that there needs to be additional pavement between the existing trail and the Crosswalk button, otherwise people are stepping on plain dirt or mud when it's wet and there is run-off onto the sidewalk. I hope to purchase a stone slab and work with CPW or Facilities crews to install this fall.

4. Phase 2D Sudbury: From Beth Suedmeyer in Sudbury who reported the following in November.

Geotechnical borings for the 2 bridges and boardwalk section were completed in late summer. The geotechnical results for the boardwalk (750 feet, south of Hudson Road) have caused the need to reconsider the footings which will be used for the boardwalk. We are coordinating with Jacobs, VHB, and MassDOT to discuss alternate boardwalk designs. Meanwhile, Jacobs has advanced the sketch plans for the 2 bridges (over Pantry Brook and Hop Brook), and we hope to submit the initial structural design (sketch plans) package to MassDOT soon, to complete the 25% design submission.

CSX Corridor Acquisition (BFRT, 3)

Sudbury is proceeding with an update of the 2016 appraisal of the 1.25 mile CSX Corridor. The intent is that the appraisal will inform the development of an article for acquisition at the May Town Meeting. Framingham is not participating in the appraisal at this time.