



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: December 2, 2020

- 1. Phase 2A Update:** This phase of the trail has been completed and is open for all to enjoy!
- 2. Phase 2B Update:** Travel lanes on Route 2 have been reconfigured; photos taken of future bridge supports have been posted to the Committee's web page.

West Concord resident Nancy Crowley was able to borrow the painting of the White Row houses and area by Freddie Carlson for use on the interpretive panel and was photographed digitally by a West Concord studio. Additionally, Nancy obtained original photos of residents involved in recreational activities near Warner's Pond, which may also be used on the panel.

I received a request for a change order from Design Engineers Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI) for additional funds to cover construction services that were not anticipated in the original contract in the amount of \$30,694.02. I have identified funds previously encumbered for Transportation consulting services as a potential source; the change order is being processed.

- 3. Phase 2C Updates** – No update yet from MassDOT landscape architect Stephanie Smoot about replacement of the dead trees along Phase 2C; she forwarded the request to others at MassDOT.

There remains approximately \$6,000 from the Community Preservation funds appropriated in 2018 for additional work along the rail trail. CPW Highway & Grounds Supervisor Aaron Miklosko has placed an order to purchase the yellow safety flags that have been used on the splitter islands in Acton. Over the winter, Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye and I will work with Aaron to identify some small projects that need attention, such as signage, plantings, pavement and fencing.

The Committee asked about trail maintenance at the last meeting. I spoke with Aaron Miklosko who indicated that in addition to receiving reports from residents, he and/or his staff travel on the trail every two weeks to identify maintenance issues. He said he would be willing to work with residents who were interested in organizing clean-up activities and provide equipment as may be needed. His email contact information is: amiklosko@concordma.gov.



Additionally, I presented an application to the Community Preservation Committee at their October 27th meeting requesting funds in the amount of \$25,000 for additional enhancements along the completed portion of the trail. The application may be viewed on the Community Preservation Committee's web page here: <https://concordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/26532/3-20-BFRT>. It would be great to have a letter of support submitted to the CPC by the Advisory Committee this month as they are deliberating on their recommendations for the 2021 Town Meeting.

- 4. The last ½ mile of Phase 2C** – Matt Kearney, Delia Kaye and I conducted our site visit the first week of October to review the project, with particular attention to the proposed fence locations and the proposed “slope armoring” near White Pond that was noted in the 2016 design package. Based on information provided by Matt Kearney and a 2014 letter from Stone Root Lane residents, it may be preferable to eliminate the chain link fence and install the three-rail wood fence along the entire westerly side of the trail from the Sudbury town line to Powder Mill Road.

A letter to the abutters to this portion of the trail inviting them to the December BFRT Advisory Committee meeting to review fencing and landscape screening was sent in mid-November.

GPI has been working to finalize the Phase 2C extension documents. The survey has been updated and the wetlands flags have been re-established; they are waiting for the subcontractor/wetlands specialist to go out to verify the flagging. Once the wetlands have been verified, the Notice of Intent will be prepared for submittal to the Natural Resources Commission. The Project Manager is also review the design with the updated survey and addressing comments from Concord Public Works Engineering Division. He has also reached out to the Sudbury Design Consultant to schedule a coordination kick-off meeting.

- 5. Phase 2D Sudbury:** Good news from Sudbury resident Len Simon that funding for acquisition of the CSX land was approved at the Sudbury election by more than 2 to 1.

Sudbury Environmental Planner Beth Suedmeyer reported that in early November the Sudbury Select Board approved the award of the contract for BFRT, Ph. 2D final design to Fuss & O'Neill. We are excited to be bringing them on board to advance the design. The revised mission statement for the BFRT Advisory Task Force was also approved and a call for members was announced. F&O will be onboard and getting up to speed by early December. The tentative timeline for closing the CSX acquisition was November 30.

- 6. Community Connections Grant:** Last week the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) announced the opening of the application period for the [**Community Connections Program**](#) grants. Applications will be accepted from October 30, 2020, to December 11, 2020. Funds will be awarded during the federal fiscal year 2022, which begins on October 1, 2021. After attending the introductory workshop and following up with MPO staff, I determined that an application to purchase automatic counters to record the numbers of cyclists and pedestrians using the BFRT would likely not be approved. However, I learned that the Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) Traffic Analysis and Design Group and the Community Transportation Technical Assistance Program staff may be able to provide some technical assistance in obtaining traffic counts on the trail.