



# 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, plus  
Date: March 17, 2022

- 1. Phase 2A Update:** This phase of the trail has been completed and is open for all to enjoy!
- 2. Phase 2B Update:** MDOT Resident Engineer Michael Winnick provided the following update on Friday March 4<sup>th</sup>: a) Given expected better weather the week of March 7<sup>th</sup>, Contractor MIG may be working on site to begin installation of the wooden 3-rail fence that is fastened to the concrete abutments; b) Wildlife monitoring should begin the week of March 7<sup>th</sup> as well, with cameras and video installed. Pads installed in the ground/surface have not yet been installed given the current frozen ground conditions, but work will be done once the ground thaws; c) the stormwater retention location issue (located in an area of bedrock) has been resolved by turning the drainage system 180-degrees. MDOT is waiting for the final letter confirming resolution.
- 3. Phase 2C Updates:** A public forum was held on February 16<sup>th</sup> with approximately 50+ people attending to hear about the survey, learn about opportunities and to provide ideas and input on potential alternative design solutions. The BFRTAC subcommittee met several times since that date to consider the options and begin planning the next public forum and the outline of the final report to the Select Board, which is due at the end of June 2022. I've taken seven of the initial concepts developed by the BFRTAC as well as those provided to the BFRTAC to sketch out schematics that show the rail trail, open spaces and pedestrian flow, which will be presented at tonight's meeting.
- 4. The last ½ mile of Phase 2C:** Last week GPI Project Manager Matt Kearney reported that MDOT has provided comments made by the different MDOT reviewers. For the Concord portion of the trail, the specification and plan comments were mostly a question of consistency with the Sudbury portion of the trail, with the only comment requiring the Town's feedback is regarding the material for bump-outs provided for the interpretive signs. Sudbury has indicated pervious pavers, while Concord's design was to extend the asphalt pavement. After discussing this with Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye and learning there was only a slight increase in cost and maintenance, I asked that the design be modified to use the pervious pavers for the two interpretive sign bump-outs since the locations of the interpretive signs are proximate to White Pond and to the vernal pool.

A bigger question raised is regarding some of the amenities and whether they should be participating (included in the MDOT budget funds) or non-participating (funds to be provided by the town or others). Two of these elements in the Concord portion are the

granite mile markers and the interpretive signs. Matt has provided information submitted previously from the Town, the BFRTAC and the Friends of the BFRT to support these elements being included in the overall MDOT project budget, noting that Concord has reduced the number of interpretive panels from six to two. I feel that the interpretive panels are important to provide information about the geologic history and sensitive environments around White Pond and the vernal pool and suggest that funds allocated through the Community Preservation Committee/Town Meeting process be used to fund the interpretive panels in the event these are determined to be non-participating.

Lastly, GPI is seeking an additional contract amendment for funding (\$21,062) due to the additional work required by the fence design/redesign and coordination with the Sudbury design consultant. Matt is reaching out to MDOT to determine whether they might provide this financial assistance to the Town but no decision has been made to date.

5. **Phase 2D Sudbury** – No update available on the Town of Sudbury web page.
6. **Community Connections Grant follow up:** The work will be scheduled for this spring, with installation required prior to May 31, 2022.
7. **Concord Prison Cemetery:** A meeting has been tentatively scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup> with members of Concord Prison Outreach and others to discuss possible fund-raising ideas.