



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: September 8, 2022

- 1. Phase 2A – 2D Update:** The Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail have scheduled a meeting for staff and residents of the various communities along the BFRT at the Fowler Library in West Concord for next Thursday, September 15th at 2:30 to 4:15 p.m. One of the agenda items is to reaffirm or revise the common rules of the trail for use by all communities so there are consistent rules along the entire trail.
- 2. Phase 2B Update:** Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye and DPLM Director Marcia Rasmussen attended the August 31st construction progress meeting to hear about the work schedule for early September. MIG Corporation will be working on the slopes of the bio-basin located on the north side of Route 2 and will begin Route 2 activity beginning the week of September 12th. The subcontractor will begin milling the Route 2 pavement the week of September 12th with the hope of completing Route 2 paving by the end of September (this may involve night work). The landscape contractor will potentially be back on-site next week with loam, seed and plantings/landscaping along the entire stretch of the trail. Those bicyclists who have ventured onto the trail and bridge over the summer are advised that this is once again an **active construction zone** and to stay off the trail. The cedar fence that will be installed along the edge of the trail from Route 2 past the State Police Horse Barn has an 8 -10 week lead time and should have been ordered in early September. Paving the path with the final asphalt will not occur until the fence is installed because delivery of the fence materials and installation will require the use of heavy equipment on the trail.
- 3. Phase 2C Updates:** At its July 11th meeting, the Select Board requested Town staff to prepare an Implementation Plan of the short-term changes and the feasibility of implementing such changes as outlined in the BFRT Advisory Committee's report inclusive of additional improvements expressed at the Select Board meeting that night. Such a report requires researching and identifying materials to support the short-term recommendations and additions that may work to slow down bicyclists through the park (so-called tactical urbanism), coordination/discussion with Concord Public Works staff regarding maintenance and storage issues, and consideration of additional measures that may be implemented at the north end of the commuter parking lot to redirect bicyclists to use the trail rather than cut-through the parking lot. Additional information was requested regarding an estimate for the longer-term solution (which would include a needs assessment to determine that the long-term solution was warranted). This report was requested to be completed in 60 days; however, I have requested an additional 30 days which has been granted.

I met with Commission on Disability member Jennifer Burke on September 1st to discuss the Advisory Committee's ideas as well as the ideas expressed at the July 11th Select Board meeting. Based on her input, I've prepared a brief (and very preliminary) visual presentation of options and ideas to share with the Commission on Disability and the BFRT Advisory Committee today (September 8th), which I will then refine for discussion with CPW staff the week of September 19th and a meeting with the West Concord Green Thumbs on September 22nd. Once I have input from these various stakeholders, I will finalize the report to the Select Board for a meeting in early October. A potential funding source for this short-term solution is current year Community Preservation funds (although these funds may need to be shared with the Concord Prison Cemetery project, which is also being planned).

The next round of grant applications to the Community Preservation Committee are due next Friday, September 16th. I anticipate submitting a request for additional funds for the BFRT.

4. **The last ½ mile of Phase 2C and Phase 2D in Sudbury:** The bid package for the last ½ mile and Phase 2D was advertised August 6th.
5. **Phase 2D Sudbury:** see item above. The hope is to award the contract and begin construction this fall, with completion anticipated in two years (fall 2024). The estimated total construction cost is \$11,759,932.89.
6. **Community Connections Grant follow up:** Roof panel received and installed. Project is complete and information has been submitted to the State.
7. **Concord Prison Cemetery:** Concord Prison Outreach, a group interested in the history of the Concord Reformatory Cemetery is hoping to bring a group together to work on various elements to connect the Concord Reformatory Cemetery to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. They have begun outreach to various parties at the State and local level and hope to meet later this fall, with some specific items to start with including a request from Mass Department of Veteran Services (from 2000) to identify and properly mark the graves of veterans, the design of the interpretive panel/s, and the work for the path and access from the rail trail.
8. **The Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism (MOTT) wayfinding grant awarded to the Town of Acton:** Town staff from Acton and Concord are finalizing the map review, locations, and graphics for the consultant and sign company.