



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 and 2C**
Date: May 4, 2017

1. **Phase 2A Update:** This update from Friends member Barbara Pike - After two construction seasons and a winter's hibernation, construction is resuming this spring on the 4.9-mile extension of the trail through Westford, Carlisle, and Acton. SPS New England Construction Site Manager Brad Lubenau discussed recent progress and upcoming plans. Brad noted that he has conducted several project walk-thru site reviews with Acton Conservation personnel so far on this project, resulting in some changes to erosion control barriers.

Last fall SPS finished the installation of the curved girders on the Great Road (Rte. 2A) bridge over the trail, likely the largest curve to be seen in this region. These curves are designed to reduce the bridge span across the roadway, while working within the foot print of the Right of Way. The abutments and piers and the retaining walls for the lead-up ramps were also completed. In addition, a wildlife corridor was installed on the northeast side of Great Road.

New decks were installed on all six of the historic bridges crossing Nashoba Brook. First, the historic native-cut granite piers were extensively cleaned. Then the riveted iron beams were cleaned and repainted. Then a third beam was fabricated and installed on each bridge. Finally the deck forms were put in, and concrete was poured.

Work will resume this year with deck work on the Great Road bridge, along with railing installation on all the bridges. The retaining walls on the bridge ramps will be stained as well. Final grading will be done over the entire project and paving will be scheduled. After paving, railings and fencing will be installed.

Late this fall, after mechanical construction winds down, hundreds of plantings will be completed along the length of the project. In addition, some amenity installations are scheduled as part of the initial design plans.

Construction will continue into late fall, with most planting done in October and November with the final elements to be completed at the start of spring 2018.

2. **Phase 2B Update:** A recommendation and request to negotiate the contract has been submitted to the Town Manager; awaiting response. Next step will be negotiating contract with consultant and asking MassDOT to review the scope of services.

3. **Phase 2C Updates:**

- a. **The pre-construction site walk** for Phase 2C was held on April 19 and April 27. Walked the entire length of the trail with construction crew, Town staff and MassDOT staff. Work begun on May 1st. A certified arborist walked with Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye as various trees were discussed for potential retention/removal.
- b. **Right-of-way (ROW) Process** – Update on ROW-related items that required follow up from this past summer:
 - (1) Town Counsel has reviewed the deed and has recommended some revisions, pending a title search of the property. The title work is expected to be completed this week. The ANR plan has been finalized and will be submitted to the Planning Board for endorsement prior to scheduling a closing to transfer the property to the Town.
 - (2) Town Meeting approved the easement of town land to the MBTA near the West Concord Depot. Issues of MBTA access over MassDOT land are being reviewed now. Once the access issue is resolved, the easement plan can be finalized and the easement recorded.

4. **Phase 2D Sudbury:** Message from Len Simon dated May 2nd:

Dear Friends, Neighbors, and Supporters of the BFRT,

We had a great night at Town Meeting! The additional funding for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail design was approved by an overwhelming majority. The amendment which could have killed the rail trail was soundly defeated as well.

Thank you all for your tremendous support and turnout last night. Without you we would not have been able to maintain the momentum.

I will inform the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) of the results of last night's vote. This should help to secure our place on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) when the final vote is taken on May 25 for construction funding. Although construction (it's great to be able to use that word now) funding is scheduled for 2022, a project can move up to an earlier year if the design is complete and funding available. That's the next job.

Thank you to all who came out last night, and to everyone for your support at the many meetings we have had, and at the ballot box. Your words of encouragement are greatly appreciated.

Without each of you we would not be as far along as we are now.

Very Best,
Len