



#### Sudbury Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Task Force Meeting *February 23, 2021*





# Agenda

1) Call Meeting to Order by Roll Call

2) Introductions – Members briefly state why you volunteered and your favorite amenity of a rail trail

3) Review Task Force Charge - Overview

4) Organization – Selection of Officers

5) Project Overview – Project Status and Consistency with the 25% Design

-Revisions – Boardwalk Eliminated and Hop Brook Bridge

-New Concepts to Discuss

-Concept for Parking, Connections, Amenities at Broadacres Farm, Morse Road

-Concept for Connections at Davis Field, North Road

-Concept for Parkinson (Ti-Sales) Field, Hudson Road

6) Abutter Outreach and Engagement Plan Presentation

-Public Meetings Scheduled

-Design Team Meetings regarding private roadway crossings

7) Topics for Future meetings

-Details on Amenities

-Wayfinding

-Interpretive Signage

-Historical and Cultural Resources

8) Public Comments

Upcoming meetings: Tuesday, March 2 at 7 PM and Tuesday, March 9 at 7 PM

Information on the BFRT Design may be found at <a href="https://sudbury.ma.us/pcd/?p=354">https://sudbury.ma.us/pcd/?p=354</a>

# Task Force Membership

Name	Term	Appointed By
John C. Drobinski	2	Select Board
Charles Karustis	1	Planning Board
Richard A. Morse	1	Conservation
Glenn Pransky	3	Select Board
Lana B. Szwarc	2	Select Board
Frank Vitale	3	Select Board
Richard C. Williamson	1	Park and Recreation

# Select Board Mission Statement for Task Force

Mission

 The Board of Selectmen is looking to this Task Force to gather information and thereby help guide the Board and Town staff in making thoughtful decisions that: (1) are respectful and responsive to residents' concerns, including those of abutters, businesses, trail advocates, and future users; (2) support Sudbury's longstanding commitment to protect the natural environment; and (3) result from an open and transparent process

**Responsibilities and Functions** 

• The Task Force will help the Board advance the design of the trail from the 25% MassDOT Design stage through the next phases of design and ultimately advise on construction coordination, trail operations, and maintenance.

# The responsibilities of the Task Force will include the following:

- Making recommendations to the Town Manager and Selectmen concerning the steps to be followed toward the design, planning, and development of the rail trail, including identifying any issues, concerns and constraints that are likely to arise during the design, permitting and construction phases.
- Gathering input from Town Boards and Committees, including the Conservation Commission, the Community Preservation Committee, and the Park and Recreation Committee;
- Gathering input from the Town's public safety and engineering staff concerning traffic and safety issues with the BFRT, especially where the rail trail intersects with roadways;
- Soliciting community input, including through open and noticed meetings;
- Documenting concerns and requests of abutters, businesses, and other residents and sharing them with the Selectmen;
- Recommending to the Board of Selectmen potential design elements that would advance the goals of the Sudbury Wetlands Administration Bylaw;

# **Responsibilities Cont.**

- Recommending to the Board of Selectmen any specific design elements and mitigations to promote harmony between the rail trail and surrounding community and businesses, address concerns (including those of abutters), safety concerns, or environmental concerns, along with cost estimates for such design decisions as feasible;
- Coordinating with community efforts to improve, support and maintain the trail and making recommendations for future operations, maintenance and oversight;
- Considering how:

6

- user parking might maximize parking efficiencies and minimize the traffic and neighborhood impacts;
- access to our town trails and open space should be managed to balance sensitive ecosystem protection and enhancements to connectivity;
- the rail trail supports and enhances bicycle and pedestrian safety and recreational access in Sudbury;
- connections with the rail trails in our neighboring communities will work most effectively for Sudbury;
- amenities and other facilities, such as benches, signs, informational kiosks, scenic viewpoints, bike racks, trash receptacles, etc., will be chosen and located; and
- Sudbury's agricultural, historical, and open-space heritage should be enhanced.

# **Election of Officers**

- Chair
- Vice-chair
- Clerk

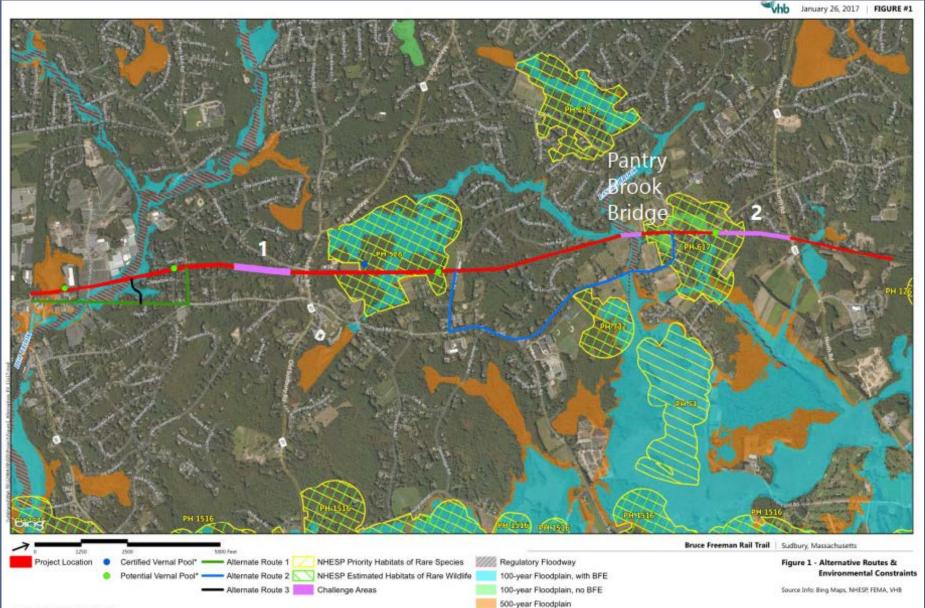
# Project Overview – Planning & Design

- 1987 Central Transportation Planning Staff prepared feasibility study for the Lowell Sudbury Bike Path
- 2004 The Town of Sudbury began planning for the rail trail
- 2014 Town contracted VHB for 25% design
- 2017 Formation of the BFRT Design Task Force by the Board of Selectmen





# Challenges Addressed in 25% Design (in Pink)



# Project Overview – Planning & Design

- 2017 Project programmed on Boston MPO TIP for FY2022
- 2017 25% Path (Highway) Design submitted to MassDOT
  - MassDOT required Bridge Sketch Plan (not part of 2014 Contract) before approving 25% Design
- 2018 Town contracted Jacobs to develop Sketch Plans
- 2019 Sketch Plans submitted to MassDOT
- 2020 MassDOT approved 25% and Sketch Plans Designs
- July 2020 MassDOT Design Public Hearing held
- September 2020 RFP issued for Final Design
- November 2020 Fuss & O'Neill contracted for Final Design





#### Project Overview

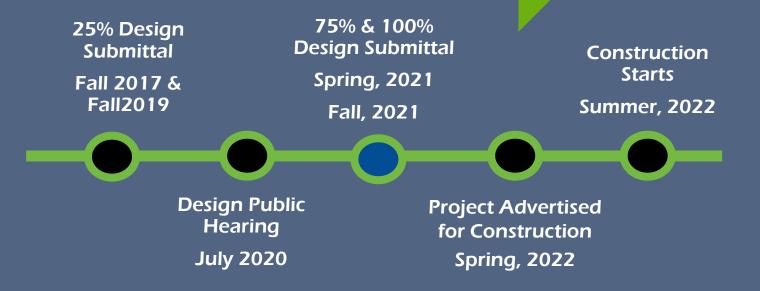
- Federal, State, and Municipal Partnership
- Town Supports Design over one million dollars in design investment.
- MassDOT and Federal Highway Administration, through the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), cover design cost estimated at \$13 million (FFY 2022)
- MassDOT Rail Division owns the corridor
- Town leases land from MassDOT and is responsible for the ROW process at design





#### Project Status - Schedule

# **Project** Schedule





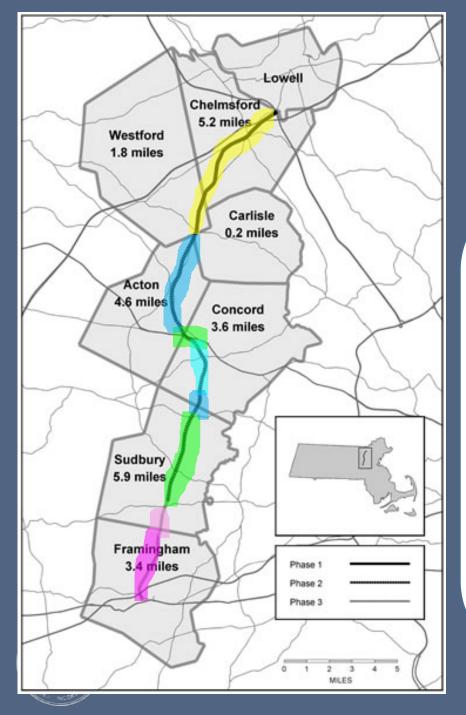


#### Final Design and Construction Schedule

- Submit 75% Design and draft permitting April 21, 2021
- Submit 100% Design and Final Permitting to Agencies September 2021
- Substantial progress to guarantee \$13 million in State and Federal funding
- Right-of-Way property appraisals Fall 2021
- Right-of-Way Negotiations with abutters / Record Notice of Takings / Lease Agreements with DOT – Winter 21/22
- Advertise for Construction Spring 2022
- Bidding and contractor selection Summer 2022
- Construction Commence Late Summer 2022
- Construction Complete Fall 2024







# BFRT Regional Map

BFRT is a 25-mile rail trail between Lowell and Framingham along the former Old Colony Railroad

- Phase 1 (Chelmsford & Westford) Open
- Phase 2A (Westford, Carlisle, Acton) Open
- Phase 2B (Bridge over Rte 2) Under Construction
- Phase 2C (Concord) Open
- Phase 2C (Concord) Under Design
- Phase 2D (Sudbury) Under Design
- Phase 3 (Sudbury & Framingham) -
  - Sudbury Acquired from CSX in 2020
  - Framingham Negotiations with CSX ongoing



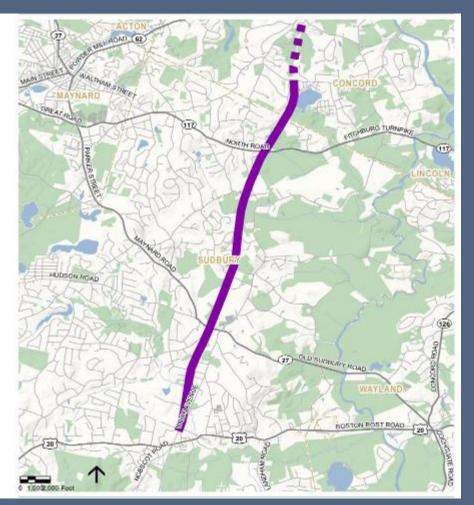
#### Rail Trail Context Sudbury







# Project Area - Sudbury



- The Framingham and Lowell (F&L) Railroad was chartered in 1870 and opened in November 1871.
- History of passenger and freight rail use.
- Mergers, acquisitions, transitions: F&L merged with Old Colony Railroad, thenPenn Central Transportation Company and renamed the Lowell Secondary, finally owned by Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail).
- Rail service terminated in 1982.
- The EOT (now MassDOT) purchased to preserve the right-of-way for public uses.





# History of Public Outreach to Date

- Board of Selectmen
- Public Meetings/Charettes
- BFRT Design Task Force meetings
- Sudbury Committee meetings
  - Planning Board
  - Park and Recreation Commission
  - Council on Aging
  - Conservation Commission
  - Historic District Commission
- Various abutter meetings





#### Project Scope Highlights

- Construction of approximately 5.0 miles of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail from the MCRT crossing near Union Ave in Sudbury north to Powder Mill Road in Concord
- 14 foot wide path (10 foot paved, with two-foot grassed shoulders)
- Partial Rehabilitation of Hop Brook Bridge
- Replacement of the Pantry Brook Bridge
- Gateways and Roadway Crossings
- Signing, Pavement Markings, Fencing, Amenities and Landscaping
- Construction of parking area at Broadacres Farm





#### Design Elements Consistent with 25% Design

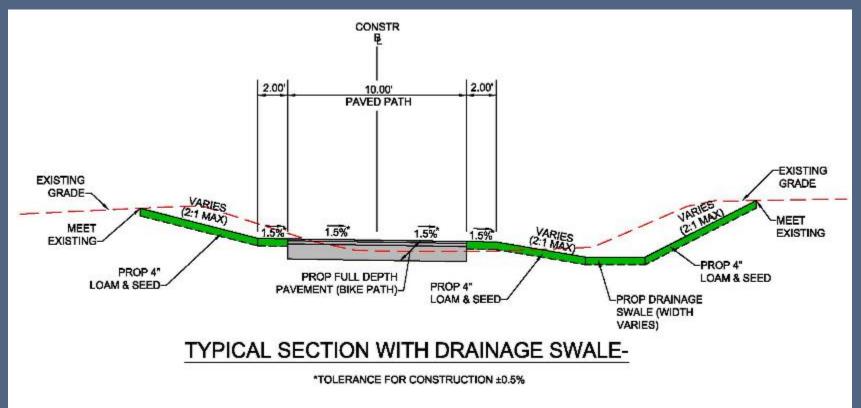
#### Route







# Width/Configuration

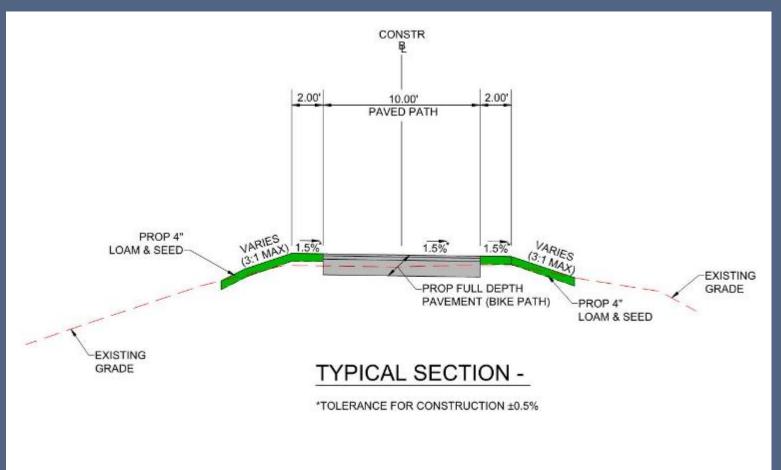


- 14 foot wide path (10 foot paved, with two-foot grassed shoulders)
- Consistent with MassDOT design standards
- ADA compliant





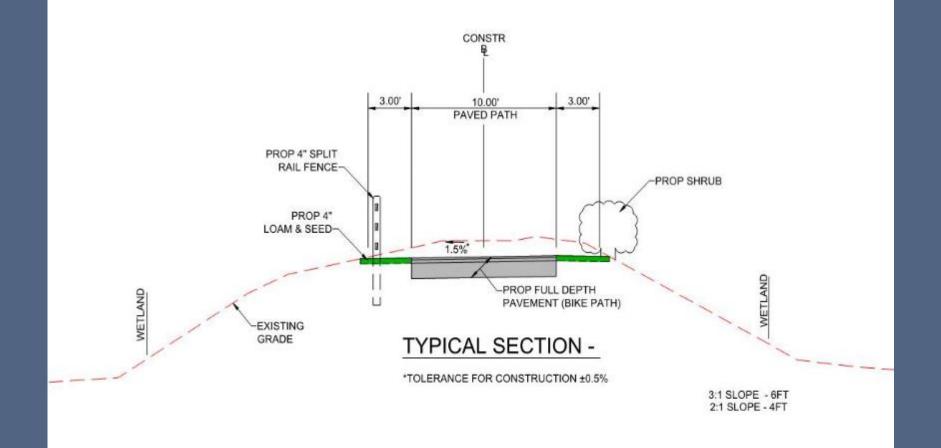
# Width/Configuration





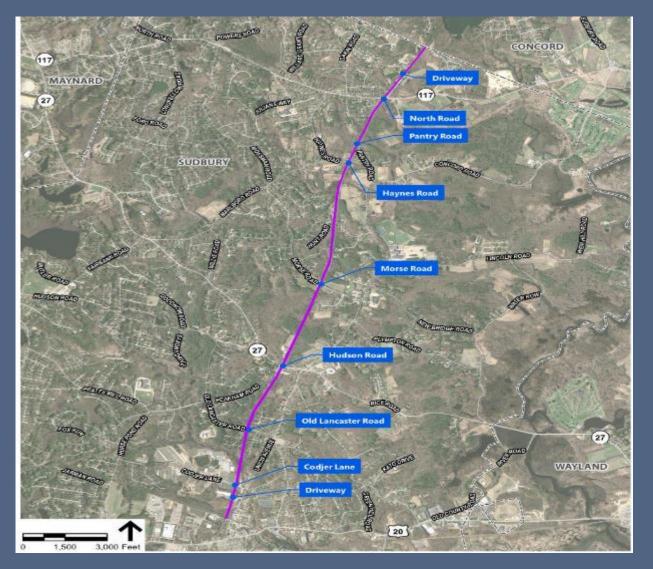


# Width/Configuration









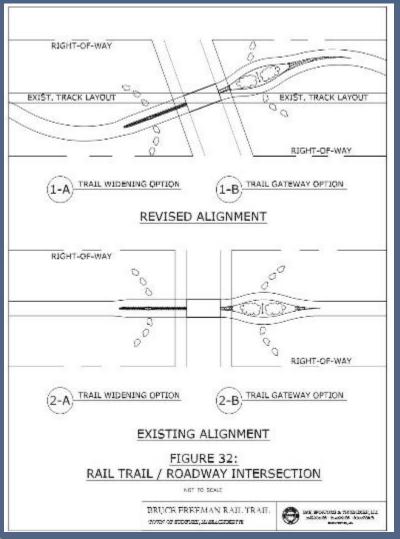


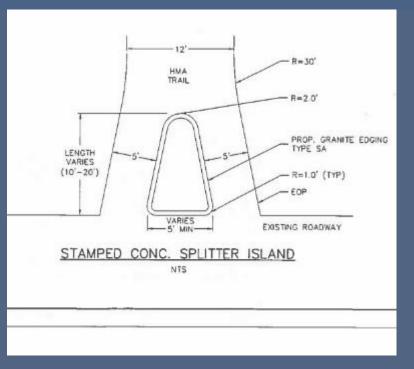


- Private Driveway
- North Rd Pedestrian Signal
- Pantry Rd Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon
- Haynes Rd Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon
- Morse Rd Crosswalk & advanced signage
- Hudson Rd Pedestrian Signal
- Old Lancaster Rd Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon
- Codjer Lane Crosswalk & advanced signage
- Private Driveway









- Codjer Lane
- Morse Rd
- Private Driveway Crossings





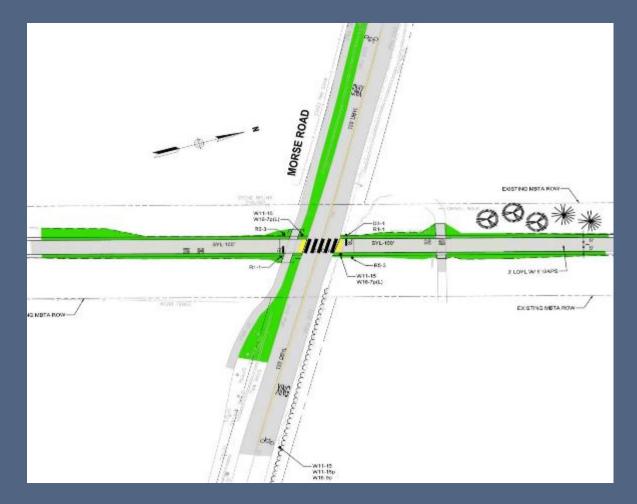
#### Roadway Crossing – Codjer Lane







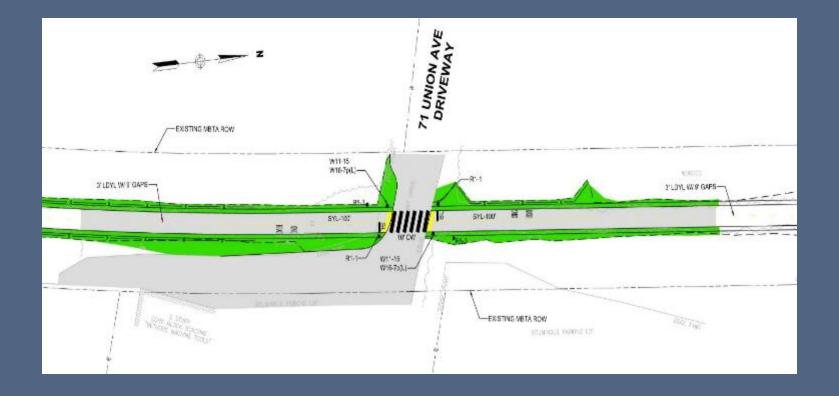
#### Roadway Crossing – Morse Rd







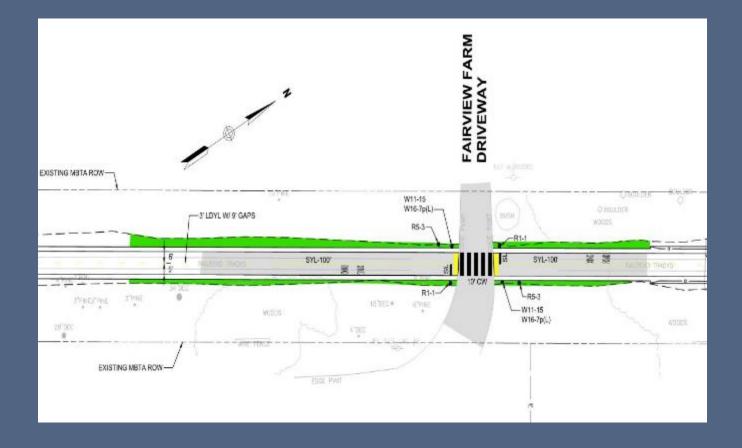
# Roadway Crossing – Private Driveways







#### Roadway Crossing – Private Driveways







# Roadway Crossing – Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon

- Old Lancaster Rd
- Haynes Rd
- Pantry Rd







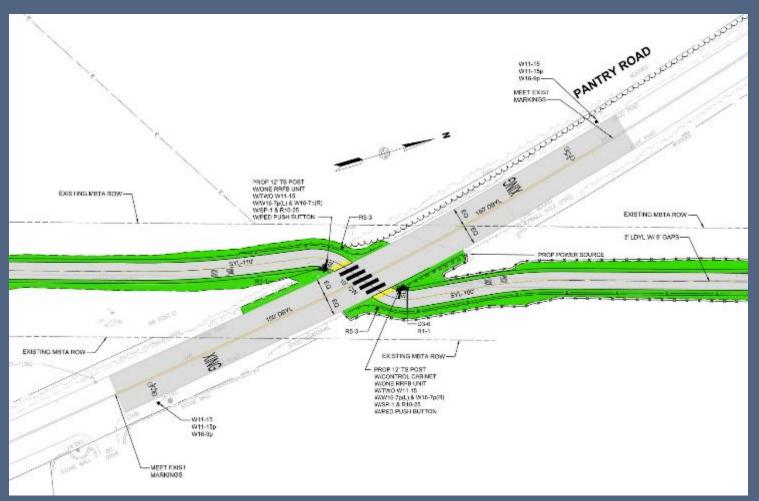
#### Roadway Crossing – Old Lancaster Rd







#### Roadway Crossing – Pantry Rd







# Roadway Crossing – Pedestrian Signal

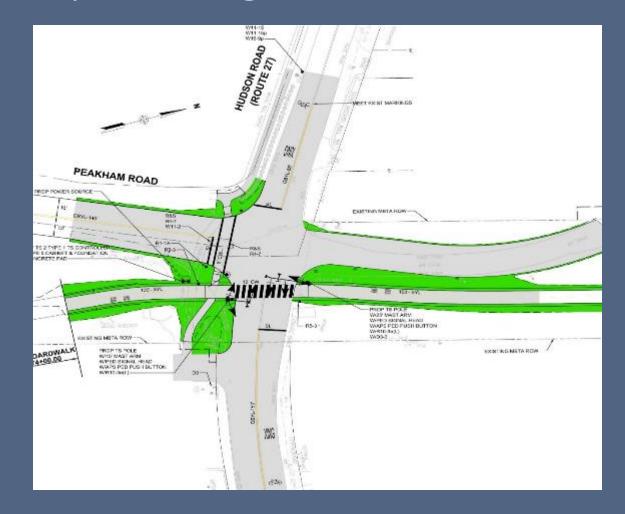


#### • North Rd





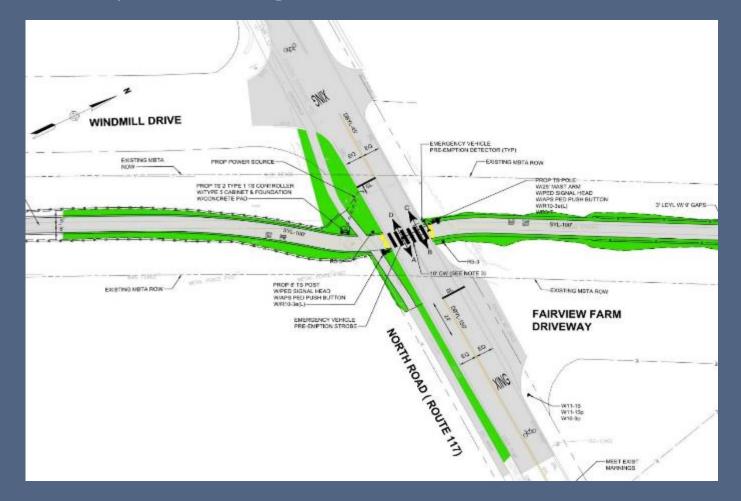
# Roadway Crossing – Hudson Rd







# Roadway Crossing – North Rd

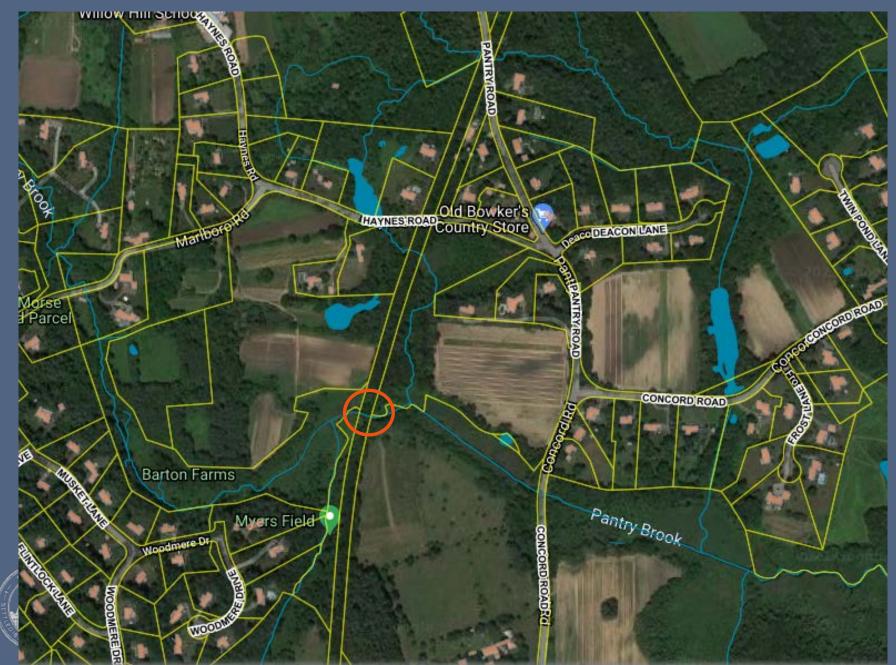






# Stream Crossings

# Pantry Brook - Location



# Existing Conditions - Pantry Brook



#### EXISTING PANTRY BROOK BRIDGE DECK





# Existing Conditions - Pantry Brook



## **EXISTING PANTRY SOUTH ABUTMENT**





# Existing Conditions - Pantry Brook







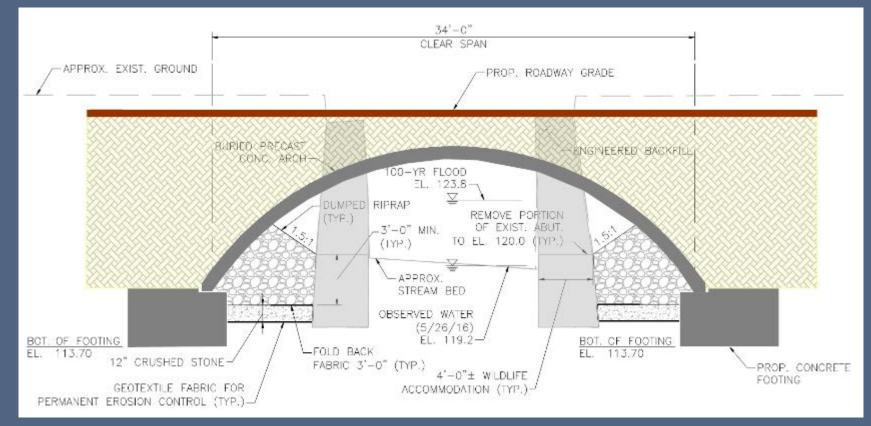
## Proposed Design - Pantry Brook

- Full bridge replacement of collapsed bridge
- Proposed concrete arch
- Precast panels allow for easier constructability
- More durable than other arch types
- Ability for Town to choose façade





# Proposed Design - Pantry Brook



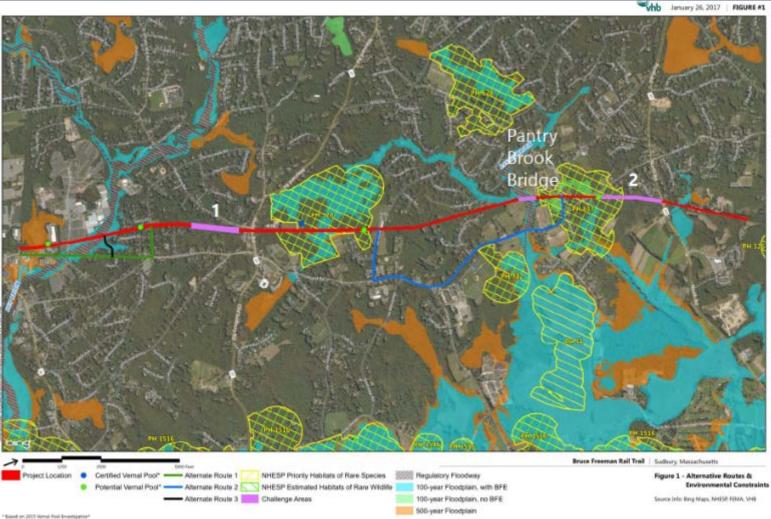
#### **PROPOSED CONCRETE ARCH**





# **Design Revisions**

# **Boardwalk Eliminated**



\* Kased on 2015 Versai Poor Inventigat

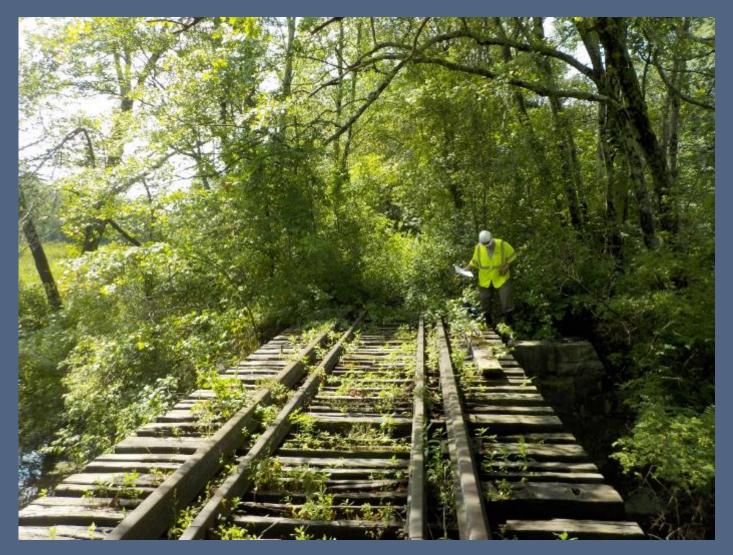




## Hop Brook - Location



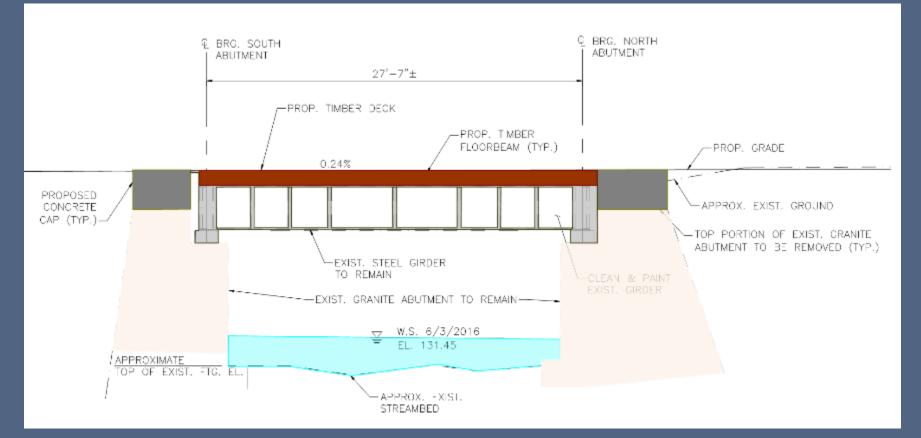
# Existing Conditions - Hop Brook







# Sketch Plan Proposed Design - Hop Brook



#### **PROPOSED SECTION**





# Sketch Plan Proposed Design - Hop Brook

- Reuse existing steel superstructure
- Clean and repaint existing beams
- Replace decking with pressure treated timber
- Detailed investigation and design shows lack of depth for bridge deck that matches proposed trail surface grade





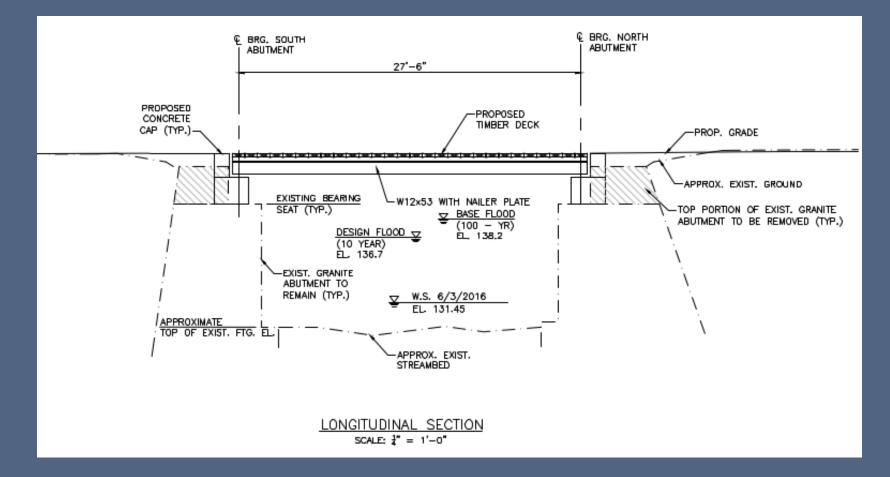
# Revised Plan Proposed Design - Hop Brook

- Remove existing steel beams
- Install lower profile steel "I" beams with wood nailer plates
- Install new decking and rails
- Will match proposed trail grade without requiring:
  - extensive regrading of trail approach segments,
  - construction of new wing walls to support raised grade
  - Stormwater management intervention





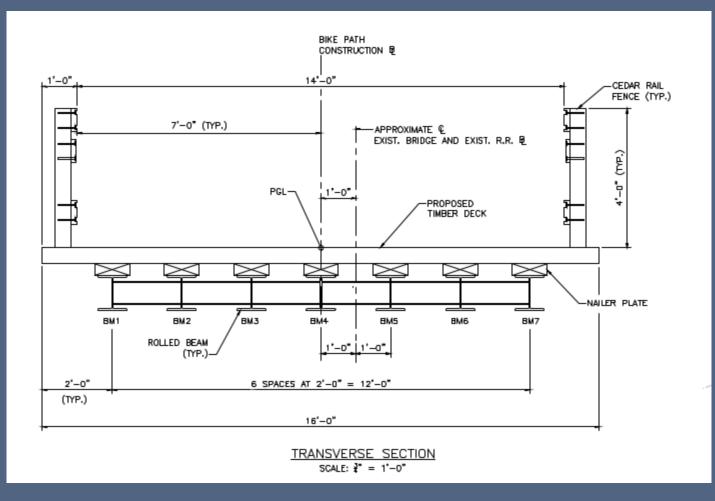
# Revised Proposed Design - Hop Brook







# Revised Proposed Design - Hop Brook







# New Concepts for Discussion

# Staff Meeting BFRT Concepts 2/22

**Excerpt Broadacres Files** 





## Broadacres Farm



















## **Broadacres Farm Considerations**



- Balance use for recreation fields, parking and other amenities
- Scenic road, retain tree line and buffer at road
- Avoid and minimize impacts to wetland buffer/AURA
- Consider future connections to Featherland Park and Concord Road

#### Charette Concept – Maximum Impact

- Flexible Recreation Field Area
- Playground
- Pavilion
- Picnic Areas
- Parking













DRAFT FOR REVIEW 2-28-2019 BROADACRE FARM PARCEL AT FEATHERLAND PARK MASTER PLAN CONCEPT B





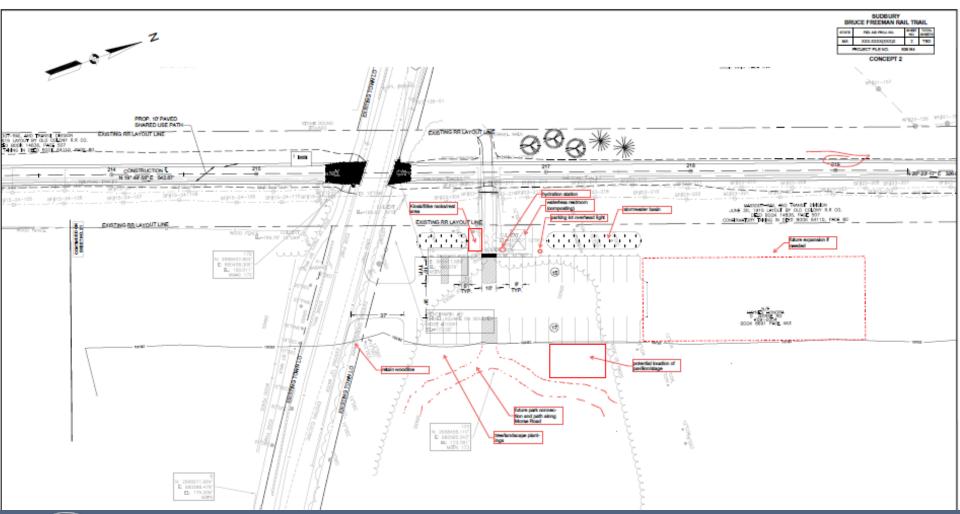


# Broadacres Parking Lot





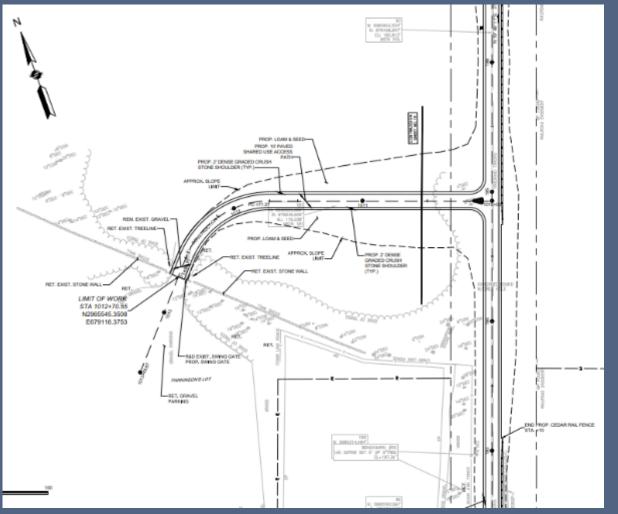








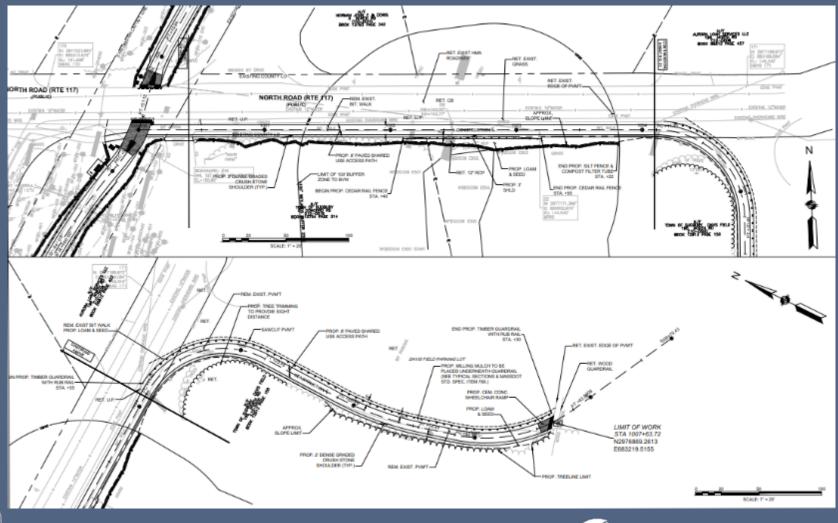
# Parkinson's (Ti-Sales) Field







## North Road Spur to Davis Rec Field



FUSS&O'NEILL

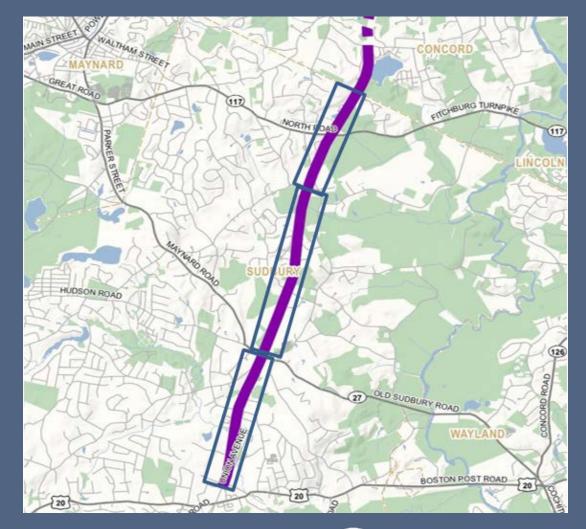


# Abutter Outreach and Engagement Plan

## Abutter Outreach – by Segments

#### • Abutter Workshops

- North segment: Concord line to Haynes Road (1.1 miles approximately 21 abutting properties)
- Center segment: Haynes Road to Hudson Road (1.9 miles approximately 40 abutting properties)
- South segment: Hudson Road to Station Road (1.4 miles approximately 45 properties)



FUSS&O'NEILL



# Design Team Meetings: Private Roadway Crossings

- Meetings with property owners
- Design consultation





## Design Topics for Future Task Force Discussion

## Historic Elements for Preservation





#### Whistle Post

# Cattle Crossing

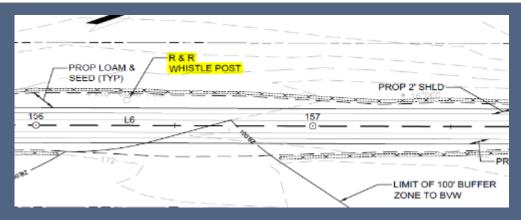




#### Whistle Posts











#### Cattle Crossing - Sta. 199+55



#### Cattle Crossing - Sta. 258+50









#### Cattle Crossing - Sta. 269+80





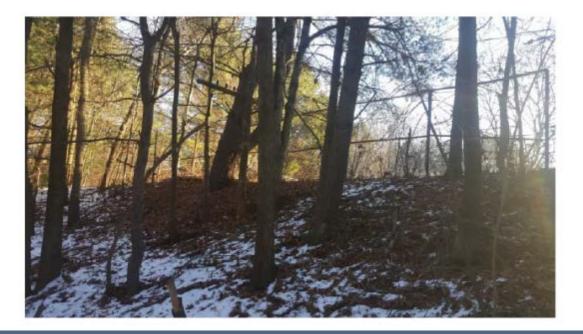
#### Cattle Crossing - Sta. 321+55

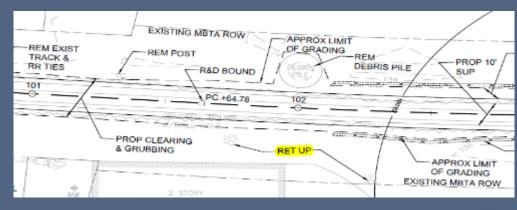






#### **Telephone Poles**









# Amenities Design/Selection

- Gateways
- Rest areas / bike racks
- Mile markers
- Interpretive signage
- Wayfinding signage









# Benches







## Bike Racks







# Historical/Educational Interpretive Signage

### Potential Topics:

- Town Center History
- Junction with MCRT

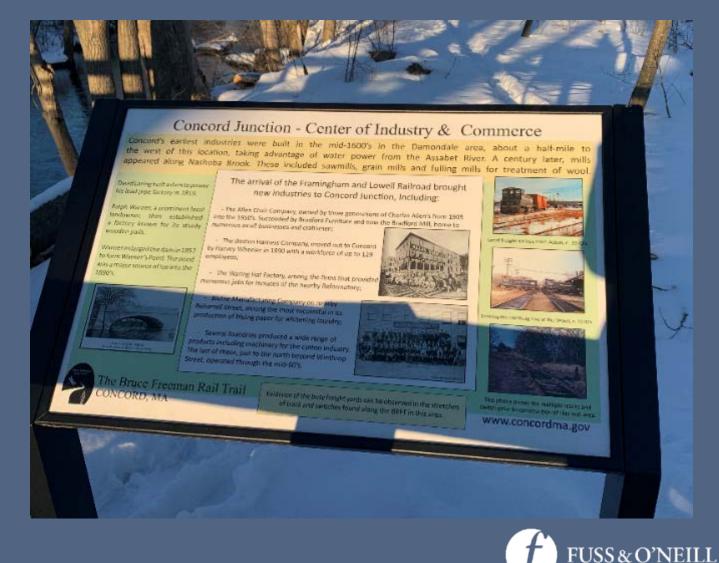


- Broadacres Farm History of Haynes Farm
- Cavicchio history of agriculture in Sudbury





## Interpretive Signage





# Wayfinding Signage





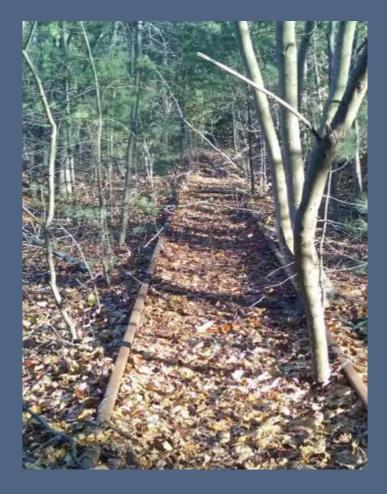


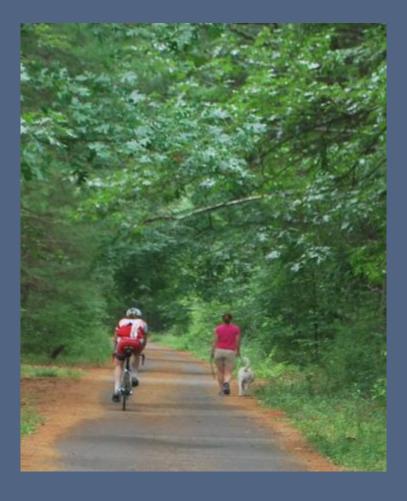
## Rest Areas











#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**



