

# Town of Sudbury

Community Preservation Committee

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## PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM

Submitter: **Town Manager**

Submission Date: **November 7, 2016**

Group or Committee Affiliation (if any): **Board of Selectmen**

Submitter's address and phone number:

Purpose (please select all that apply):

**278 Old Sudbury Road**

Open Space

**Sudbury, MA 01776**

Community Housing

**Contact: Beth Suedmeyer, Environmental Planner**

Historic

**Phone: 978-639-3363**

Recreation

Submitter's email address: [suedmeyerb@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:suedmeyerb@sudbury.ma.us)

Project Name: **Advancing the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Design**

Project Description: **Request is for partial funds to continue the design of the 4.4-mile rail trail in Sudbury to MassDOT standards.**

Costs:

Fiscal Year	Total Project Cost	CPC Funds Requested	Other Funding Sources (amount and source)
2018	\$480,000	\$330,000	\$150,000 in CPA funds previously appropriated in 2016.
2019+			Additional Town funding will be required to complete the design. Construction funds are expected to come from state and federal sources.
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$480,000</b>	<b>\$330,000</b>	

How does this project meet the General Criteria and Category Specific Criteria for CPC projects (see attached)?

Design of the rail trail is an eligible CPA expense. See below response from the Community Preservation Coalition website ([www.communitypreservation.org](http://www.communitypreservation.org)).

Incidental Project Costs. CPA funds may be used for site surveys, environmental assessments, historic or housing consultants, architectural and engineering fees, permit processing fees, construction consultants, financing consultants, legal and accounting fees, and similar costs associated with and incidental to the development of a CPA project. Such expenditures should be made from the appropriation for the particular project and, as project costs, they do not constitute operation or administration expenses of the committee subject to the 5% limitation.

Does this project fall within the jurisdiction or interest of other Town Boards, Committees or Departments? If so, please list the boards, committees or departments, whether applications and/or presentations have been made, and what input or recommendations have been given.

The Board of Selectmen is sponsoring this project. The Conservation Commission, Planning Board, and Park & Recreation Commission will ultimately have input into any final design of a rail trail. Committee meetings will be held to allow member input, and a robust public participation process is being pursued. Creation of a rail trail is consistent with the recommendations in the Master Plan.

Project Description:

The 4.4-mile Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) through Sudbury is planned to be a component of the 25-mile multi-use path from Lowell to Framingham. Portions of the rail trail in Lowell, Chelmsford, Westford, Carlisle, Acton, and Concord are already completed or in construction. The rail trail will offer recreational use and promote pedestrian and bicycle transportation as a safe, healthy, and environmentally-friendly way to make short local and regional trips. The multi-use path will be used for walking, running, bicycling, and cross country skiing--activities recognized as great ways to stay active, reduce emissions, and save money. Bicycle and pedestrian friendly communities become more vibrant and healthy communities.

This project request is for \$330,000 to continue to advance the design phase of the BFRT. Funds previously appropriated allow for the completion of the 25% design (anticipated in spring of 2017) and the initiation of the 75% design phase. Approval of the funds for FY18 will allow for continuity in the project without a lag in the design process.

The MassDOT process for rail trail construction relies on the town to design the trail, with construction funding provided by state and federal funding. These funds will allow the project to proceed without interruption due to the annual funding cycle.

Continuing the design of the multi-use path will help secure its funding priority on the state Transportation Improvement Program. The Town of Sudbury will benefit from receiving state and federal funds for construction, which are estimated at 90% of the cost of the entire project (design and construction).

Delaying funding of the rail trail could potentially effect the overall cost of the design, as wetland resources surveyed in the 25% design phase are only valid for a 3-year period and construction costs are not static. The Sudbury portion of this rail trail is closely following projects in Carlisle, Acton and Concord, all of which have been programmed for state funding. Sudbury will be next town to apply for construction funding to keep the BFRT progressing.

The Town has been supportive of creating a rail trail within this corridor. Over \$470,000 has been appropriated since 2005 for this project, including surveying the right of way, title examination, wetland mapping, wildlife survey and preliminary design. Town Meeting votes have consistently been supportive of utilizing CPA funds for project design and supporting the design process.

The Board of Selectmen at their November 1, 2016 meeting voted unanimously to support this CPA request for \$330,000 for the design of the BFRT.

The following CPC general criteria apply to this project:

- Are eligible for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding according to the requirements described in the CPA legislation;
- Are consistent with the town's Master Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan, Land Use Priorities Committee Report, Town-wide Comprehensive Facility Study, Community Housing Plan, and other planning documents that have received wide scrutiny and input and have been adopted by the town;
- Receive endorsement by other municipal boards or departments.
- Preserve the essential character of the town as described in the Master Plan;
- Leverage additional public and/or private funds.

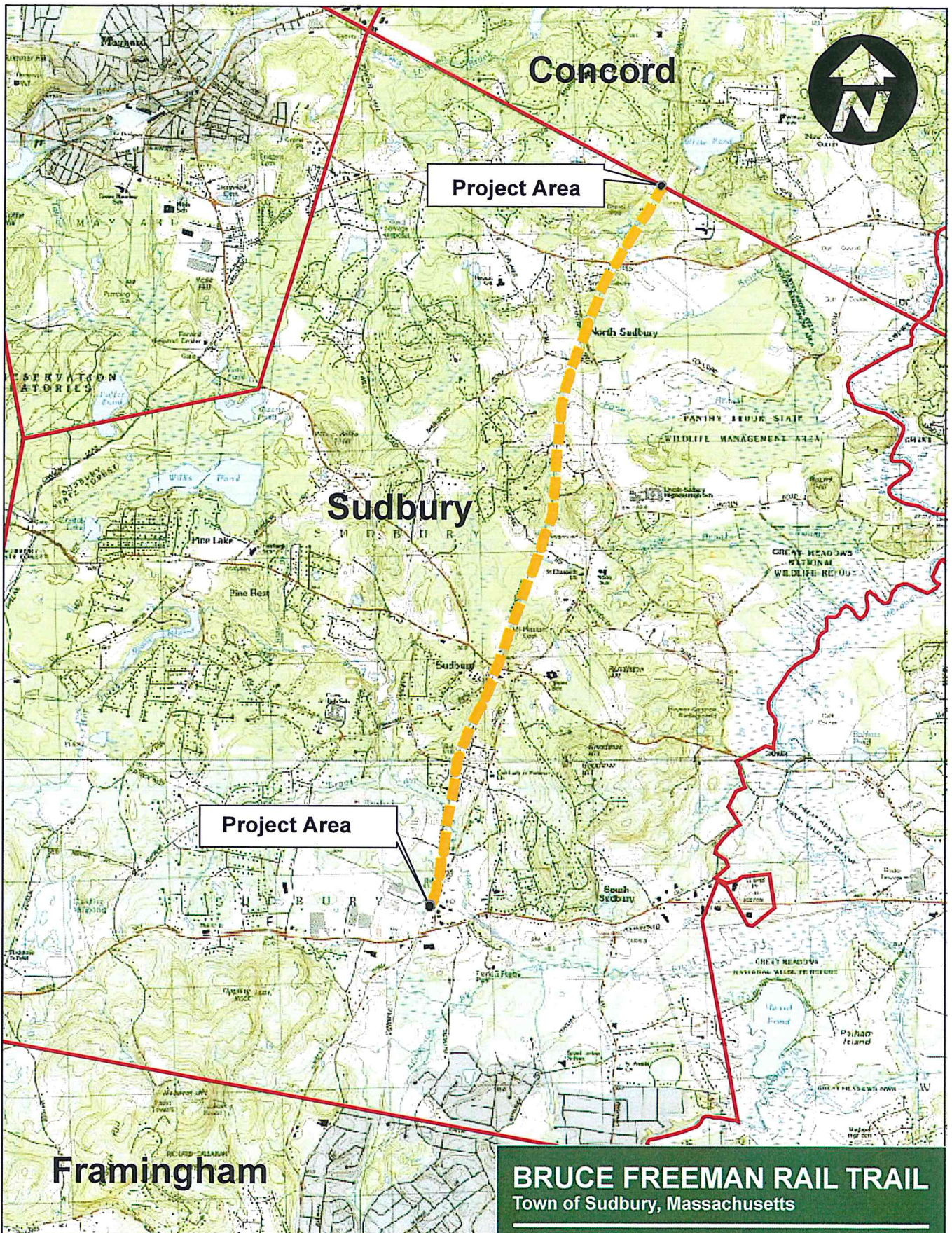
The following Open space criteria are applicable to this project:

- Provide opportunities for passive recreation and environmental education;
- Provide connections with existing trails or potential trail linkages;
- Preserve (or develop for recreation) a parcel identified in the 2009-2013 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The following Recreation criteria are applicable to this project:

- Support multiple recreation uses;
- Serve a significant number of residents;
- Expand the range of recreational opportunities available to Sudbury residents of all ages;
- Jointly benefit Conservation Commission and Park and Recreation Commission initiatives by promoting passive recreation, such as hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing, on town owned property;
- Promote the creative use of railway and other corridors to create safe and healthful non-motorized transportation opportunities.





**BRUCE FREEMAN RAIL TRAIL**  
Town of Sudbury, Massachusetts

*Locus Map*

Data Source: Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (MassGIS)  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

Map Scale: 1 inch = 4,000 feet