

The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Sudbury, MA A Visual History 2014-2023

Courtesy of Len Simon

2014: Lawn sign asking Town Meeting for funding the design of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

Rail Trail

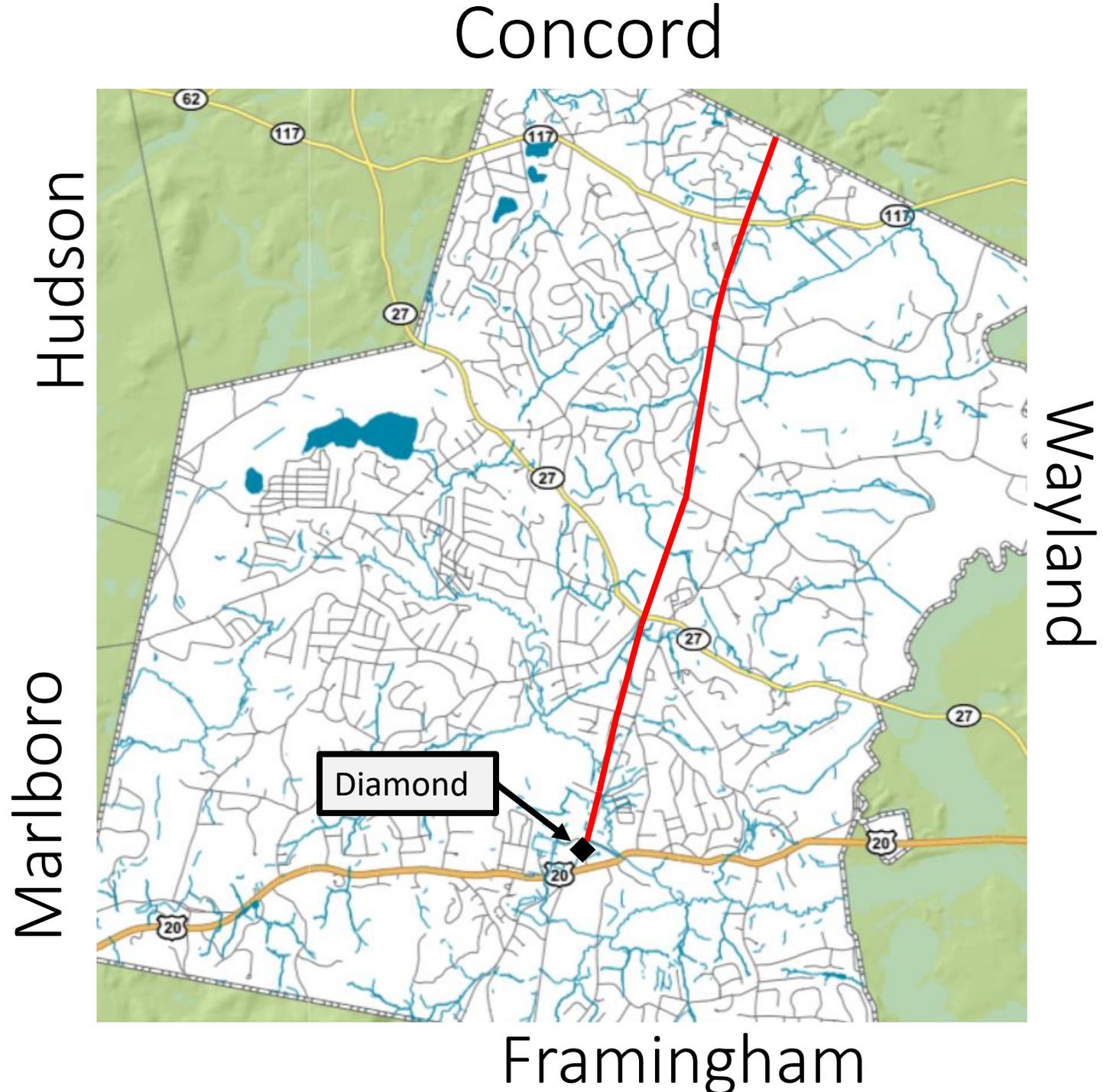
**Vote
YES**



Sudbury's segment of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

FEATURES

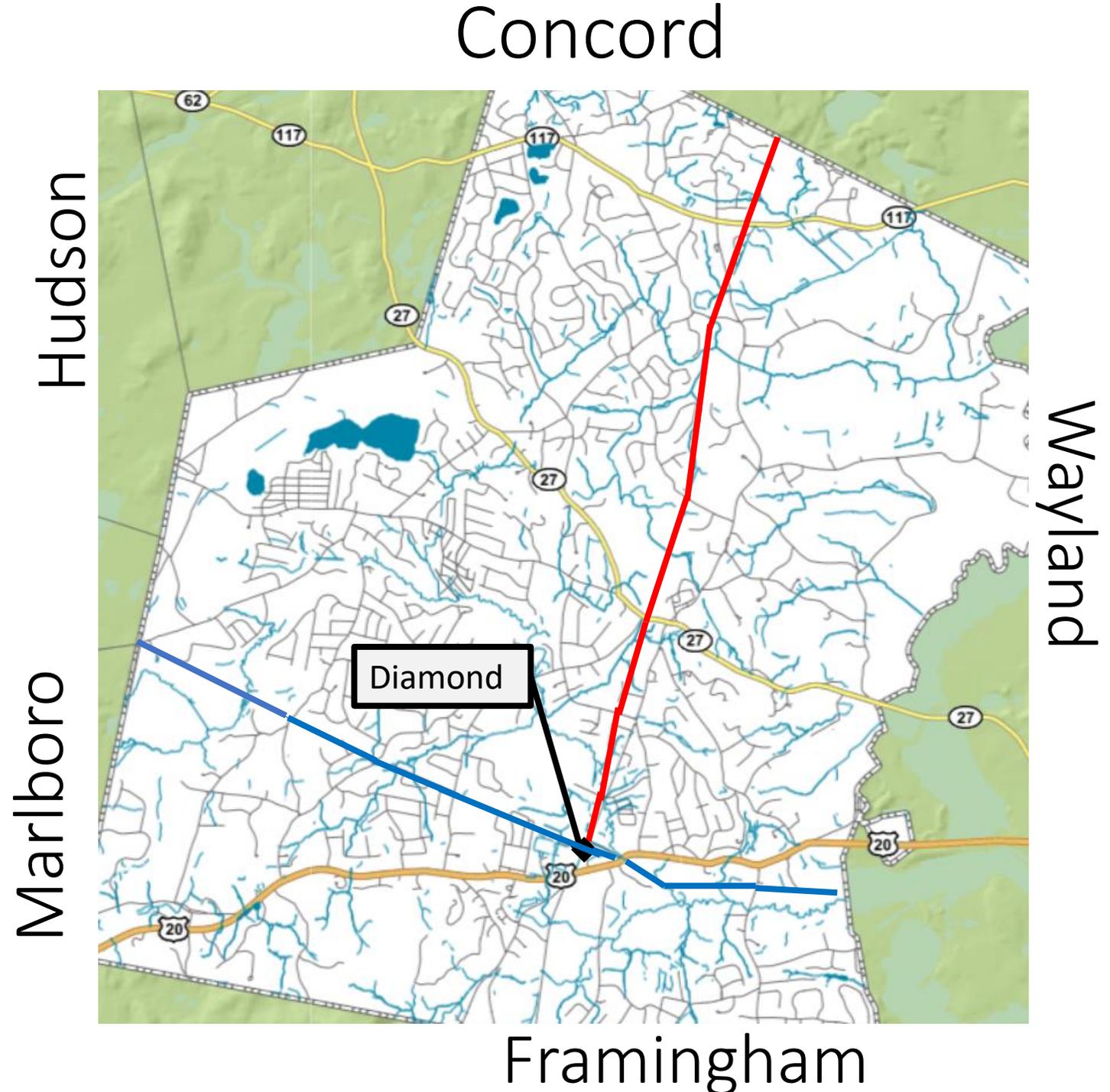
- **4.4 miles of paved path**
From Concord/Sudbury line to Station Road (the diamond)
- **Trail is 10 feet wide with 2-foot shoulders**
- **Trail is fully ADA accessible**
- **Brook crossings at Pantry Brook and Hop Brook**
- **Trail is 100% emergency vehicle accessible end-to-end**



The two Rail Trails in Sudbury

The **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (in red)** and the **Mass Central Rail Trail (in blue)** are now being constructed.

They will intersect at the “diamond,” just north of Route 20 (in yellow), near Union Ave.





March 26, 2021: The Diamond; Intersection of BFRT and Mass Central Rail Trail at Station Road.

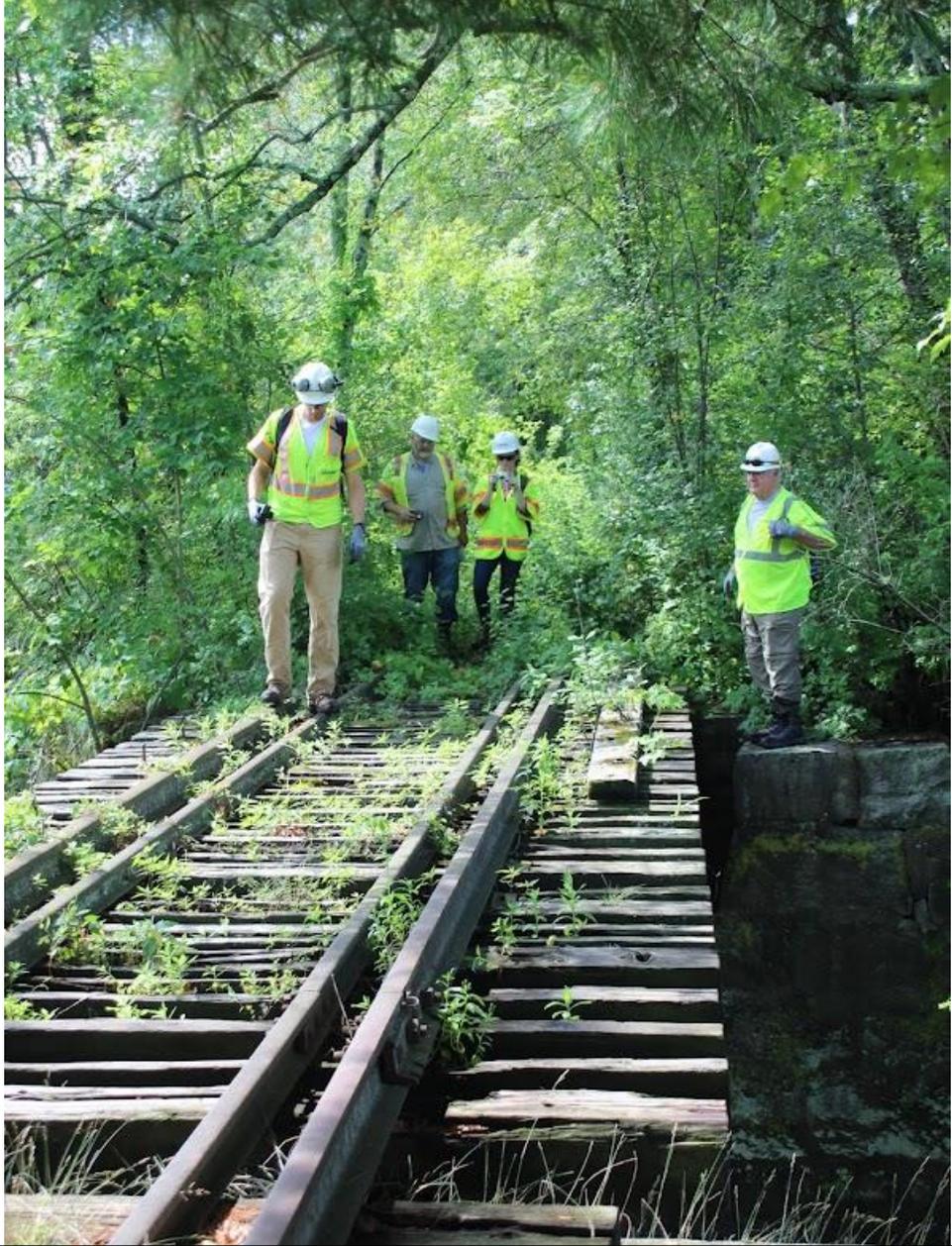


January 5, 2016: Surveying the right of way.



August 14, 2019: Digging test pits south of Hudson Road.





August 9, 2018: Inspecting railroad bridge over Hop Brook.



August 9, 2018: Looking south from Old Lancaster Rd.
toward Hop Brook.



September 9, 2019:
Equipment for test
borings near Pantry
Brook.



September 9, 2019: Test borings site near Pantry Brook.



September 9, 2019: Test borings site near Pantry Brook.



September 9, 2019:
Equipment for test
borings near Pantry
Brook.



March 10, 2021: Looking north at Pantry Road crossing toward Rt. 117.



March 11, 2023: Signs on Morse Road

*Construction
begins*

January 23,
2023:
At the
diamond,
looking
north.
Clearing
vegetation at
first day of
construction
of the Bruce
Freeman Rail
Trail.



*Construction
begins*

January 23,
2023:
At the
diamond,
looking
north.
Clearing
vegetation
at
first day of
construction
of the Bruce
Freeman Rail
Trail.





February 22, 2023: Specialized rail removal equipment near Hudson Road.



February 22, 2023: Disassembling the rails near Hudson Road.



February 22, 2023: Disassembling the rails near Hudson Road.

A photograph showing two workers in safety gear (hard hats and high-visibility vests) dismantling railroad tracks in a wooded area. The tracks are being removed from a path covered in fallen leaves and brush. One worker is using a tool to lift a rail, while the other is holding a chainsaw. The scene is set in a forest with many bare trees, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting.

February 22, 2023:
Disassembling the rails near
Hudson Road.

February 22, 2023:
Disassembling the rails near
Hudson Road.





February 22, 2023:
Disassembled rails at Hudson Road.



Actual Steel Rail recovered from corridor. Made in 1926. Weight is 107 lbs. per 3 feet of rail.



February 2023: Preparing for rail removal near Hudson Road.



February 2023: Stacked rails near Hudson Road.



February 2023: Preparing
for rail removal near
Hudson Road.



February 2023: Stacked rails near Old Lancaster Road.



February 22, 2023, Inspection of rails for salvage or reuse by MBTA near Ti Sales.



March 2, 2023, looking north from the diamond near Station Road.



March 2, 2023: Surface preparation: rails removed, ties waiting for removal. Looking south from Hudson Road.



Lori Capone, Conservation Coordinator at an inspection on March 7, 2023, near Hudson Road.



March 11, 2023, looking north from the diamond.



March 2023: Looking north along corridor from Station Road.



March 28, 2023, Steel cutting saw removing bolts to disassemble rails.



March 28, 2023, Steel cutting saw removing bolts to disassemble rails.



March 28, 2023, Specialized equipment removing rails for salvage or reuse, Ti Sales.



March 28, 2023, Rails being moved for salvage or reuse, Ti Sales.



March 28, 2023, Rails being moved for salvage or reuse, Ti Sales.



March 28, 2023, Inspection of corridor
in preparation for tie removal.



March 28, 2023, View of rail trail looking north at Ti Sales.
Note: rail siding preserved as historical artifact.



March 28, 2023: Looking north from the diamond, the crossing of BFRT and Mass Central Rail Trail.
Note: Preserved railroad artifacts at left.

March 28, 2023: Looking north from the diamond, the crossing of BFRT and Mass Central Rail Trail. Note: Preserved railroad artifacts at left.





March 29, 2023: Removal of rails near Old Lancaster Road.



April 14, 2023: Clearing the rail trail north of Codger Lane.



A preserved rail artifact, about 100 years old.



April 24, 2023: Tie removal, preparing the rail trail corridor south of Codger Lane.



April 24, 2023: Surveying the rail corridor south of Codger Lane.



April 24, 2023: Surveying and leveling the corridor north of Codger Lane.



April 24, 2023: Surveying the corridor north of Codger Lane.



April 25, 2023: Looking north at Old Lancaster Road.



April 25, 2023: Removing ties near Hudson Road.



April 25, 2023: Removing ties near Hudson Road.

April 25, 2023: Removing ties near Hudson Road.





April 25, 2023: Travel surface preparation near Hudson Road.

May 14, 2023: Rail rest
historic artifact adjacent
to trail. Rails placed for
future use when corridor
was an active railroad.





May 14, 2023: Water fowl as seen from Hop Brook Bridge.



May 14, 2023: Preserved artifacts, switch and cross track near the diamond.



May 14, 2023: Preparing the rail trail corridor south of Codger Lane.



May 14, 2023: Rail rest and mile marker, north of Codger Lane.



May 14, 2023: Granite mile marker, north of Codger Lane.



May 14, 2023: Electrical box artifact at Old Lancaster Road.



May 14, 2023: Rails and partial bridge artifacts stored near Morse Road.



May 14, 2023: Partial railroad bridge artifact stored near Hudson Road.

May 19, 2023: Grading and preparing the trail north of Codger Lane.





May 20, 2023: Groundbreaking ceremony at Parkinson Field.

June 19, 2023: Mile marker artifact along Mass Central Rail Trail near intersection with BFRT.

'B' Boston

'20' is for miles away



June 19, 2023: Mile marker artifact along Mass Central Rail Trail near intersection with BFRT.

'N' Northampton
'84' is for miles away





July 18, 2023: At the diamond, the intersection of BFRT and MCRT, look west along MCRT.



July 18, 2023: Work at site of future parking and rest area at Morse Road intersection.



July 18, 2023: Mass DOT personnel inspecting culvert near Morse Road intersection.



July 19, 2023: looking north, surface preparation at Morse Road intersection.



July 19, 2023: Prefab section of Pantry Brook bridge, near Morse Road intersection.



July 19, 2023: AA Will and Mass DOT personnel near Morse Road intersection.

July 20, 2023: Foliage
removal at edge of trail.



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removal at edge of trail.



July 20, 2023: Foliage
removal at edge of trail.



July 20, 2023: Foliage
removal at edge of trail.





August 7, 2023: Access point and rest area being created at Parkinson Field.



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August 23, 2023: Subsurface material delivered at Old Lancaster Road.



August 7, 2023: Leveling and grading of subsurface material at Old Lancaster Rd.

September 8, 2023,
Looking south from Ti
Sales across Hudson
Road, toward Old
Lancaster Road.



August, 2023: Looking north from Hudson Road, at Ti Sales, note siding artifact preserved at left.





August 23, 2023: North end of Hop Brook bridge abutment, year of construction.



August 28, 2023: Construction of Hop Brook bridge.

August 28, 2023:
Construction of Hop Brook
bridge.





August 28, 2023: Construction of Hop Brook bridge.

September 26, 2023:
Paving of BFRT begins,
south of Old Lancaster Rd.





September 26, 2023:
Paving of BFRT begins,
south of Old Lancaster Rd.