



Town of Sudbury

Planning & Community Development Department

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To: Sudbury Residents and Businesses
From: Marcia Rasmussen, Rail Trails project coordinator
Re: Update on Sudbury Rail Trail Projects
Date: October 11, 2023

I know many people are excited to see asphalt pavement on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (note that this is only the base course), however, **PLEASE BE AWARE** that this is still a very active construction zone under the control of the Contractor and you should not be trespassing or using the trail until it is completed, which is anticipated later next year.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase-2D Construction

- Construction continues to progress – the base course asphalt was installed from Union Ave./Station Rd. to Morse Road. Paving continues this week from Rt. 117/North Road to the Concord end of the BFRT near Powder Mill Road in Concord. Unfortunately, the base course asphalt may not be installed this fall on the portion of the trail between Morse Road and North Road due to high water conditions. Also due to high water levels, the bridge over Pantry Brook may not be installed until next spring.
- The design for the driveway at TI-SALES has been revised to improve sight distances and better accommodate truck traffic entering and exiting. The Contractor will be constructing the revised plan this fall, including improving sight distances for the rail trail.
- Two hydration stations are included in the current construction plans for BFRT 2D; one is located at the Peakham/Hudson Roads intersection and the other is at the Morse Road parking area at Broadacres Farm. The water lines are likely to be installed next year, rather than this year, coordinating with the Sudbury Water District and Department of Public Works.
- The next construction update meeting with MassDOT, the Contractor (AA Will), Town Consulting Engineer (Fuss & O'Neill), and the Town is scheduled for early November.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase-3 Design

- The Town's consulting design engineer, Fuss & O'Neill, completed a feasibility study of the next 1.4-mile portion of the trail from the Station Rd. intersection south to just over the Framingham city line in June 2023 and have been continuing work in preparation of the 25% design plans. A scoping session with MassDOT will be scheduled for this fall, and may include a site walk to review the existing conditions. Included in that effort is conceptual design for crossing Boston Post Road/Route 20.
- The Rail Trails Advisory Committee is currently reviewing the rail trail corridor and will be discussing the design of the trail and proposed amenities along the path, such as where to locate

benches, bike racks, parking areas, wayfinding and interpretive signs, maps, etc. The goal is to provide information back to the consultant in November.

- The Town received a MassTrails grant this past summer which, in combination with the Town's match, will fund the BFRT Phase-3 25% design. A formal proposal from Fuss & O'Neill is expected soon in order to prepare a contract for the 25% design work.

Mass Central Rail Trail

- Eversource continues its work to construct a new 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line underground within the former MBTA railroad corridor, with the goal to have the line in service by early 2025. Included in this effort is civil work and bridge replacement to prepare the site, install the transmission line, and leave a compacted gravel sub-base to support the Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT). Once the Eversource project is complete, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will pave the trail, install safe road crossings and complete restoration of this publicly accessible shared-use path.
- The MCRT intersects with the BFRT to the west of Union Ave. opposite Station Road. This intersection has been nicknamed "The Diamond".
- The Rail Trails Advisory Committee is exploring the addition of a hydration station at "The Diamond"; a location that would benefit users of both trails. The Committee is also reviewing the plan set of the trail to consider additional locations for benches.

Miscellaneous items related to Rail Trails

- Two Community Preservation Fund applications have been submitted to the Community Preservation Committee for consideration. The first application is to provide an additional \$250,000 to ensure sufficient funds are available for complete PS&E (plans, specifications & estimates) for the BFRT Phase 3. The second application is also for \$250,000 toward design, engineering, permitting and construction of improvements to the driveway providing access to the Parkinson Field area located next to TI-SALES. Both projects were submitted under the Open Space & Recreation category.
- The next regular meeting of the RTAC is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18th at 7:30 p.m. The RTAC may want to consider holding the meeting in person and starting earlier to give the public an opportunity to review the conceptual designs and discuss current ideas for amenities along the path.