



Town of Sudbury

Planning & Community Development Department

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To: Sudbury Residents and Businesses
From: Marcia Rasmussen, Planning Development Assistant - Rail Trails project coordinator
Re: Update on Sudbury Rail Trail Projects
Date: November 15, 2023

I know many people continue to be excited to see asphalt pavement on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (note that this is only the base course asphalt), 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 to be in 2024.

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 and from Rt. 117/North Road into Concord, ending near Powder Mill Road. The Contractor is working diligently to address high water conditions and drainage issues between Morse Road and North Road in hopes of installing the base course asphalt this fall, as well as working to stabilize the bridge abutments at Pantry Brook.
- The design for the driveway at TI-SALES continues to be of some concern due to the turning movement required of delivery trucks that have a 72-foot wheelbase (the standard delivery vehicle accessing TI-SALES 3-4 times each week). The hope is to resolve this concern and move forward with installation of a widened driveway with asphalt this fall to be sure that the revised plan accommodates the truck traffic.
- 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 will be installed next year, with the Planning & Community Development staff assisting with coordination as needed between the Sudbury Water District, Department of Public Works, and the Contractor.
- The next construction update meeting with Mass DOT, the Contractor (AA Will), Town Consulting Engineer (Fuss & O'Neill), and the Town will be scheduled for December before the winter holidays.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase-3 Design

- Mass DOT held a scoping session on the Phase 3 design on November 3rd with Fuss & O'Neill and town Planning & Community Development staff. The most critical aspect of the scoping session was related to the hydrology of the area and the level of detail and calculations required concerning the existing culverts within the former CSX corridor. This part of the trail goes

through sensitive wetland resource areas, groundwater protection zones for public water supply, and, flood plain associated with Landham Brook and Hop Brook tributaries.

- The Rail Trails Advisory Committee conducted a site walk on November 2nd and is currently discussing the design of the trail and proposed amenities along the path. The goal is to provide information back to the consultant in November/December.
- A final proposal from Fuss & O'Neill is expected by Thanksgiving, which will inform the 25% design contract. This contract is funded through a MassTrails grant awarded in the summer of 2023, in combination with the Town's match. The 25% design plans are expected to be completed in the spring 2024. Public outreach will be a component of this 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, which is expected to be completed in 2024. Weekly public updates from Eversource are provided on the home-page of the Town of Sudbury website, listed under **"Projects"**. 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. Information about the water mains in this area and requirements of the Sudbury Water District have been shared with DCR. The Committee has also reviewed the current plan set and identified potential additional bench locations (the hope is to provide a place to rest every half-mile for those who may need it), which has been sent to DCR for consideration.

Miscellaneous items related to Rail Trails

- The Community Preservation Committee will be holding its public hearing on December 6th to discuss the two projects submitted in October for funding consideration. The first application is to provide an additional \$750,000 to ensure sufficient funds are available for complete PS&E (plans, specifications & estimates) for the BFRT Phase 3. The second application is for \$250,000 toward survey, design/engineering, permitting, and construction of improvements to the access driveway for Parkinson Field, located next to TI-SALES. Both projects were submitted under the Open Space & Recreation category by Planning & Community Development staff. Letters of support for these projects are welcome!
- A member of the RTAC and the Planning Development Assistant attended the Regional Trails Creative Placemaking Strategy Workshop held in Acton on November 2nd to learn more about wayfinding and placemaking along the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail in Acton. This workshop was led by representatives from the regional planning agency - the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). Information and ideas learned at this workshop will be shared with the community and local businesses over the winter.