



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: February 15, 2024

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 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

- Fuss & O'Neill submitted the Field Inspection Report #14 in early February, which has been posted to the Town's BFRT webpage.
- In December the Sudbury Conservation Commission approved with conditions, the design for replacing an 8-inch pipe under the former rail bed, including headwalls, to address the rising water in the pond at Fairview Farm. MassDOT intends to meet with the contractor to discuss the pipe replacement but this meeting has not yet been scheduled.
- After the unprecedented frequent and heavy rains in early January which caused saturated ground conditions throughout the region, a number of flooding issues/concerns from rail trail abutters were submitted to the Planning Office in the areas of Hudson Road, Morse Road and Haynes Road. A response, coordinated with the Town Engineer, MassDOT, and Fuss & O'Neill, was sent to each person. These areas will be monitored by MassDOT staff on site and possible actions may be recommended by Fuss & O'Neill to address the situations as needed.
- Content for the Historic Interpretive panels and signs is being developed with input Historical Commission member Jan Costa and resident railroad enthusiast, Steven Greene, along with Richard Conard from Wayland, Conservation Coordinator Lori Capone, and RTAC Chair John Drobinski. Agreement was reached on the information to be presented on the four National Park-style panels located near Hop Brook (the importance of Hop Brook on economic development and Cavicchio Nursery), TI-Sales (the Railroad impacts on Sudbury Center), Broadacres Farm/Morse Rd. (farming in Sudbury) and Pantry Brook/North Sudbury (the brook, the first school, cattle crossings and borrow pits). Individuals will be preparing initial information for further discussion in February and March.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase-3 Design

- The Fuss & O'Neill contract amendment #1 to continue the 25% design of BFRT Phase 3 was finalized on January 12, 2024.

- The second status report for the 2023 MassTrails Grant was submitted on Thursday, January 25th.
- An application for the 2024 MassTrails Grant was submitted by the February 1st deadline requesting up to \$500,000 in additional funds to support the final design of Phase 3 through Plan, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E).
- Fuss & O'Neill submitted the preliminary 25% design plans on February 5th to MassDOT for review and comment. These plans are now posted to the RTAC web-page.
- Hearing that the Town of Sudbury will have 25% design plans completed by June 2024, MPO/CTPS (Metropolitan Planning Organization/Central Transportation Planning Staff) reached out to the Sudbury Planning & Community Development Office to discuss providing additional information for consideration of construction funding and scheduling in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by the MPO. With assistance from Fuss & O'Neill, that information is anticipated to be submitted by mid-February.
- At the January 10th RTAC meeting, the committee agreed to hold a public outreach/information meeting on the Phase 3 25% design in April (prior to Annual Town Meeting). The date is yet to be determined.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail – Framingham

- Closing documents for the City of Framingham to acquire the rail road right of way from the Georgetown Highline and Railway Company have been finalized.
- The Town of Sudbury has reached out to Framingham's Planning & Community Development Director Sarkis Sarkisian to request permission from the City of Framingham for access to 200 feet of the Framingham-owned right-of-way to extend the trail to Eaton Road W. in Framingham. Sudbury Town Counsel will be preparing a draft Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement for consideration by Framingham

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. Massachusetts DCR will then complete the paving and other amenities proposed for the trail.
- The Rail Trails Advisory Committee has submitted four additional bench locations to DCR for inclusion in the project, with the goal of providing a place to rest every half-mile for those who may need it.

Miscellaneous items related to Rail Trails

- The Community Preservation Committee is supporting a request for \$600,000 toward funds for complete PS&E (plans, specifications & estimates) for the BFRT Phase 3.