



# 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: July 25, 2024

**PUBLIC TAKE NOTICE – the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is still an active construction zone and is CLOSED to the public. Using the trail is at your own risk – please observe caution if you insist on using the path.** Safety features, such as traffic signals, flashing beacons, pavement markings, and signs have not yet been installed.

Town officials are very concerned about the numbers of people already using the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail while it is an active construction zone, crossing public ways without taking notice of traffic conditions, and trespassing over private property abutting the trail. The official completion date, per the contract, is June 2025.

## **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase-2D Construction**

- Fuss & O'Neill submitted 3 Field Inspection Reports since the last update, which have been posted to the Town's BFRT webpage. Look for the blue Field Inspections Reports Icon.
- Replacement of the 8-inch pipe under the rail bed at Fairview Farm has been installed.
- New traffic signals have been installed at the intersections of Peakham Road and Hudson Road in Sudbury Center and at North Road and Windmill Drive. These signals will be activated soon, now that power has been provided to them. Additional flashing beacon signals are being installed on Pantry Road, Haynes Road, Morse Road, Old Lancaster Road and Codjer Lane.
- A consultant to provide Graphic Design Services and assist with the Interpretive Panels (both large and small) and 3 orientation maps has been selected and the contract is in the works. An initial meeting with the volunteers is planned for late July.



## **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase-3 Design**

- The Boston MPO Board met on Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> and voted to approve the final FFY2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which includes 50% construction funding for Phase 3 in FFY2029. The remaining 50% funding is anticipated to be added to next year's TIP in FFY2030.
- Engineering Design consultant Fuss & O'Neill finalized the 25% design submission package and delivered it to MassDOT on June 20<sup>th</sup>. These plans have been posted to the Town's Rail Trail webpage – look for the green icon.
- The Town of Sudbury received news on Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> that the MassTrails grant in the amount of \$250,000 has been awarded for the next



phase of design for the BFRT Phase 3! I attended the celebration event in Holliston on Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> when the announcements were released.



- The final report for the MassTrails grant which funded a significant portion of the 25% Design for Phase 3 was submitted by Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>. We are now working to provide documentation for reimbursement funds in the amount of \$192,000.

### **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail – Framingham**

- Sudbury Town Counsel prepared a draft Inter-Municipal Agreement regarding access to 200 feet of the Framingham-owned former railroad right-of-way to extend the rail trail to Eaton Road W. in Framingham. The document is currently being reviewed by the Framingham City Solicitor.
- The Framingham Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Trails Committee met on Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, where I had the opportunity to introduce myself and provide an update on Phase 3. I've also reached out to the Traffic Commission in Framingham for guidance and recommendations to address parking concerns expressed by residents of Eaton Road West at the April public forum.

### **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 projected in-service date of the first quarter 2025. Massachusetts DCR will then complete the paving and other amenities proposed for the trail.
- Cut and fill/Grading/Gravel installation and Loam installation work is underway in Sudbury from Peakham Road to Union Ave. and from Bridge 127 to Sudbury Substation. Timber rail post installation is in progress at Bridge 127. Erosion & Sedimentation repairs and hydroseeding is in progress along the right-of-way.