



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**

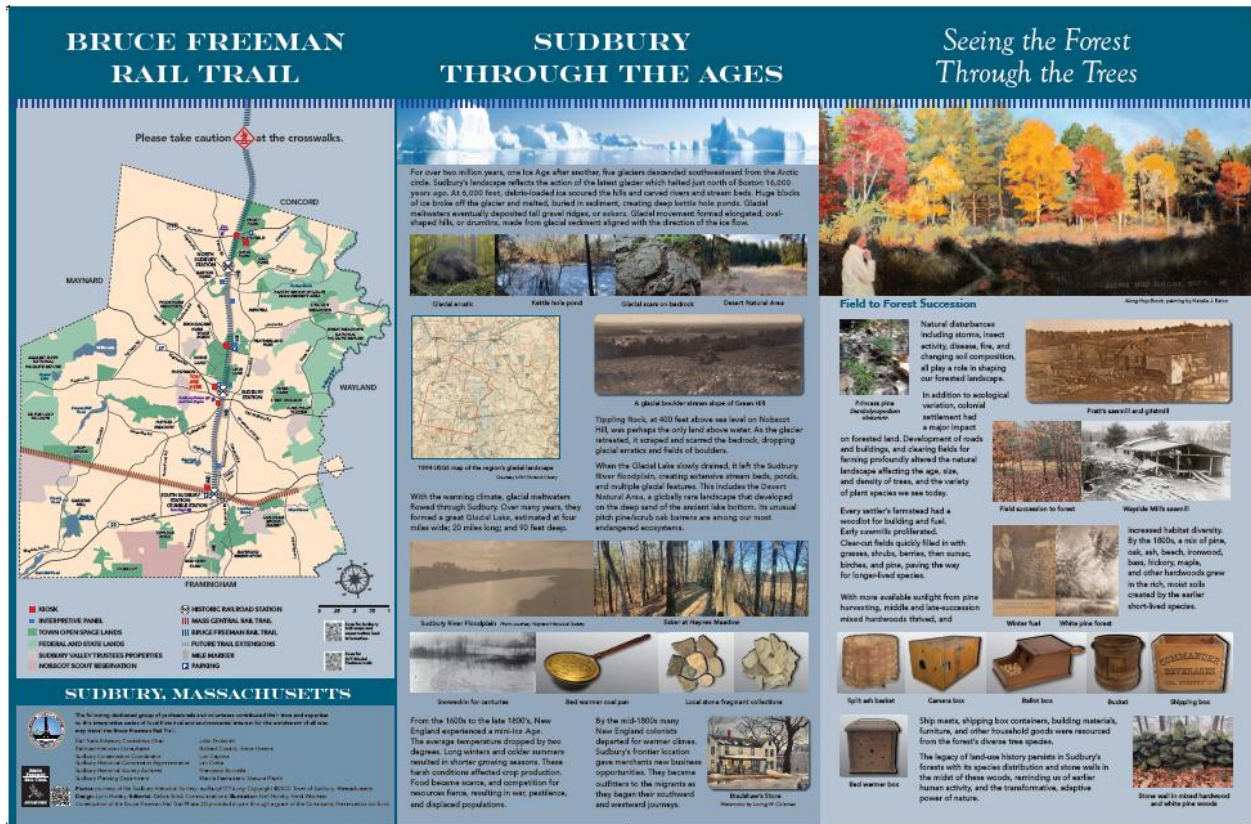
Date: February 18, 2025

PUBLIC TAKE NOTICE – the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is still under control of the contractor and MassDOT and is CLOSED to the public. Using the trail is at your own risk – please observe caution if you insist on using the path.

The official completion date, per the contract, is June 2025.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase-2D Construction

- The Town's design/engineering consultant, Fuss & O'Neill, completed its last Field Inspection Report in July 2024 and prepared a punch list of items that was sent to the Contractor and MassDOT. Since then they have been scheduling regular construction update meetings every two weeks with the Contractor, MassDOT, and Town staff – Town staff has requested a final walk-through once MassDOT has indicated the work has been accepted. To date, the Contractor is continuing to address the punch list (signage issues, fencing, documentation required to be submitted to MassDOT and the Sudbury Conservation Commission) and MassDOT has not yet signed off on the work. The new traffic signals at the Hudson and Peakham intersection have not yet been certified by the MassDOT traffic group (there are still issues with the Opticom system for emergency vehicle over-ride). The work must be accepted by MassDOT before the trail can be open to the public.
- Graphic Design Consultant, Lynn Horsky/Process, worked with a small group of dedicated railroad enthusiasts, historic commission members, and town staff to prepare five large historic interpretive panels and ten smaller panels that will feature information about Sudbury at locations along the trail, which were submitted to the fabricator in December and January. Additional work has been done to create four panels that will be installed in four of the six wood kiosks located on the trail at the Diamond intersection with the Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT), at the Hudson/Peakham intersection in Sudbury Center, near the Parkinson Field parking area and BFRT access path, and at North Rd./Rte. 117 (see the Parkinson Field panel example).



Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase-3 Design and Framingham Phase 1

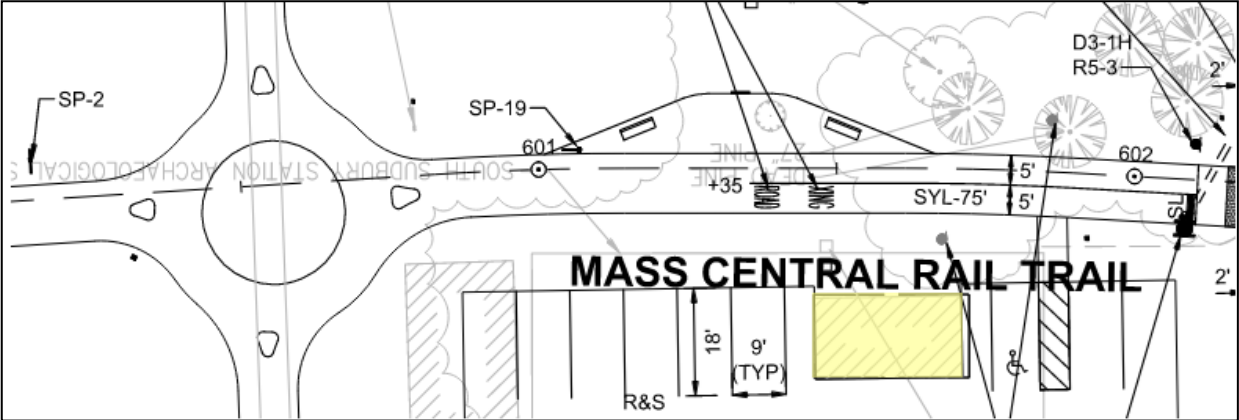
- Engineering Design consultant Fuss & O'Neill finalized the 25% design submission package and delivered it to MassDOT on June 20th. These plans have been posted to the Town's Rail Trail webpage – look for the green icon.
- A coordination meeting set up by MassDOT with City of Framingham and Town of Sudbury staff to discuss trail connections, parking needs/concerns of Eaton Road West residents, and timing for construction of Phase 3 with the Framingham Phase 1 schedule was held on January 16th. MassDOT would like to advertise both projects concurrently in 2029 to have both project under construction at the same time. To provide an update to both Sudbury and Framingham residents to let them know about the upcoming 25% Design Public Hearing and Framingham's efforts to prepare 25% Design plans, a letter will be sent out in February.
- Fuss & O'Neill is working on the plan revisions discussed at MassDOT's Comment Resolution Meeting held in November 2024.
- I attended the January 15th Sub-regional TIP Readiness Day for MAPC communities to better understand which additional projects are being considered and the timing for these projects. While there is a small possibility that this project could be moved up in the TIP process, the fact that MassDOT would like to see both Sudbury and Framingham move forward simultaneously may prevent an earlier construction time-frame. The additional 50% construction funds for BFRT Phase 3 will be included in the next FFY2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Plan.



- The 2024 MassTrails Grant Progress Report was submitted on January 29th, as required. This grant was for \$250,000 toward the final design of BFRT Phase 3, and must be expended by December 30, 2026.

Mass Central Rail Trail

- The Weekly Environmental Compliance Summary dated 12/23/24 from Eversource reported that: The line was energized 12/07/2024. Only a few final punch list items remain for this phase of the project. Full-time environmental monitoring has ceased. As of December, only the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) inspections are being conducted until the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) takes over the project for Phase 2 in the spring.
- DCR is moving forward with plans to go out for bid in the spring 2025 for paving to be installed by June 30, 2025. Information from DCR regarding additional parking near the Diamond Intersection – paving existing parking area around the former train station (aka Crumble Station – highlighted in yellow). Also, an updated design detail of the Diamond Intersection was sent and reviewed by the Sudbury Historical Commission at its January meeting.



- The MCRT will temporarily end in the east at the Eversource yard, while the Wayland portion of the MCRT temporarily ends near Wayland center. It has been suggested that the towns consider a temporary alternative path to join these two sections of the MCRT until the actual connection can be made. Two alternatives have been suggested and maps prepared showing these two options were sent to Town staff and RTAC members for future discussion.