



Town of Sudbury

Planning & Community Development Department

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To: Sudbury Residents and Businesses
From: Marcia Rasmussen, Interim Rail Trails Coordinator
Re: Update on Sudbury Rail Trail Projects
Date: August 6, 2025

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase 2D.

- Phase 2D is nearly complete (the Contractor is following up on punch list items) and the public may now **use the trail at their own risk** since the contractor is no longer regularly on site and the Town does not yet have maintenance responsibility. MassDOT District 3 anticipates that the trail will be transferred to the Town at some point this summer before the grand opening in late summer/early fall.
- Town staff has compiled its list of construction items remaining to be addressed before the Town is willing to take on maintenance responsibilities. A final list was delivered to MassDOT the week of July 28th.
- MassDOT has given the Town permission to install a sculpture at Broadacres Farm/Morse Road parking area as well as an additional interpretive panel at Hop Brook with the understanding that neither MassDOT nor the contractor are responsible for any damages or related issues resulting from said installations.
- A ground-mounted NPS-style pedestal has been ordered for the Hop Brook panel to allow for easier installation of the panel. The standard panel purchased previously will be re-purposed to allow installation of the Broadacres Farm interpretive panel in an alternate location facing Broadacres Farm so the currently installed panel east of the new parking area may be used for providing information about a future sculpture.
- Continued complaints about the coordination and timing of traffic signals at the intersection of Peakham and Hudson Roads are being received by all town agencies. Public Works Director Tina Rivard has recommended a corridor study of Hudson Road to determine what follow up is needed regarding the signal timing, which would be conducted later in the fall after school begins.

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

- The Boston MPO endorsed the 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Plan, which includes the 2nd half of construction funding for BFRT Phase 3 in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2030 (the first half of funds were included in FFY 2029).
- Framingham Planning Director Sarkis Sarkisian reports that the Framingham BFRT Phase 1 (from Eaton Road West to Frost Street) is at 10% design. MassDOT hopes to have both the Sudbury project and the Framingham project advertised for bid in the fall/winter of 2028 so that construction operations are concurrent and reduce the length of time that residents are impacted.

- Fuss & O'Neill is actively working on the 75% submission. The highlights of this current work includes: reviewing the existing vegetation at Eaton Road West to determine whether additional plantings are needed to maintain abutter privacy; advancing the design of the tree and perennials layout at the Route 20 plaza area; and considering additional locations for pollinator gardens. Also, the centerline profile of the trail has been updated to address MassDOT comments to limit the amount of 'cut' required; after this is completed Fuss & O'Neill will meet with Sudbury Conservation Coordinator to discuss the wetlands permitting.

Mass Central Rail Trail

- The top course of asphalt is expected to be completed the week of August 4th (except in locations that require additional work, such as the Diamond intersection where the MCRT meets the BFRT).
- On July 23rd there was an initial meeting with representatives from Marlborough, Sudbury, Sudbury Valley Trustees, and DCR to discuss trail access from the MCRT into the ecologically sensitive desert area where the towns and Assabet River Wildlife Refuge intersect. A site visit has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 23rd to view any signage that has been installed as part of the DCR/MCRT contract and to identify potential locations for additional signage (such as trail etiquette and trail use) as well as side trail points of access.

PUBLIC TAKE NOTICE – the Mass Central Rail Trail is under construction and is CLOSED to the public. Using the trail is at your own risk – please observe caution if you insist on using the path, especially when crossing local streets!

Parkinson Field driveway and parking lot improvements

- The initial kick-off meeting for the Parkinson Field project was held on Thursday, July 31st. Town staff from Public Works, Parks, Recreation, and Aquatics, Conservation, and Planning attended the meeting organized by selected consulting firm, TEC. TEC will authorize the subcontractors for wetlands delineation and survey to begin the week of August 4th. TEC's proposed schedule anticipates completing construction drawings and specifications by January 2026.

Working with the Rail Trails Advisory Committee (RTAC)

- The Select Board made two appointments to the RTAC at the July 15th meeting – Chris Menge and Jason Wellemeyer have been appointed as full members with Chris Menge serving until May 31, 2028 and Jason Wellemeyer serving until May 31, 2027.
- The RTAC is collaborating with the Commission on Disability to sponsor/host an accessible biking program with the group "All Out Adventures". An event has been scheduled for Saturday, October 25th with four 1-hour time slots beginning at 11:00 a.m. Time slots will be first offered to Sudbury residents then opened to the greater mobility-impaired community.
- In July the Chair of the Sudbury Cultural Council, Erica Puccio, reached out to the Interim Rail Trails Coordinator to discuss the possibility of artwork being installed along the BFRT. There are at least four locations anticipated for sculptures (with round concrete pads provided) as well as six kiosks where panels or murals could be installed. There will be follow up with the RTAC after further discussion by the Council.