



Town of Sudbury

Planning & Community Development Department

pcd@sudbury.ma.us

Flynn Building
278 Old Sudbury Road
Sudbury, MA 01776
978-639-3387
Fax : 978-639-3314

www.sudbury.ma.us/pcd

To: Sudbury Residents and Businesses
From: Marcia Rasmussen, Interim Rail Trails Coordinator
Re: Update on Sudbury Rail Trail Projects
Date: Winter 2026

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase 2D – from Union Ave. north to Concord town line.

- Phase 2D is nearly complete and the public may use the trail at their own risk.
- Maintenance responsibility of the trail has not yet been accepted by the Town due to identified issues regarding handicapped accessibility of the ramp at Broadacres Farm parking lot and plaza, invasive species control along the trail, and continuing concerns about invasive species removal. These items have been forwarded to the MassDOT Project Engineer but with the current winter conditions, the Town is simply waiting. As a result, MassDOT District 3 has not yet scheduled a ribbon-cutting or formal opening.
- After learning that the access ramp from the Broadacres Farm parking area to the rail trail was not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) nor the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board requirements, MassDOT asked the Town's consultant, Fuss & O'Neill, to prepare a plan that provides a compliant solution. The plan is being refined for submission to the Conservation Commission because of impacts to jurisdictional areas under the Wetlands Protection Act. Reconstruction of the ramp will likely occur in the spring of 2026 through the current MassDOT contract.
- 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. The sculpture was funded by the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and is currently housed in Sudbury awaiting the start of the spring construction season. The ground-mounted NPS-style pedestal ordered for the Hop Brook panel was installed in the fall of 2025 (see photo at right).
- Complaints about the coordination and timing of traffic signals at the intersection of Peakham and Hudson Roads continue to occur periodically. Since responsibility for the traffic signals have been transferred to the Town, Public Works Director Tina Rivard recommended a corridor study of Hudson Road to determine what follow up is needed regarding the signal timing.
- Reports of pedestrians and bicyclists not stopping or activating the crossing signals/ flashing beacons at busy road intersections along the BFRT have raised concerns. The Rail Trails Advisory Committee, working with the Police Department and a graphic consultant, have



designed additional ‘yard’ signs that will be installed along the trail later in 2026 alerting people to be safe and be seen by pressing the flashing beacon signal.



Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase-3 Design – from Union Ave. south to Framingham line

- Fuss & O’Neill completed and submitted the 75% Design Plan package for BFRT Phase 3 in February, incorporating information provided by the RTAC regarding trail crossings and connections along Phase 3. Included in this package is a handicapped accessible side ramp/path to allow people to view the cattle pass under the former railbed near the Framingham/Sudbury town line.
- The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the federally mandated policy-making body in the U.S. responsible for regional transportation planning and funding in the Boston area. The MPO is conducting its review of approved projects that have been included in the latest Transportation Improvement Program for federal fiscal years (FFY) 2026-2031 to confirm project readiness and progress toward given funding timelines. Happy to report that Sudbury will be ready in advance of the FFY2029 construction season.

Mass Central Rail Trail

- All has been relatively quiet with regard to the MCRT given winter de-mobilization; however, the Sudbury Police Department and Public Works Department report that a person on an ATV with an attached plow has been illegally plowing portions of the MCRT and BFRT. The town is working to identify the person responsible and inform them they are not authorized to do this.
- Members of the Rail Trails Advisory Committee (RTAC) have been in discussion with one of the owners of land with frontage on the Chiswick Park driveway about possible use for additional rail trail parking. A draft license agreement for use of two parcels owned by Chiswick Park LLC has been prepared and forwarded to one of the property owners to allow a small parking lot to complement the existing parking at Crumble Station (recently improved to formalize ten parking spaces during construction of the MCRT). This parking would be created for use by trail users of both the MCRT and the BFRT.

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!

Working with the Rail Trails Advisory Committee (RTAC)

- In October 2025, the RTAC collaborated with the Commission on Disability to sponsor/host an accessible biking program with the group “All Out Adventures”. The event was very successful and the Commission on Disability reports that additional funds have been granted for additional events in 2026.

