



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: May 9, 2024

PUBLIC TAKE NOTICE – the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is an active construction zone and is **CLOSED** to the public. Using the trail is at your own risk. 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 Town is working with the contractor to install additional signage and warnings to alert the public of the dangers of using the trail while it is under construction. The official completion date, per the contract, is June 2025.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase-2D Construction

- Fuss & O'Neill submitted its Field Inspection Report #16 in April, which has been posted to the Town's BFRT webpage.
- Replacement of the 8-inch pipe under the rail bed at Fairview Farm has been approved by MassDOT and is expected to be scheduled for installation later this spring.
- Additional heavy rain storms in April led to flooding conditions on Morse Road at the intersection with the BFRT and concerns about the condition of the pipe/culvert under Morse Road. To better understand current conditions that caused this situation, the pipe will be cleared and a camera will be used to determine the condition of the pipe. Once that is done, a solution will be identified and implemented.
- After an early April meeting with the Historical Commission to present the preliminary content and design of the Historic Interpretive panels and receive feedback from Commission members on the concept and content, Town staff prepared a scope of work and is soliciting quotes for a graphic designer to assist with this project.
- 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 not be activated until power has been supplied to the locations later this year.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase-3 Design

- A review session was held with MassDOT in early April on the preliminary 25% design plans. With comments in hand, Engineering/Design Consultant Fuss & O'Neill is preparing the final 25% design plans for submission in June 2024.
- The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has prepared and made available for public comment the draft FFY2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which includes 50% of the construction funding for the BFRT Phase 3 project in

FFY2029. The Rail Trails Advisory Committee has submitted a letter of support for the draft FFY2025-2029 TIP. Comments are due to the MPO by May 22, 2024, and a vote by the MPO is expected at their June 6 meeting.

- The Rail Trails Advisory Committee hosted a public forum (in person and virtual) on April 23rd to present the current design concepts for BFRT Phase 3 and receive input from those attending the forum, held in the Community Room at the Goodnow Library. Approximately 30-40 people attended (both in person and online) from Sudbury and Framingham. One of the highlights of the presentation was a drone video by Stuart Beeby of the future rail trail from the intersection with the Mass Central Rail Trail to Eaton Road West in Framingham. Sudbury TV recorded the event, which should be available on the Sudbury TV website.
- On May 6th, Sudbury Annual Town Meeting voted to approve additional design and engineering funding for the BFRT Phase 3 from the Community Preservation Act funds in the amount of \$600,000. These funds will be directed toward continued design development to and through completion of the PS&E package (plans, specifications & estimates) for the BFRT Phase 3. Town Meeting also approved \$100,000 toward the study of the access driveway to Parkinson Field, which will benefit the BFRT Phase 2D parking and access in Sudbury Center for people with mobility concerns.

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.

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.
- The May 3 construction update memo found on the Eversource website noted that at Bridge 127, crews are installing wall caps; between Dutton Road and Boston Post Road, crews are installing the new transmission line underground from manhole 17-24; and, expect to see crews working on erosion controls in the right-of-way throughout Sudbury.
- 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.

Photos of BFRT Phase 2D near Parkinson Field



Spur entrance to BFRT from Parkinson Field



Parkinson Field Parking Lot



Mineway Brook Crossing

Photos thanks to John Drobinski, RTAC Chair



Concrete bench pad at Parkinson Field Spur