

Ballot Question 3 is a vote to purchase the Sudbury section of the CSX rail corridor, a critical component to completing the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail through Sudbury. It will provide direct access to retail businesses, athletic facilities, recreational areas, and schools. Purchasing this land will protect our drinking water supply, and will prevent another utility corridor from coming through the heart of Sudbury – avoiding the expensive litigation that has plagued the east-west rail corridor.

Think of the rail trail as a 21.5 mile linear park that all residents can enjoy, from Sudbury to Lowell.

Sudbury Town Meeting recently voted to purchase the CSX corridor. The purchase was supported by the Sudbury Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Land Acquisition Review Committee, Finance Committee, and Select Board. The purchase price is in line with independent appraisals.

The state has offered to help Sudbury buy the land with \$400,000 in use-it-or-lose-it grants. This is over one third of the \$1,145,500 purchase price. The full cost of trail construction will be paid with State and Federal funds.

We need to act now. Federal law requires us to complete the purchase this year. Otherwise, the parcel becomes available to others (such as a utility company), or it could be divided up and sold in pieces making acquisition of the pathway difficult, and we would lose the grant money.

This is a unique opportunity to make Sudbury stronger and protect our vital resources at the same time. Vote yes to purchase the CSX land.