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**MASSHIGHWAY ISSUES NOTICE TO PROCEED ON BRUCE
FREEMAN RAIL TRAIL**
Construction Work to Begin in Fall 2007

The Massachusetts Highway Department has announced the award of a construction contract for Phase 1 of the 25-mile Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. The path will honor the late Bruce Freeman, who was a strong advocate of this project for many years.

“The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail has benefited from a history of strong local support,” said MassHighway Commissioner Luisa Paiewonsky. “Along with the project’s local stakeholders, we look forward to the start of construction on Phase 1 this fall.”

The rail trail will provide outdoor recreational space and commuting opportunities for a number of communities located northwest of Boston. Work will begin at the Lowell/Chelmsford municipal limit, extending through Westford, Carlisle, Acton, Concord, Sudbury, and ending in Framingham, Massachusetts. Phase 1 will involve constructing 6.8 miles of trail in Lowell, Chelmsford, and Westford. The work will include lane striping, earthwork, landscaping and other items incidental to the construction of the bike path. Phase 2 will continue the path in Westford to Sudbury. Phase 3 will finish the path in Sudbury and Framingham.

The project cost for Phase 1 is \$4.239 million and has been awarded to S&R Corporation, located in Lowell, MA. The duration of the construction is expected to take two seasons.

This project is the result of 20 years of support and efforts from the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) and the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, Inc. In addition, the area delegation, including the Town of Chelmsford, former Representative Carol Clevon, Representative Geoffrey Hall, Representative James Eldridge, Representative Thomas A. Golden, Jr., Senator Steven Panagiotakos, Senator Pamela Resor, and Senator Susan Fargo provided strong support for the project throughout its development.

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