



FRIENDS OF THE BRUCE FREEMAN RAIL TRAIL

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Although the celebrants at the gala Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony on August 29 in Chelmsford Center were joined by an uninvited guest, Hurricane Danny, they were undeterred by the inclement weather and the last minute move indoors to Old Town Hall. After waiting 24 years for the trail to be completed, the overflow crowd enthusiastically celebrated the opening of the 6.8 miles of Phase 1 in Chelmsford and Westford of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. Balloon bouquets, special BFRT T-shirts, and BFRT/Pedal Power water bottles added to the festive occasion.



Jane Adams, aide to U.S. Representative Niki Tsongas, presented a citation to the Friends from the U.S. House of Representatives "for their many years of hard work and tireless advocacy for the advancement of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail."



Appreciation Plaques:

The Friends awarded plaques to many who were instrumental over the years in keeping the project moving forward.

Advocates: Daphne Freeman, Sharon Galpin, Susan Julian Gates, Bill Harman, Dennis Ready, and Mary Tevlin's family

Elected officials: U.S. Representative Niki Tsongas, State Senator Jamie Eldridge, State Senator Susan Fargo, State Senator Steven Panagiotakos, Former State Senator Pam Resor, State Representative Jim Arciero, State Representative Cory Atkins, Former State Representative Carol Clevin, State Representative Thomas Golden, Former State Representative Geoff Hall, and State Representative David Nangle

Local and regional staff: Paul Cohen, Norman Khumalo, John Livesy, Bernie Lynch, James Pearson, Andy Sheehan, and Beverly Woods

MassHighway and DCR: Commissioner Luisa Paiewonsky, Mark Fedele, Steve McLaughlin, Danny O'Brien, and S&R Corporation

Opening Ceremony:

The Chelmsford Town Band Jazz Ensemble brightened the mood with a concert of lively music. They concluded with a special rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" as a color guard from Westford Boy Scout Troop 159 presented the flag.

Speakers and Ribbon Cutting:

Friends' President, Tom Michelman, welcomed the gathering and served as the Master of Ceremonies. The speakers included Massachusetts Highway Commissioner Luisa Paiewonsky; Daphne Freeman, widow of Representative Bruce Freeman; Former Representative Carol Clevin, who introduced the legislation creating the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail in 1987; Bernie Lynch, Lowell Town Manager and former Town Manager of Chelmsford; and Beverly Woods, Executive Director of the North Middlesex Council of Governments. The ceremonial ribbon cutting, which followed the speeches, was greeted with enthusiastic applause.

Citations:

State Representatives Cory Atkins and Jim Arciero presented a citation to the Friends from the Massachusetts House of Representatives in recognition of "Your devotion to a trail that will reduce our reliance on carbon fuel, encourage healthy lifestyles, and knit our communities together."



Celebration:

Following the program, attendees were treated to Sully's rail trail ice cream and cake as they mingled and visited informational tables staffed with representatives from 22 rail trail, bicycling, outdoors and community organizations. As one looked around, it was easy to agree with Representative Atkins' observation, "This is the first time in two years that I've entered a room where EVERYONE was smiling!"



Couldn't Have Done it Without You!

The Friends are very grateful to the many volunteers who were instrumental in making the celebration such a success. Truly, it could not have been done without you! And we apologize in advance for anyone whose name was inadvertently omitted.

Gerri Abrams, Lisa Baker, Karen Barrett, Jean Butler, Mike Carignan, Bruce Cherner, Tom Christiano, Rick Conti, Kathy Cryan-Hicks, Paul Doherty, Patricia Doherty, Tricia Dzuris, Michelle Elmore, Steve Emerson, Bill Favreau, Peter Flynn, Bill Gerber, Ann Gibbs, Joe Janowski, Cathy Jewell, Jim Lane, Markus Lewis, Rick Lowe, Josh Mazgelis, Kevin McMullin, Betsy McNurland, Dennis McNurland, Julie Michelman, Mary Michelman, Brenda Morris, Joan M. O'Brien, Randy Peterman, Kelly and Cindy Ross, Andrew Shuhany, Heidi Tierney, Glenn Stewart, Betty Twombly, Ken Van Tassell, Tom Teller, Arline Wood, Diane Wright and Peter Wyman.



Also, members of the Chelmsford Community Band Jazz Ensemble, Westford Boy Scout Troop 159 (David Benoit, Coleman Gilbert, Jeremy Marple, Dan Measer, Nathan Prentice, Davey Siriani, Ben Wesley, Scoutmaster Mike Mulligan, Troop Committee Chair Stephany Eck,

and former Scoutmaster Dwight Dixon), Chelmsford Boy Scout Troop 77, town staff and public safety officers from Chelmsford and Westford, and Board Members of the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

Thanks to Our Sponsors!

We are very grateful to the following businesses who provided support for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Premier Sponsors: Agway, Chelmsford Business Association, Chili's Restaurants in Westford and Lowell, Countryside Veterinary Hospital, Hardy Doric, Pedal Power Bike & Ski, REI Corporation, Sully's Ice Cream, Yoong Tong Thai Restaurants, and A-1 Portable Toilets



Sponsors: Facilitations, Goodies Cookies, Harrington Wine & Liquors, Nashoba Valley Ski Area, Reicheld Ting Orthodontics, Spirit Rising, Summer Place Retirement Community, and Zesty's Pizza

Supporters: Center Sports, Chelmsford Cyclery, DeMoulas/Market Basket, The Java Room, Lynch Paint, Toy Shop of Westford, and Traveling Rhino.

Farewell, Bob!

We bid fond and regretful farewell to Board Member Bob Armstrong of Concord. Bob was the Friends' founding president and has been actively involved in the guidance and activities of the Friends since its inception in 2002. He has been aptly called "the Father of the Friends"! Although he has resigned from the Board, we look forward to Bob's continued participation and support of the Friends and the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.



If You Build It, They Will Come

If you were enjoying the newly-opened Bruce Freeman Rail Trail on Saturday, September 19, between 7 am and 7 pm, you may have noticed folks with clipboards sitting beside the trail near Agway in South Chelmsford. The Chelmsford Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, with help from the FBFRT, held the first usage count on the newly-opened trail. Of the approximately 1,150 users counted, 73% were bicyclists, 15% were walkers, and the rest included roller skaters, scooters, and baby carriages. Trail users were counted each time they passed the location. Watch for a call for volunteers for a usage count to be held next spring; we will need lots of help!



The last three years have been exciting as we watched the 6.8 miles of former rail bed be changed from unfunded plans on the drawing board and a right-of-way filled with fallen trees, weeds, rubbish, and decaying bridges to a beautiful, serene, smooth path linking three communities and conservation lands, neighborhoods, schools, ball fields, businesses, and shopping areas. Opinions have been transformed as well, from skepticism to amazement and gratitude.

Be sure to admire the canopy overarching the trail. MassHighway and the contractor, S&R Corporation of Lowell, put in special effort to preserve the tree cover. Special efforts were also made to preserve the historic mile posts and whistle posts and to balance the needs of abutters and trail users. Also notice the Artwalk murals behind Bertucci's.



The Towns of Westford and Chelmsford are responsible for maintaining and policing the trail. Town staff collaborated to put quarter-mile painted markings on the trail surface, sharing expertise, equipment, and materials. Also, the Friends will be helping with amenities planned for installation over the next year, including signs, benches, and kiosks.

A detailed map of the trail can be found on the BFRT website. Trail parking areas currently include: Old Town Hall (1A North Road), Sovereign Bank (5 Billerica Road), and Hart Pond (2 Pond Street) in Chelmsford.

Westford as of now has no legal parking area; however, a grant for federal clean-air funds has been submitted to construct some parking along the right of way.

BFBRT will continue to provide information, coordinate volunteer efforts, and raise money for amenities. Check our website or contact info@brucefreemanrailtrail.org for more information, to give us feedback on your experience, and to find out how you can help. Thank you for using and enjoying the trail!

Volunteer Power!

Thanks to these and the many other volunteers who assisted at various town events during the spring and summer:

Gerri Abrams, Ray Andrews, Kristopher Ball, Ed Beauchemin, Bruce Bensetler, Ted and Phyllis Bially, William Boyajian, Chris Burgess, Mike Carignan, Tom Christiano, Rob Comer, Ellen Crompton, Eric Dahlberg, Paul DeRoche, Gary and Carol Dupuis, The Farrows, Peter Flynn, Daphne Freeman, Bill Gerber, Terry and Laurie Gleason, Jon Goddard, Scottie Hastings, Robbie Hoaglund, Tom James, Joe Janowski, Clare Jeannotte, Betty Johnston, Tom Kelleher, Jeanne Levine, Bob Lucas, Steve Masse, Caroline McCloy, Kevin McMullin, Nancy Powers, Jennifer Pincus, Steve Roberts, Bill Stewart, Phil Sullivan, Ken Van Tassell, Tina Tomao, Lisa Underkoffler, Chris Watson, and Bob Zuffante.

Congratulations, Emily!

The Westford Conservation Trust has awarded their 2009 Conservation Trustee Award to Emily Teller, a Westford Friends Board member, for her role in helping to develop the BFRT in Westford and also for her other volunteer conservation work in Westford.

Friends Annual Meeting

When: Sunday, November 22, 2 pm

Where: Old Town Hall, 1A North Road (Route 4) in Chelmsford Center, directly opposite the common and abutting the rail trail. Parking is available behind the building

What: After a short business meeting, we will walk a section of the NEW BFRT!

See www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org for further information

Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail
 PO Box 1192
 Concord, MA 01742



NON PROFIT ORG
 US POSTAGE
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 HUDSON, MA 01749

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Show your support by joining today!

Members will receive newsletters, notices of upcoming trail-related events, and opportunities to actively promote the rail trail through a variety of volunteer activities.

The Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Membership fees and donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Yes! Sign me up as a supporter of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

- Individual Membership \$10
- Family Membership \$25
- Sponsor \$50
- Conductor \$100
- Engineer \$250
- RR Tycoon \$500+

*Sponsor and above receive complimentary BFRT cap or T-shirt.

 First Name Last Name

 Contact Name

 Address 1 (Street Address, P.O. Box, company name, c/o)

 Address 2 (Apartment, suite, unit, building, floor)

 City State Zip

 Daytime Phone Evening Phone

 Email address

YES NO

I would like to receive the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail newsletter. YES NO

Send my newsletter via email (include email address above). YES NO

Send via postal mail. YES NO

I would like to receive email updates from the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. YES NO

I am willing to receive phone calls from the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. YES NO

I am a trail abutter. YES NO

I authorize the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail to use my name for promotional efforts to support the trail. YES NO

I would like to volunteer. YES NO

Gift: Cap T-Shirt (S / M / L / XL) No Thanks

Please enclose a check payable to Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and mail this form to:

Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail
 PO Box 1192
 Concord, MA 01742

You may also join on-line at www.BruceFreemanRailTrail.org



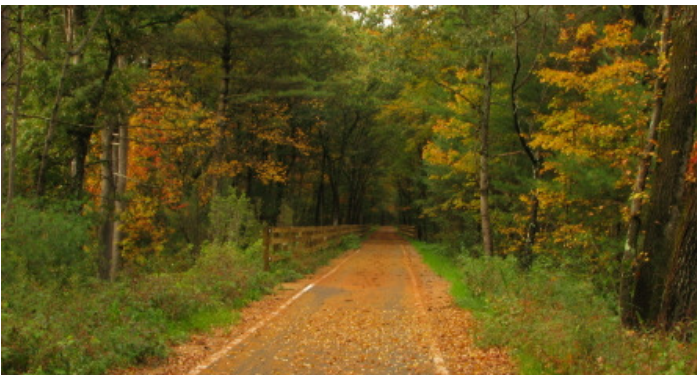
Phase 2: Petition and Funding Keep the Train Rolling

With Phase 1 built, getting Phase 2 designed and built is the Friends' next major long-term goal. To summarize the status of Phase 2:

- **Phase 2A (Westford, Carlisle and Acton): The 25% design has been approved by MassHighway.**
- **Phase 2B (Acton, Concord): Currently being designed as part of the Route 2 Rotary Reconstruction project.**
- **Phase 2C (Concord): The 25% design has been submitted to MassHighway, and a public hearing was completed.**
- **Phase 2D (Sudbury): Studies that are prerequisites for design are ongoing.**

As many of you know, in order to move the Phase 2A and 2C process along, the FBFRT circulated a petition via both hardcopy and a website www.thepetitionsite.com/1/Extend-BFRT-ASAP. The petition primarily requested that: "the members of the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization and its Transportation Planning and Programming Committee make the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail a higher priority and provide funding to advance the design and construction of the remaining segments of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail in as short a time frame as possible: These requested actions include:

- Moving the construction of the Phases 2A and 2C to an earlier time slot (either the 2010 to 2015 or the 2015 to 2020 time slot).
- Working with the Federal Highway Administration to make available the Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program funds already recommended by the State Transportation Enhancement Steering Committee for the BFRT."



Autumn descending on a portion of the new rail trail in Westford

Over 1,300 petition signatures were collected. The results were submitted as part of the FBFRT Board's comments on the short-term 2010-2013 plan (known as the *TIP – Transportation Improvement Program*), and on amendments to the long-term 20-year plan (called *Journey to 2030*). Unsurprisingly, our request for the BFRT to be included in the 2010-2013 TIP was denied because the road, bridge and transit projects already in the TIP had been severely constrained by the reduced state transportation funding. The draft amended long-range plan had BFRT Phases 2A and 2C being built in the 2021-2025 time slot. Again, our request to schedule construction earlier was denied. On the positive side, many other projects did not even make it into the Journey to 2030, and many in the process would say the BFRT is lucky to be included in the Long Range plan at all. With the exception of rail trails that have received congressionally ear-marked funding, the BFRT was the only rail trail in the 101 cities and towns in the metropolitan Boston area that was programmed to receive funding during the next two decades.

Finally, wonderful news came in October. A unanimous vote at the September 24, 2008, meeting of the State Transportation Enhancement Steering Committee had recommended that the Secretary of Transportation allocate Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program funds for Phases 2A and 2C of the BFRT through the 100% design. However, release of the funding had been stuck for a year. In October 2009, the Mass. Executive Office of Transportation and Construction announced that \$500,000 of the \$1,200,000 request would be funded, with the balance of the request still eligible for future funding (see *Headline News* below for excerpts from the EOTC press release). The \$500,000 will be allocated to finalizing the Phase 2A design. This is slightly less than was budgeted to complete the design. The EOTC is working on ways to reduce the budget, and, hopefully, between this and some Town funds, the next step of Phase 2A design can commence without further delay.

The funding announcement is great news. First it shows concrete support for the BFRT at the statewide level. More importantly, finishing the design puts Phase 2A of the BFRT in a position to be constructed; it will provide an opportunity for it to be built if other projects are delayed. This will give us leverage in subsequent TIPs (which are completed annually) and long-range plans (a new one will be created in 2013). Finally, it provides an impetus for Phase 2C design to be funded from the Statewide Enhancement funds in the next year or two.

The Friends would like to express our appreciation to all our local, state and federal elected officials who have helped push for Phase 2 funding. We extend particular thanks to State Senator Eldridge and Representatives Cory Atkins and Jen Benson, who attended and voiced their support for the BFRT at the public planning sessions and continue to strongly support the BFRT. The Towns have allocated significant staff time to push for Phase 2 with Acton and Concord providing most of the firepower (Town Planners Roland Bartl and Marcia Rasmussen). Thanks also go to U.S. Representative Niki Tsongas, who submitted a high project priority request for Phase 2 construction to be included in the next omnibus federal transportation bill. Finally, the Friends would like to thank all 1,300+ of you who signed the petition (and provided comments on the electronic version). Your voice was heard clearly enough to help shake loose the \$500,000 design funds.



The southern end of the completed Phase 1 in Westford looking longingly toward yet-to-be-built portions in Carlisle, Acton, Concord, Sudbury & Framingham.

EOT approves \$500,000 for Phase 2

On October 22nd, 2009, the Executive Office of Transportation issued a press release exclaiming "Transportation Enhancements Funding Approved for BFRT Phase 2A Final Design". Much of this momentous news is reprinted here.

"The Patrick-Murray Administration announced that the Executive Office of Transportation has awarded \$500,000 in Transportation Enhancements funding for final design of Phase 2A of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

"The Executive Office of Transportation was able to allocate this design funding shortly after the Massachusetts Highway Department completed construction of the rail-trail's Phase 1, a 6.8 mile shared-use path that connects Lowell, Chelmsford and Westford. When completed, the 25-mile Bruce Freeman Rail Trail will span eight Massachusetts communities with more than a quarter million residents and connect with three MBTA commuter rail lines in Lowell, West Concord, and Framingham.

"As we prepare to launch a new transportation organization November 1st, this award demonstrates our overall commitment to improving the Transportation Enhancements Program and to strengthening bicycle and pedestrian access in every corner of the Commonwealth," said Transportation Secretary James A. Aloisi, Jr. "The transportation investments we make should promote choice, healthy recreation and support stronger communities."

"Earlier this summer we celebrated the opening of Phase 1 of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail which is now providing a scenic and safe way to get to and from work, exercise or simply take in a beautiful day," said Congresswoman Niki Tsongas. "Today's exciting announcement will further extend the trail, and also further extends the federal and state partnerships with the many local volunteers, community activists and leaders who have long worked to make the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail a reality."

"As a legislator for the Acton area for seven years, I have been so proud of the efforts of municipal staff, elected officials, and the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail to will this rail trail into reality. I am deeply appreciative of the Executive Office of Transportation's support for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, as the Patrick administration continues to show its support for alternative transportation across the Commonwealth," said State Senator Jamie Eldridge.

"I am pleased that Phase 2 of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is being awarded \$500,000 for the second phase of this important recreational project. The Executive Office of Transportation is to be commended for recognizing the importance of this trail to bikers and pedestrians alike. I have heard nothing but positive reviews from the citizens who have been enjoying the completed section of the trail," said Representative James Arciero of Westford.

"This is a wonderful project for the entire region. It provides for safe cycling for families and an environmental commuting alternative," said State Representative Jennifer Benson.

"What wonderful news it is to hear of this recent approval of funding for the next phase of the trail. I deeply

thank those parties whose collaborative efforts have made this funding source possible and I look forward to using the trail," said State Representative Cory Atkins.

"Tom Michelman, President of the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, added: "The Friends are absolutely delighted that the Statewide Transportation Enhancement funds have been designated to further the design of Phase 2A of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. Since the opening of Phase 1 of the BFRT on August 29th, the trail has been wildly popular. We know when the next segment of the trail is built it, too, quickly will become a cherished public resource as a safe transportation corridor for bicyclists, walkers and other non-motorized users. We appreciate the support the BFRT has received from our local, state and federal elected officials and the local, regional, state and federal employees who worked diligently to build Phase 1 and now today to release the funds for design of the next trail phase."

Read more at www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org/pdf/EOT-BFRT-Phase2A.pdf.

Spin-Yogathon benefits the BFRT

Thanks to Warrior's Way in Maynard for sponsoring the second annual Howard Krueger Spin-Yogathon to benefit the BFRT. The fundraiser was organized by Howard's sister, Nan, to honor his memory and to help provide safe places for people to ride.



Westford member David Martin presents Westford Board Member Emily Teller with a \$500 check from the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation as part of their Community Spirit 9/11 Mini-grant program.

For Further Information:

Visit: www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org

Call or Email:

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Sudbury:	Dick Williamson	978-618-5475	williamson@ll.mit.edu
Westford:	Emily Teller	978-692-6968	eteller@earthlink.net

Attend: Monthly Friends meetings

Send Email: info@brucefreemanrailtrail.org

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