



FRIENDS OF THE BRUCE FREEMAN RAIL TRAIL

The Next Phase of the Trail

Phase 2 recently reached two major milestones. First, after many months of public comment, Phase 2 was able to keep its place in the region's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for proposed construction in the 2021-2025 timeslot (more details at: www.ctps.org/bostonmopo/3_programs/1_transportation_plan/plan_2035.html). This is the same slot where Phase 2 stood in the previous LRTP, but don't be fooled; it still was a great accomplishment. Many projects vied for inclusion, and transportation budgets are decreasing and costs are increasing. We want to thank the Federal, State and Town elected officials and staff who spent many hours advocating for inclusion of Phase 2 into the LRTP, and the many of you who provided public comment in support of the plan (See Appendix A of LRTP and search on "Bruce Freeman"). A big pat on the back goes to the intrepid few who attended one or more of the Boston MPO's meetings. A scan of the comments reveals that BFRT Phase 2 received the second highest level of public support (after the Somerville Green Line Extension). This was a huge accomplishment given the dozens of projects contending for LRTP inclusion in the Boston MPO's "footprint," which includes 103 cities and towns.

Phase 2A will extend the BFRT south by nearly five miles, from the current southern terminus of Phase 1 at Rt. 225 in Westford through Carlisle and Acton terminating in East Acton at Teamworks (formerly Acton Indoor Sports).

Phase 2B is the short segment of the trail crossing Rt. 2 which will connect Acton and Concord.

Phase 2C extends the trail from Commonwealth Ave. in West Concord south of Rt. 2 through West Concord to the Sudbury border.

Phase 2D in Sudbury starts at the Concord border and ends just short of Rt. 20.

Obviously 2021-2025 is a long way away. Nonetheless inclusion in the LRTP is very important because it is a prerequisite for the use of federal dollars that are being used to fund the Phase 2A and 2C design. It also allows the Friends to advocate convincingly for an earlier timeslot when other projects falter or funding improves. The LRTP now includes Phases 2A and 2C, but not 2B and 2D. Phase 2B is not included because it was stated in the LRTP still to be part of the Concord Rotary project, and 2D is not included because there was not enough progress on that portion of the trail (See what we are doing to try to rectify the situation in the article "Bring the Trail to Sudbury").

We are delighted to report MassDOT held the official Phase 2A & 2C 75% design work kick-off meeting on September 14, the second major milestone. Phases 2A and 2C are being developed cooperatively among the four towns (Acton, Carlisle, Concord, and Westford) with Acton as the lead town working with MassDOT, and with GPI as the design consultants. The meeting agenda included discussion of status and schedule, how

best to procure Right of Entry for work by the Towns onto Commonwealth property, a West Concord commuter rail crossing update, efforts and update for parking near the southern terminus of Phase 1 in Westford (see article "Event-ful Season in Westford"), and issues revolving around the Right of Way and title search.

The Concord BFRT Advisory Committee has been reviewing comments on the Phase 2C 25% design received from the community prior to submitting them to GPI for discussion. Currently the goal is to submit the Supplemental 25% Design Plans for West Concord segment of Phase 2C in December. After reviewing the submission, MassDOT will schedule a public hearing. Work will then begin in earnest on the 75% Design for entire Phase 2C.

The current goal is to submit all of the Type Selection worksheets for every structure (primarily bridges) included in Phases 2A and 2C by end of 2011. After MassDOT review of the worksheets, Sketch Plans will be prepared for each structure.

75% Design has begun for Phase 2A, and currently the goal for submission of the project is May 2012. One caveat: in order to make any of the submissions, the project will need the Right of Entry from MassDOT in order to complete the necessary field survey and structural evaluations. This agreement is still being negotiated.

Phase 2B is moving along on a separate track. Considerable conceptual design and coordination work has been conducted in the last few months by the Towns of Concord and Acton, MassDOT and consulting engineers AECOM/FST to identify as many of the environmental, Right of Way and geometric design constraints as possible in order to determine a preferred concept to advance to a public forum and a preliminary design. The driving consideration is the alignment of a bridge across Rt. 2. The possibilities include a skewed alignment following the current railroad right of way, a perpendicular crossing, or something in between. Each option has trade-offs including:

- estimated permitting, design, construction & mitigation costs
- amount of work in wetland buffer and riparian buffer zones
- amount of land required for easements during construction and for the finished trail (the Department of Corrections owns much of the land abutting the ROW in this area)
- level of cost and responsibilities that each alignment would implicitly assign to the Towns versus the MassDOT
- configuration of a separate wildlife corridor
- horizontal curvature of the trail

Another important choice will be the type of bridge to cross Rt. 2 (e.g., conventional steel girder, a prefabricated steel truss, etc.), which will impact project look, feel, and costs. All of these considerations will be presented at a public meeting planned to be scheduled later this year.

It's an Active Trail in Chelmsford

Kiosk and Eagle Scout Project at Cushing Place

A kiosk, funded by donations to the BFBRT, was installed at Cushing Place in October. The kiosk, which was constructed by students from the Nashoba Valley Technical High School, will feature a cork board for posting notices, a map, and a literature box. Thank you to all who donated to fund the kiosk!

Installation of the kiosk was impeded when representatives of the owner of Ginger Ale Plaza questioned the right of the Town to install amenities in that location. Lengthy discussions with MassDOT ensued, resulting in a Memorandum of Agreement between MassDOT and the Town of Chelmsford and permission to proceed with installation of the amenities.



Ryan Carr of Chelmsford Boy Scout Troop 77 installed a bench, bicycle fix-it stand, and four bicycle racks at Cushing Place in September for his Eagle Scout Project. The bicycle fix-it stand has a bicycle pump with a pressure gauge, arms from which to suspend a bike during repairs, and a set of repair tools. Ryan reports that a trail user used the pump while the fix-it stand was being installed. All of these items are being used and are a great addition for trail users. Thanks, Ryan!

Thank you also to Representatives Atkins, Arciero, and Golden and their staffs for helping move things along with MassDOT for both the kiosk and the Eagle Scout Project. Also thank you to the Chelmsford BPAC, Town Manager, Engineering Department, and DPW for significant work on both projects.

Parking Changes in Chelmsford

The Town constructed nineteen parking spaces, including two handicapped spaces, at Sunny Meadow Farm on Robin Hill Road this summer. Sunny Meadow Farm is the site of a community garden, including a handicapped-accessible garden. The new parking area is connected to the rail trail by a paved pathway, which is within a narrow easement that was obtained by the Town for this use during negotiations over a private residential development several years ago.

Fifteen parking spaces and a sidewalk for the trail were included in construction of the new Stop & Shop on Chelmsford Street (Rt. 110). The parking spaces and sidewalk provide access to the trail at Glen Avenue, about 1/4 mile from the Route 3 terminus. Parking at Old Town Hall will be limited until next year due to building renovations. Currently there are 10 spaces, including 2 handicapped spaces.

The owner of Ginger Ale Plaza, who is also the owner of Northern Bank and Trust Company, has expressed concern about trail users using the limited parking in that lot. Past attempts to deter trail users from parking there have been unsuccessful. The owner is considering more restrictive measures which would also impede access to the Java Room and Bertucci's from the trail. Authorized parking nearby is provided at Old Town Hall and along the railing down from Brickhouse Sports Grill (Cushing Place). Trail users are reminded to park only in authorized parking areas.

Access Points to Businesses in Chelmsford

The Town has reached agreements with two property owners for creating handicapped-accessible openings in the railing in Chelmsford Center. One opening will allow access to Zesty's Pizza; the other will provide access to Subway sandwich shop and adjacent businesses. The Town will need \$5200 to hire a contractor to construct the two openings. The Chelmsford Disabilities Commission has donated \$500 to fund this project. Donations from individuals, organizations or businesses may be sent to the Town of Chelmsford and designated for "BFBRT Access Points".

Chainsaw Sculpture Comes to the Rail Trail

A "train station master" chainsaw sculpture will be coming to the rail trail this fall and installed on the Shell Station property at 8 Littleton Road.

Jesse "The Machine" Green carved the sculpture during the Town's Fourth of July Festivities. A video and interview with the sculptor, by Matt Scott of Chelmsford TeleMedia, can be viewed at http://origin.peg.tv/pegtv_player?id=T01497&video=25361.

Thank you to the Chelmsford Celebrations Committee, Chelmsford Town Manager, Chelmsford Center for the Arts, Chelmsford TeleMedia, Littleton Road Shell Station, panel of judges, volunteer safety monitors, and the people who submitted ideas for the sculpture.

Town Police and Emergency Response

The Police Department has added extra bicycle patrols, which will be conducting high-visibility traffic enforcement throughout Town, including Chelmsford Center and the BFBRT. The Police Department would like to increase compliance with traffic laws and reduce injuries from accidents.

The Fire Department is purchasing a four-wheel-drive, all-terrain vehicle to provide more access and maneuverability in tight locations, such as on the BFBRT.



Over a hundred children and staff participated in the Chelmsford Community Education Summerfest Program's field trip on the rail trail last June

Event-ful Season in Westford

During its second year, the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, Westford's newest recreational resource, has proven to be an even more popular year-round asset than during its inaugural year. The trail has attracted users of all ages and modes of transportation. And many, many Westford residents, as well as hundreds in surrounding towns, USE the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, and their word of mouth and enthusiasm has led to more individuals and families taking advantage of the trail – and that is the best “news” of all! Again this winter, the trail will remain unplowed in the winter months to allow for cross-country skiing.

Live for Liv Ride

To honor Olivia Marchand, who was killed in 2010, her mother, Jody, and her aunt, Jill, envisioned a fundraising event to support the Domestic Violence Support Network, Inc. They began planning to make their dream a reality with substantial help from resident Cheryl Serpe, the DVSN and many other dedicated volunteers. The first annual “Live for Liv Ride” was held on Sunday, July 24. Both the family ride and the road ride used a portion of the BFRT. Hundreds more participants came than were expected, and the ride raised over \$11,000. Please see www.liveforliv.com for more information.



Parking for Trail Users

Finding suitable locations for parking along the Westford portion of the BFRT has presented a challenge to Town staff, Boards, and individuals who are working to address this unmet need for trail users. After reviewing over 19 potential locations for parking in Westford, Town staff presented a series of “concept” plans for several of the parcels at a joint-boards meeting held at the end of August. The meeting was well attended and elicited many comments and questions from both members of the boards and interested citizens. In late October the BOS approved having the Phase 2 design firm, GPI, survey two of these potential locations.

One additional possible location discussed at the joint-boards meeting was not in Westford, but off Rt. 27 in North Acton. This location had been identified for parking in the 25% design, and the Town of Acton has already obtained an easement over the land that would allow for parking. The parcel would be connected to the BFRT at Rts. 27 and 225 by a 1700 foot extension of the trail. The Westford BOS voted to have town staff continue to investigate and gather information on the North Acton concept. Work on pursuing this potential location began immediately. The Town submitted a grant application to “MassWorks,” a new program created for infrastructure projects. Discussion was also initiated with MassDOT concerning the use of the right of way for this purpose.

Second Annual Westford Kids PMC

For the second year, the Kids Pan-Mass Challenge was organized by young Westford residents Jessica Ryan and Claire Eno. This year the BFRT KPMC raised \$6,000 for cancer research. From 9 a.m. to noon on June 26, about 60 riders, with the help of 35 volunteers (some of whom were teenagers doing community service hours), set out from Byam School in Chelmsford for a round trip ride on the BFRT, heading south to the Westford Rt. 27 crossing and then north to Chelmsford Center and back to Byam School.



Support from Town Staff

Westford's town staff and various boards' members have continued their enthusiastic and creative support. Angus Jennings, Director of Land Use Management, in particular, has committed significant time, creativity, collegiality and work to the BFRT, as has Town Engineer Paul Starratt, Assistant Town Engineer Jeremy Downs, Planning Intern Mike Flanary, and Chair of the Planning Board Mike Green.

Maintaining Our Beautiful Trail

Although Town staffs from Chelmsford & Westford perform major trail maintenance, such as fixing fences or removing fallen trees, the Friends rely on volunteers to keep the trail clean. The improvement in the litter situation this year is striking. The Friends are very grateful to the volunteers who work regularly to keep the trail clean, and we give special thanks to those who have been battling the prolific weeds. Next season volunteers will be needed again to help remove weeds, as well as maintain plantings. In addition, businesses will have an opportunity to sponsor landscaping work at targeted intersections.

The FBFRT website lists sections of the trail in Chelmsford which need adoption for litter pickup and/or light maintenance. Please contact info@brucefreemanrailtrail.org if you would like to contribute or help.

All trail users are grateful for the work done this year by these hard-working volunteers: Linas Alinskas, Eric Andrus, Jill Appel, Mike Carignan, David Carlson, Ken Dews, Tom Gazda, Brian Hannigan, Brian Herzog, Millisent Fury Hopkins, Ron and Mary Jo Johnson, Casey Jones, Mike Koziel, Bruce Kunkel, Bob McCabe, Fran Meidell, Jonathan Moore, Philip and Madeline Mitchell, John Morrissey, David Nyhof, Butch O'Leary, Bob and Beth Shaw, Al Souza, Tom Taylor, Chelmsford Central Congregational Church, Chelmsford Junior Girl Scout Troop 6019, and the Westford Conservation Trust Tuesday Trail Group.

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



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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



Framingham Community Outreach

The Framingham Friends continued their outreach efforts during the summer Concerts on the Green, spreading the word about the trail at its southern end (Phase 3). Canvassing of trail abutters to access their level of support will continue until the snow gets too deep. Anyone interested in helping with the canvassing should contact John Stasik at jstasik@rcn.com.

The Library is in the process of securing a parcel of land that abuts the BFRT at Water Street, near the Hemenway School, to build a new library. The town provided the funds to perform the environmental assessment of the property and discovered that there are no environmental impediments to going forward with the library. The Town has shown strong support for both the new library and for the rail trail that goes through the project parcel.



Friends members Gisela Oeding and Daniel Singer are enjoying the bench they donated for the trail

Usage Counts Confirm Trail Popularity

The Chelmsford Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee organized trail usage counts in Westford and Chelmsford during May and September. The greatest number of trail users tallied was approximately 800, counted at Cushing Place in Chelmsford Center during a 12-hour period on September 10. The BFRT website has more detailed information on the count totals, a description of the protocol used, and comparisons with previous years. (www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org/TrailUsageCounts/2011)

Thank you to all who volunteered for the trail usage counts this year. Those who helped more than one day are marked with an *. Lynn Ahlgren, Lisa Baker, Shaun Berry, Peter Calles, Alan Cameron, Mike Carignan*, Tom Christiano*, Steve Chryssikos, Kathy Colpitts, Tracy Cutter, Marcia Dana, Carol Doblewski, Pam Elrod, Rebecca Furie, Sharon Galpin*, Mike Garvin, Susan Julian Gates, Tom Gazda*, Lowell Gilbert, Melinda Goodick*, Brian Hannigan*, Phil Heffernan, Brian Herzog, Kate Hollister, Sue Johnson, David Kinzmaier, Tracy Mendes, Tom Michelman, Praveena Narendar, Suzanne Niles, Jennifer Payne, Judy Perrin, Colin Piette, Barbara Pike, Johanna Bohan Riley, Jeff Robinson*, Linda Robinson*, Janice Ruell*, Norbert Schade*, Bill Schmidt*, LeRoy Sievers, Karen Taylor*, Emily and Tom Teller*, Ken Van Tassell*, John Wilder, and Dick Williamson. Also, a big thank you to the Java Room, Staples, and Agway for their assistance.

Bring the Trail to Sudbury

On numerous occasions voters in Sudbury have shown enthusiastic support for the BFRT. Six articles in support of the rail trail were passed at Sudbury Town Meetings from 2005 through 2009.

In order to give residents of Sudbury access to the trail, the Friends are offering to raise \$50,000 to pay for the preliminary design of the approximately half-mile section of the trail from the Concord/Sudbury town line south to and across Rt. 117. This section of the trail has no areas with high environmental sensitivity, and it has few abutters. A newly constructed sidewalk along Rt. 117 would provide safe access to the trail for most north Sudbury residents, and very importantly, the trail would terminate a short distance to the west of a large parking area at Davis Field that is accessible by sidewalk.

Construction of the Sudbury extension has an added benefit for the Concord portion of the trail. The border between Concord and Sudbury is in the woods. While the Town of Concord is designing the BFRT to the Sudbury border, it does not plan to build the trail from Powder Mill Road to the Sudbury border until the trail can be extended to Rt. 117. Thus the construction of the half-mile extension in Sudbury also would mean the construction of one half-mile of the BFRT in Concord south of Powder Mill Road.

Presentations were made to the Sudbury Rail Trail Conversion Advisory Committee (RTCAC) on September 22 and to the Sudbury Board of Selectmen (BOS) on September 27. On October 13 the RTCAC voted to recommend to the BOS that the Town accept the donation from the Friends in order to carry out the initial design of the Sudbury extension in accord with the MassHighway standards for "shared-use paths". The design would be very similar to that for the existing Phase 1 and for the Acton and Concord design that is currently underway.

So what can you do? If you are a Sudbury resident you can sign a petition for the Sudbury Extension at <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/Support-Design-of-BFRT-Sudbury-Extension>. You can be on the lookout for the Board of Selectmen meeting where our offer will be voted on. If it is accepted, you can help with fund-raising of the \$50,000 (contact info@brucefreemanrailtrail.org) or just donate at www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org/donate and pick the amenity as the "Trail to Sudbury Fund".

July 4th Parade

Sudbury's July 4th parade was a celebratory event for the 26 people, from young children to older adults, who marched as Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. Stuart Johnstone brought a wooden profile of a steam engine on a trailer, and marchers in engineer hats accompanied it. The group, all outfitted in yellow BFRT T-shirts, made quite a sight marching through town. A large BFRT banner led the way followed by our new "Bring the Trail to Sudbury" banner. Howard Quin and Ted Bially hugged the two edges of the parade route and handed out 750 of our new "Bring the Trail to Sudbury" brochures. The parade kicked off the fundraising for the Sudbury extension.

Thank You, Again and Again

Charles River Wheelmen and A-1 Portable Toilets, Chelmsford, for sponsoring toilets on the trail.

Pedal Power Bike and Ski, Acton, for hosting the annual meeting and on-going support

Jet Mail, Hudson, for printing and mailing this newsletter



CCHS junior Philip Mitchell performed twenty hours of community service in August, cleaning brush and weeds from the shoulders of the trail. He was assisted by his sister Madeline and mother Jill Appel



Daffodils and jonquils planted by the Chelmsford Garden Club provided splashes of color on the trail last spring



A bench installed last summer near High St. was donated by the Friends of the Chelmsford Library for the 2010 summer reading program. Taking a rest along the trail are Tanner Carlson and Megan Hill (front) and Madeline Needles, President of the Friends of the Library, & Maureen Foley, the children's librarian in Chelmsford



A granite bench, given by the friends of Morgan "Kim" Smith, was installed this fall adjacent to the rail trail in West Concord in honor of his dedication to the rail trail

Volunteers at BFBRT Summer Events

(We couldn't have done it without you!)

Bob Armstrong, Isabel Bailey, Mike Carignan, Rob Comer, Peter and Tim Farrow, Betty Foley, Alan Frankel, Dawn Harkness, Scottie Hastings, Michael and Kim Ho and children, Art Huston, Mike Jacobs, Tom James, The Johnstone family, Denny Kayser, Henry Keutmann, Dennis and Betsy McNurland, Stan Mudrets, Alan and Cathy Perry, Ellen Quackenbush, Janet Rothrock, Bill Schmidt, Becky Shannon, Andy Sheehan, Boris Shnapir and his nephew, Leroy and Helen Sievers, Bethany Smith, Bob Wilson, Bob Zuffante, and BFBRT Board members.

We truly appreciate the assistance of our volunteers and apologize for anyone whose name may have been omitted.

Friends Annual Meeting

When: Sunday, November 20, 2 p.m.

Where: Pedal Power Bike and Ski
176 Great Road (Rt. 2A), Acton

What: After a brief business meeting, we will walk a section of the railbed behind Pedal Power

Light refreshments will be served.

See www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org for more information

For Further Information:

Visit: www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org

Call or Email:

Acton:	Tom Michelman	978-580-6190	tmichelman@comcast.net
Carlisle:	Alan Cameron	978-369-2223	alancameron@comcast.net
Chelmsford:	Cynthia McLain	978-726-0864	cynthia.mclain@comcast.net
Concord:	Barbara Pike	978-369-0437	bbpike@aol.com
Framingham:	John Stasik	508-877-6771	jstasik@rcn.com
Lowell:	Sharon Galpin	978-446-8906	sgalpin99@gmail.com
Sudbury:	Dick Williamson	978-618-5475	williamson@alum.mit.edu
Westford:	Emily Teller	978-692-6968	eteller@earthlink.net

Send Email: info@brucefreemanrailtrail.org

Planning to use the rail trail for an event? Please register at www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org by clicking the Event button at the top right corner of the page.

To volunteer go to www.BruceFreemanRailTrail.org/volunteer.