

**Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT)**

***THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS***

***MASSACHUSETTS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT***

***PROJECT INITIATION FORM (PIF)***

**To:** \_\_\_\_\_

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Information:** Roland Bartl, Planning, Town of Acton, 472 Main St. Acton MA 01440; 978-264-9639; [rbartl@acton-ma.gov](mailto:rbartl@acton-ma.gov)

**Date:** March 30, 2006

**Project Reference No:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**PART I – LOCATION IDENTIFICATION AND PROJECT NEED RESTATEMENT**

**A. Municipality:** Acton – Carlisle – Westford

**B. Route and/or Street(s):** Crossing Route 2A/119 & Route 27 (2x) in Acton; Route 225 in Westford

**C. Bridge ID Number (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Is this a state administered highway?**      2A/119      Yes       No

**E. Location description or estimated project limits by mile marker and station:**  
EOT right of way:  
**Start:** Acton /Concord line – STA 671+50±; **End:** Route 225 Westford – STA 931+65±

**F. Provide a brief restatement of the project need:**  
Bruce Freeman Rail Trail identified in regional bikeway plan. This segment continues southward from the Lowell to Westford section of the Bruce Freeman Trail currently under design and construction. High local demand.

**PART II – PROJECT TYPE AND DESCRIPTION**

**G.  Transportation System Preservation**

Examples include maintenance, resurfacing, and reconstruction of roadways, sidewalks and multiuse paths. Examples also include maintenance, rehabilitation and replacement of bridges.

- a. Roadways, Sidewalks, and Multiuse Paths
  - b. Bridges
  - c. Other (Define below)
- Maintenance
  - Resurfacing
  - Reconstruction
  - Maintenance
  - Rehabilitation
  - Replacement

**Transportation System Improvement or Expansion**

Examples include construction of new facilities; widening of roadways, intersections, sidewalks, or multiuse paths; roadside modifications, and other system enhancements.

- New Roadway, Sidewalk or Multiuse Path
- Widened Roadway, Sidewalk or Multiuse Path
- Intersection, Roundabout, Traffic Signal Improvements
- New Interchange or Interchange Reconfiguration
- Median, Roadside Safety, or Signage Improvements
- Traffic Calming, Streetscape, Lighting, or Transit Enhancements
- New or Widened Bridge
- New or Expanded TDM/Park & Ride Lot
- New or Expanded Traffic Management System (TMS)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Provide a brief description of the project:**                     New multi-use/rail trail. 4.4±miles in Acton.  
0.33± miles in Carlisle and Westford. ---Start at Acton/Concord town line running north; crossing  
local Streets – Wetherbee St., Concord Rd., Brook St. ---X-ing Route 2A/119 two± miles north of  
Acton/Concord line.---X-ing Route 27 after another 1± mile and a 2<sup>nd</sup> time 1± mile further north.  
After another 0.25± miles north x-ing into Carlisle and then Westford reaching Rt. 225 0.33± miles  
North of the Acton line. Crossing Rt. 225 to connect with Lowell-Westford segment of BFRT.

**Is this a footprint road or bridge project?**      Yes      No; but includes trail bridges.

**PART III – PROJECT PLANNING SUMMARY**

**H. Please indicate the planning approach for this project:**

- Project Need Form
- Project Planning Report
- Other

**I. Briefly summarize the project context (surrounding land uses, nearby cultural and environmental resources, etc.)**

From Concord line north starting in rural setting; then between commercial strip on east side (2A/119) and Nashoba Brook to the west. Rural/wooded north of 2A X-ing; then running through industrial area along Rt. 27. Rural/wooded as it leaves Acton into Carlisle and Westford.

**J. Briefly summarize the transportation functions (land access, regional connectivity, multimodal accommodation, etc.)**

Alternative to motor vehicle use. When completed, BFRT will connect Lowell to Framingham. With W. Concord in the middle (nearest to Acton). There are 3 commuter rail stations on this trail that are part of 3 different commuter rail lines (Lowell, Fitchburg, and Worcester).

**K. Briefly describe the alternatives considered, if applicable.**

none

**L. Please describe the rationale for selecting the proposed alternative whether or not multiple alternatives were considered**

**M. Do you anticipate that the project will require a Design Exception?**

- Yes
- No
- Not known at this time

**N. Estimated Construction Cost:**       \$5± million

**PART IV – PLANNING PUBLIC OUTREACH SUMMARY**

**O. Public Outreach Activities**

Yes

No

(Describe below)

**If Yes, please indicate whether the following public outreach activities occurred?**

Local Issues Meeting

Individual Outreach Meetings

Alternatives Presentation Meeting

Other (Describe below)

R.O.W. clean-up days. Publicity and campaign for local funding for design (CPA funds appropriated). There exists a private citizen’s group – The Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail that is lobbying hard for this trail.

**Please describe the date, format, attendance, and outcome of meetings, if applicable.**

Public issues/input meeting on 2/26/2003 in connection with feasibility study. 15, or so attended. Questions were answered, suggestions were considered for feasibility study report.

**P. What is the level of community interest in the project?**

High

Medium

Low

**What is the current level of community support?**

- High**                       **Medium**                       **Low**

**Please identify the nature and extent of any known opposition to the project?:**

No public opposition known. Possible opposition may come from one business/industry in  
North Acton (Rex Lumber) who has encroached on the right of way, uses it as their own,  
has erected fences/gates, and posted “no trespassing” signs on the right of way. EOT will  
need to reassert its ownership. There are other abutters who have encroached, but no  
opposition is expected from them.

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**Q. Environmental Coordination Activities**

Yes    No

**If Yes, please indicate board/agency coordinated with:**

**Wetlands/ Waterways**

- Local Conservation Commissions
- Local Water Districts
- MA DEP
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Coast Guard
- US EPA
- MA CZM Office
- Others (please list)

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**Endangered Species/Habitat**

- Local Conservation Commissions
- MA DEP
- MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
- US EPA
- Others (please list)

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\_\_\_\_\_

**Hazardous Materials**

- Local Health Boards
- Local Fire Department
- MA DEP
- US EPA
- Others (please list)

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**Cultural Resources**

- Local Historic Commissions
- MA Historic Commission
- Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
- Others (please list)

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\_\_\_\_\_

**Section 4f Resources**

- MA DCR
- Local Parks Department
- Local Planning Department
- Local Historic Commission
- MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
- EOE A Division of Conservation Services
- National Park or Forest Service
- Others (please list)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**NEPA/MEPA**

- EOE A MEPA Office
- US EPA
- Lead Federal Agency (FHWA)
- Others (please list)

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**Anticipated MEPA Documentation Required**

- ENF
- EIR
- None

**Anticipated NEPA Documentation Required**

- CE
- EA
- EIS
- None

**PART V – PRELIMINARY PROJECT CATEGORY AND FUNDING PROGRAM**

**R. Anticipated Project Type (based on MassHighway specific categories):**

New Multiuse Path

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**S. Anticipated Funding Program:**

- National Highway System (NHS)
- Surface Transportation Program (STP)
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)
- Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program
- Interstate Maintenance
- Non-Federal Aid
- State Aid Roadways
- High Priority Project (HPP)
- Others/Non Transportation Improvement Program (please identify)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

BFRT is programmed for construction funding from CMAQ in 2008.

**PART VI – PROPOSED PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Please describe how you expect this project to proceed. Who will be responsible for Design? Permitting? Right-of-Way? Construction Management? Etc.

**T. Design (Also, Specify Lead Person/Department/Division)**

City/Town       MassHighway       Other \_\_\_\_\_

Roland Bartl, Town Planner, Town of Acton. With design consultant (RFP expected to be released this spring), and MassHighway District 3 oversight as needed and required.

**U. Permitting (Also, Specify Lead Person/Department/Division)**

City/Town       MassHighway       Other \_\_\_\_\_

Town of Acton (Roland Bartl, Planning) or MassHighway as appropriate.

**V. Right-of-Way (Also, Specify Lead Person/Department/Division)**

City/Town       MassHighway       Other \_\_\_\_\_

Town of Acton (Roland Bartl, Planning), and Towns of Carlisle and Westford for their sections. ROW is owned by EOT. Acquisition from EOT (in fee or easement) is anticipated.

**W. Construction (Also, Specify Lead Person/Department/Division)**

City/Town       MassHighway       Other \_\_\_\_\_

Town of Acton (Roland Bartl, Planning) or MassHighway as appropriate.



**PART VII- PRC PROJECT REVIEW (To be completed by PRC Staff)**

Comments/observations on project need, type and description:

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Comments/observations on planning and public process:

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Comments on Project Category and Funding Program Applicability:

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Comments on Proposed Management Plan:

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|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Project Review</b>                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Favorable | <input type="checkbox"/> Unfavorable |
| <b>Assign PROJIS Number</b>                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes       | <input type="checkbox"/> No          |
| <b>Provide Design and Environmental Funding</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes       | <input type="checkbox"/> No          |
| <b>Recommend Programming Review by MPO</b>      | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes       | <input type="checkbox"/> No          |
| <b>PROJIS Number (if applicable):</b> _____     |                                    |                                      |