



## **FRIENDS OF THE BRUCE FREEMAN RAIL TRAIL**

[www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org](http://www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org)

### **Building Bridges to the Future**

**LOWELL/CHELMSFORD/WESTFORD** – Progress continues on Phase 1. Reconstruction of all 4 bridges is underway and is expected to continue into the summer. Preliminary grading will likely begin in June or July. Pavement markings and signage at road intersections will not be installed until the construction of the trail surface is complete. Because of construction hazards, use of the railroad corridor during construction is discouraged. Hazards exist throughout the project but especially in construction work zones and at road intersections. Construction of this 6.8-mile section of the rail trail is expected to be complete in summer 2009.



A Rose Breasted Grosbeak admiring the cleared trail in Phase 1  
Photo by Cindy McLain – April 2008

### **Chelmsford Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Being Formed**

**CHELMSFORD** – A Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is being formed by the Town of Chelmsford. The committee will be responsible for oversight of the completed Bruce Freeman Rail Trail in Chelmsford and for working to improve bicycling and pedestrian facilities in the town. The Town Manager will appoint the nine committee members.

The committee's charge is posted on the town website at: [www.townofchelmsford.us/Committee\\_Vacancies.cfm](http://www.townofchelmsford.us/Committee_Vacancies.cfm)  
Applications are available online at: [www.egovlink.com/chelmsford/action.asp?actionid=7477](http://www.egovlink.com/chelmsford/action.asp?actionid=7477)

### **Rail Trail Article Approved**

**CHELMSFORD** – April Town Meeting approved an article laying out Phase 1 in Chelmsford as a rail trail, much as the town lays out its roads. This article allows the town to enforce regulations on the rail trail property. Under a Memorandum of Agreement with MassHighway and the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Phase 1 municipalities are responsible for policing and maintaining the completed trail. During construction, the Chelmsford Police Department is responding to complaints about trespassers.

### **Westford Transportation Day**

The Friends will staff a table at Transportation Day 2008 at Abbot School on Saturday, October 18, from 1-3pm. It will be a real family event, with lots of 'safety equipment' for children to see and climb on (police cars, fire trucks, etc.). If you want to help out, please call Emily Teller (978-692-6968).

### **Acton, Carlisle, and Westford Move Phase 2A Forward**

**ACTON/CARLISLE/WESTFORD** – In March a very extensive Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program (STEP) application was submitted to the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction. STEP Applications are reviewed quarterly and, if approved, would provide funds through final design. The application will be reviewed in June.

In April the draft 25% design plans for Phase 2A were delivered to MassHighway. The plans are available at Pedal Power or electronically at the Friends' website. MassHighway will now review, comment on, and make edits to the plans. MassHighway is expected to schedule a public meeting in late summer or early fall to formally present the plans and elicit public comment.

This spring Acton, Carlisle and Westford each approved an Intermunicipal Agreement at their respective Town Meetings. Acton will be the lead contractual Town to access Federal/State funds for acquisition, design and construction of Phase 2A.

**Thanks to Warrior's Way, 53 Main Street, Maynard** for sponsoring a spin-yogathon on June 14 to benefit the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. We very much appreciate your support.

## Lowell to Begin Construction of the Concord River Greenway

**LOWELL** – Construction on the first section of the Concord River Greenway, along the edge of what is known as the Davidson Street parking lot, will begin this summer. This project will include new park land, a bike path, and a refurbished parking lot. This is the first of three sections to be constructed for this phase of the Greenway.

The Greenway will include historic wayside signage translated into three languages: Spanish, Portuguese, and Khmer. Public artwork by artist Wopo Holup has been integrated into the design and includes a quote from Thoreau on a new railing at the edge of the parking lot, as well as cast iron river-bird bollards at the gateway to the new park.

The next phase of the Greenway will connect with the BFRT at the border with Chelmsford, creating a safe trail connection between the BFRT and the Merrimack River.



The trail under construction in Westford at Rt. 27/225 looking north  
Photo by Emily Teller– April 2008

## Golden Spike III to Convene

The Golden Spike III will be held on Saturday, September 13, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Sudbury near the intersection of the Bruce Freeman and the Mass Central Rail Trails. State and local officials and members of friends groups from not only the BFRT and the MCRT, but many of the other trail groups around the state will meet to promote the construction of rail trails all over the state. Recently the MBTA agreed to lease the more than 25 miles of the MassCentral rail bed from Waltham to Berlin [aka the Wayside Rail Trail] that they own to the state Department of Conservation and Recreation. For more information go to [www.masscentralrailtrail.org/goldenspikeiii.html](http://www.masscentralrailtrail.org/goldenspikeiii.html).

## Concord Town Meeting Approves 25% Design

**CONCORD** – April Town Meeting voted to approve the 25% design prepared by the Town's consultants with two changes: replacing the culvert under Powder Mill Road and using an asphalt surface for the entire length of the trail in Concord. Town Meeting also approved \$50,000 in funding

for further studies and surveying. Details can be found at [www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org/about/phase-two-update.html](http://www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org/about/phase-two-update.html).

Although minor modifications will be made before the 25% design is in final form, the current draft has been submitted to the state for its review. In addition, Concord, has asked to be included in the Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program application that has been filed for Phase 2A (Acton, Carlisle, and Westford). This program would provide funds for completing the design of the trail.

## Sudbury Authorizes ROW Purchase

**SUDBURY** – April Town Meeting unanimously passed an article authorizing the purchase of the 1.4 miles of CSX-owned rail bed in town. This section runs from the southern end of the rail bed owned by the state south across Route 20 to the Framingham town line. Negotiations with CSX have gone on for six years and have finally converged on an agreeable purchase price. The purchase was aided by a contribution by the state of \$247,350 to protect the nearby drinking-water wells. Once the purchase is completed, the entire length of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail in Sudbury will be available for trail construction.

## Framingham Selectmen Authorize Appraisal of ROW

**FRAMINGHAM** – In April the Framingham Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to authorize an appraisal of the Framingham portion of the BFRT right-of-way. The BOS also voted in principle to become the receiver of the land if negotiations get that far. This vote was important so that the corridor will remain intact. More than 20 Friends of the trail attended the meeting in support of this action.

The Framingham Friends group offered to raise funds to help the town pay for the appraisal. People interested in helping with this fundraising effort should contact Susan Haney at (508)788-2732. Volunteers willing to help with the Concerts on the Green on Fridays during the summer should also contact Susan.

## Get On Board!

Show your support by becoming a member of the Friends.

Join online at: [www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org/help\\_bfrrt/join.html](http://www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org/help_bfrrt/join.html)

Or write to FBFRT, 118 Border Rd, Concord, MA 01742.

Membership dues and donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

## BFRT Coordinating Committee Update

On May 7 the BFRT Coordinating Committee held its third meeting. Once again, there were productive discussions among officials from town, regional, and state governments and agencies. Topics included: folding all Phase 2 and 3 BFRT towns into the Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program (STEP) application; having Concord submit its 25% design and accompanying forms to MassHighway in time for its Project Review Committee meeting in June; arranging a meeting with the Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) to discuss acquisition of property from CSX and lease agreements; and discussing the need for some uniformity in typical sections, approaches to intersections, and signage. The BFRT Coordinating Committee meets quarterly. The date of the next meeting has not been announced.