



**Friends of the
Bruce Freeman Rail Trail**

Public Opinion Survey on Parking for the Rail Trail in Westford

8/30/11

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Summary

A link to an online survey containing 9 questions was sent out electronically to the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail email list of supporters. The aim of the survey was to get a sense of the public opinion regarding the issue of parking for the trail in Westford. While the lack of parking for the trail in Westford is an issue that needs to be resolved by the town of Westford, discussion of that issue impacts a large number of people outside the town who use the trail and whose opinions should be heard.

The survey ran from August 28, 2011 until the morning of August 31, 2011. As of the morning of the 31st 322 responses were obtained.

Survey Results

The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail has been a huge success since opening in August of 2009. With that success, the lack of parking in Westford has become more of a problem. During the summer of 2011 the parking that was taking place at the trail terminus in Westford reached a point at which officials deemed it was unsafe. No parking signs were erected and at that point the only parking for the trail in Westford was limited to side streets.

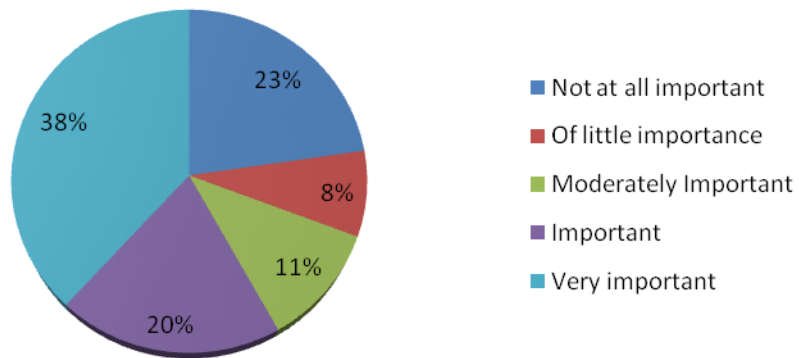
The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is one of the most valuable and utilized recreational resources in the town of Westford. Recent trail counts have noted that well over a thousand trips are conducted on the trail during a nice fall day. Despite the trails infancy, these numbers indicate that the trail is among the top 3 busiest suburban trails in the state. It is important to note that the trail is also a multi town resource, currently running through Lowell, Chelmsford and Westford. Of the three towns that the trail currently through Westford is the only town that does not currently have parking for the trail.

Fifty eight percent of survey respondents believe that it is important or very important to have parking for the trail in Westford. The location of the parking does not seem to be important to respondents who want parking for the trail, but it should be noted that some residents around trail are concerned to various degrees about parking in residential areas.

The survey allowed for additional comments to be provided. Those comments are provided, in full, in appendix B.

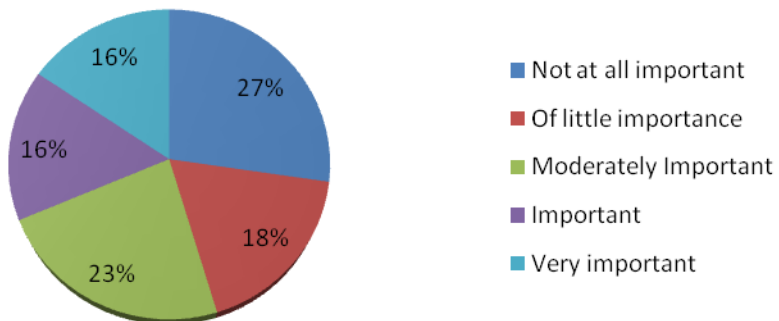
Question 1

Q1. How important is it to you that parking for the rail trail exists in Westford?



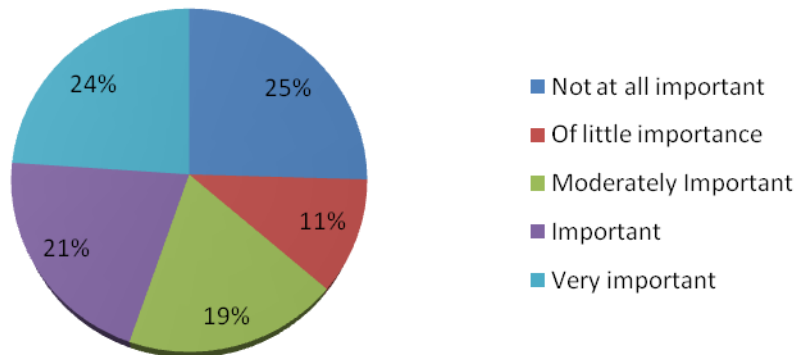
Question 2

Q2. How important is it to you that the parking be located next to the trail vs across the road or down a side street?



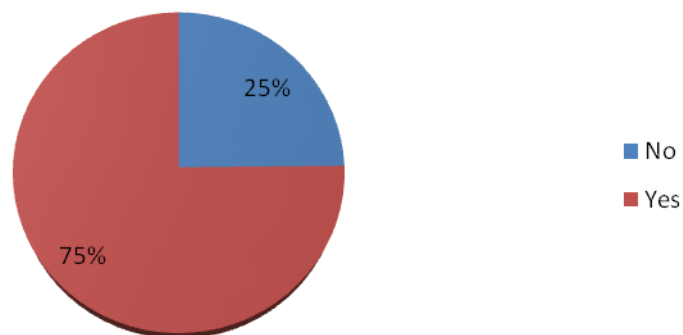
Question 3

Q3. How important is it to you that parking be located near to the trail terminus in Westford?



Question 4

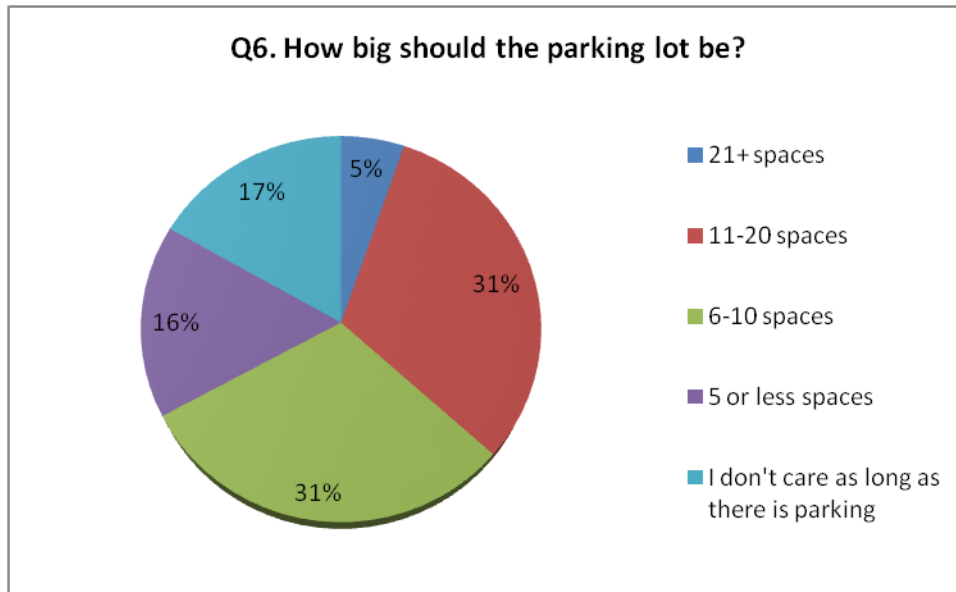
Q4. Would you use a parking lot that is not adjacent to the trail if you had to ride on the street to access the trail?



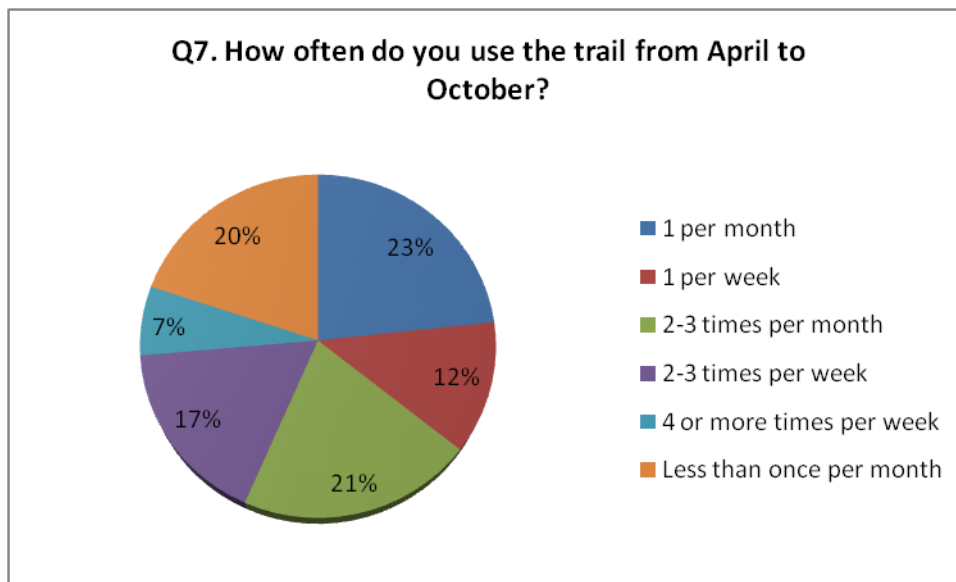
Question 5

Question 5 asked respondents to indicate where they parked today when they use the trail. Of the 273 responses to this question 135 answered that they parked in Chelmsford (either in the center, at Byam School, Heart Pond, or Agway).

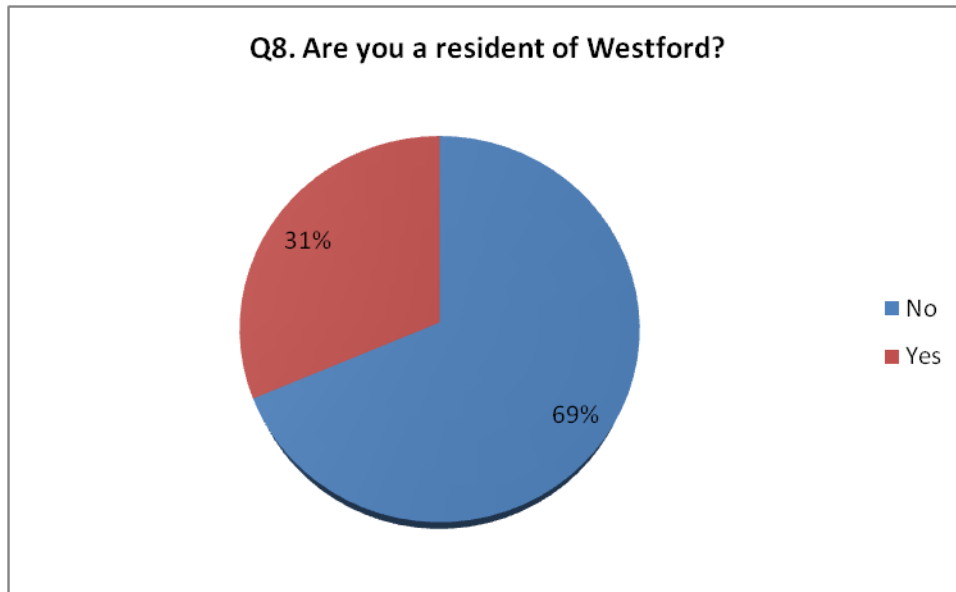
Question 6



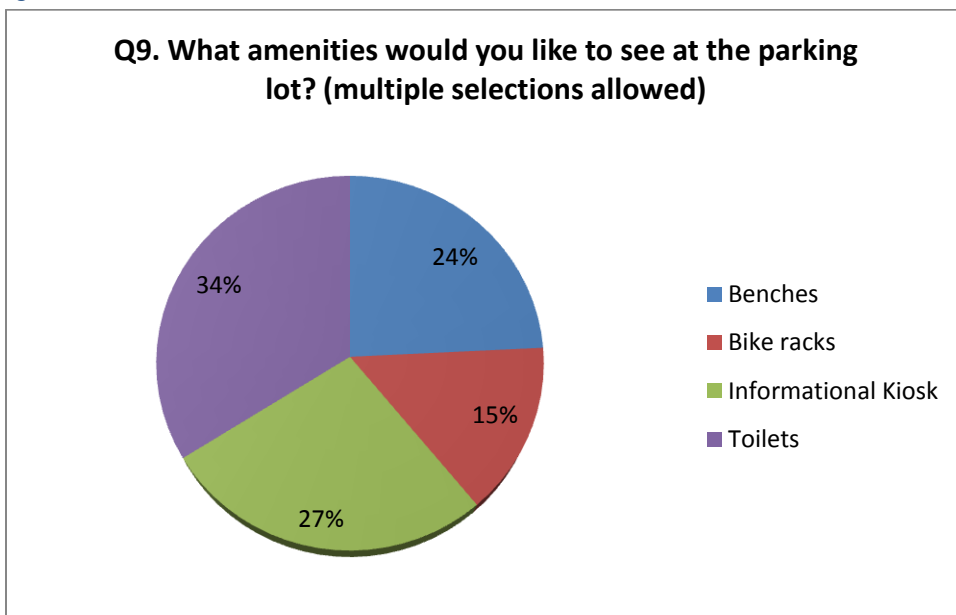
Question 7



Question 8



Question 9



Other suggestions submitted: Water fountain, first aid, picnic benches

Appendix A. Parking Survey

Parking Survey

Currently there is no parking for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail in Westford. Westford is evaluating parking options for the trail and public opinion regarding parking in Westford will be very important in making that decision. Your responses are anonymous.

If you have any questions or need help with the survey please contact reply@brucefreemanrailtrail.org

Q1. How important is it to you that parking for the rail trail exists in Westford? (5 very important - 1 not at all important)

select one

Q2. How important is it to you that the parking be located next to the trail vs across the road or down a side street? (5 very important - 1 not at all important)

select one

Q3. How important is it to you that parking be located near to the trail terminus in Westford? (5 very important - 1 not at all important)

select one

Q4. Would you use a parking lot that is not adjacent to the trail if you had to ride on the street to access the trail?

select one

Q5. Without parking available in Westford today where do you park when you use the trail?

Q6. How big should the parking lot be?

select one

Q7. How often do you use the trail from April to October?

select one

Q8. Are you a resident of Westford?

select one

Q9. **What amenities would you like to see at the parking lot?** (select all that apply. Hold down ctrl key to make multiple selections, use the shift key on the mac)

Bike racks

Benches

Informational Kiosk

Toilets

Other

Other:

Additional comments on parking in Westford for the trail?

Please click the submit button once you have completed the survey.

Appendix B. Additional Comments

"Parking would increase the trail usage---great idea!!"

"Parking lots on other trails (Nashua River, Minuteman) have proven to be an important part of their appeal and use, and the basis for several businesses. Adding parking will attract users to the trail and to Westford. "

"Toilets, bike racks, and benches would be helpful (on the model of the Acton terminus of the Nashua River Trail)."

"Right now the trail ends/begins in Westford. This will not always be the case. There should be parking at logical places along the trail, where there is easy, safe entry and exit, and a chance to access nearby amenities. There is already a dirt lot somewhere further up--is that in Chelmsford? If more people knew of this they might not park at the 225 intersection. Perhaps some signage might solve the problem."

"Without parking, people who want to walk the trail (as opposed to bike it) or use wheelchairs on it are essentially eliminated from the potential user group. This seems a shame; the idea is for multiple use...."

"Ask for state help & private donations to help offset the cost."

"I see cars parked near the terminus often when I ride to the trail. Based on that I believe there is a need. Also a car stopped and asked me about parking when I was near Agway once."

"Westford is a beautiful town. It would not be possible to see it by bicycle if it weren't for the rail trail. The roads are not very wide and the cars drive very fast. "

"I think the trail is a wonderful way to get kids and parents off the couch and out enjoying exercise. Adding some parking would be a big help for folks who live so far away to ride to the trail."

"The trail is wonderful. I love using it and I commend Westford for supporting it. I hope the other towns along the proposed trail rise the occasion the way Westford and Chelmsford did. Thank you so much!"

"Definitely something that needs to be addressed. It also would be good at the trail "end" in Westford for a sign to tell us about what the future plans will be to extend the trail."

"My son is a new bike rider, and could not ride on the street. So far, we haven't used the BFRT because of the lack of parking in Westford. We use the Ayer-Groton trail instead. As for using a non-adjacent parking lot, it really depends on the road that we'd have to ride on. While the Westford parking is very important to me now, I expect it will be less important when the trail is extended south."

"Without a parking facility in Westford I find my use of the Westford sections of the rail trail extremely limited. My use is currently limited to walking. Without a parking facility I find the Westford sections relatively useless."

"The more you make it easier for bikers to park the more the trail will be utilized."

"The whole point of using the trail is so I don't have to ride on streets - especially Westford streets, which are narrow and busy and feel dangerous. Locating a parking area not adjacent to the trail, forcing me to ride on streets to get there, is kind of pointless. Also, the argument about not using the ""parking area"" next to the current trail terminus at Route 27, because of the so-called danger of cars being half-on and half-off the road, is ridiculous to me. Drive anywhere in town and you're constantly dodging landscaping trucks or other contractors who are parked half in the street. Why they can do that, which forces cars to cross the center line into oncoming traffic, but it is somehow bad when rail trail users do it, is hypocritical and hollow. If the police are going to ticket rail trail users, they they should ticket and tow all those contractor trucks too, which, because there are far more of them, pose a much larger danger to the public and put far more people at risk.

I am happy to comment further if necessary:

Brian Herzog
36 Elm Road
978-692-2622"

"It's great - looking forward to the completion of the entire Bruce Freeman Trail."

"I appreciate your efforts to add parking in Westford."

"With my children I feel it is unsafe to bike on the road so it would be safer to park right adjacent to the rail trail. Thank you"

"I assume you are talking about the terminus at the intersection of routes 225 & 27. If not, I do not care about parking in Westford, because that is the only place where I enter the trail, and I also do not know exactly what part of the trail is in Westford and where it enters Chelmsford. When riding alone or with my son, who is almost 16, I/we can ride bicycle(s) from our home in Carlisle to the terminus. However, with my younger daughter I would want to put our bikes on a rack on my car, drive to the terminus, and park there, so parking is important. It does not have to be fancy: gravel is fine. Rather than changing the existing terminus, I would make modifications on the south side of 225 when phase II is built. No other amenities are required, because there is nothing close to that terminus, and it is not far to Chelmsford. However, a "kiosk" with a map of the trail and basic information would be good for first-time riders, or to interest potential riders."

"Although I don't personally need it, enough others do such that it would be nice to place this trail on a par with the Minuteman Trail [beginning point in Bedford], and provide comparable parking/amenities."

"Parking is necessary until Acton get's it's act together and the trail is extended. Then will just park in Acton and Bike to Lowell. Problem is there is no parking at the start of the trail (l.e the problem is not that there is no parking in westford - it just happens that is where the trail starts.)"

"I inline skate frequently. Parking adjacent to the trail is very important. "

"Question #6 infers that there will be a new parking lot built and asking what size i would like it. I don't think it is necessary to build a parking lot in Westford and I wanted to select an option that said none but there wasn't one. The survey required me to pick something so I picked 1-5 but I dont think a new lot is necessary. There is enough parking in Chelmsford right down the street which is already there and just fine. If you are thinking about adding parking in Westford, I would like to see a traffic study done to see the impact on the traffic and surrounding area before making a decision to proceed."

"As a Westford resident, frequent user of the trail and living within 1/4 mile of the trail, a new parking lot is not needed. There is adequate parking at Hart Pond in Chelmsford (which is never busy and I pass by it very frequently) and since the trail has been open, we have had no problems with users parking on nearby streets, such as Griffin Road. The point of a rail trail is to use existing infrastructure, not to pave over additional land. If we actually have available funds, they would be better spent maintaining the facility (or used to support our schools in this environment of fiscal shortfalls). In addition, a parking lot has the potential to generate problems that may not have been anticipated. Walking or riding a short distance to the trail is not an unrealistice expectation for users."

"The trail is only about a mile or so in Westford and is close to residential areas. The existing parking at Hart Pond and Agway is more than adequate and gives more flexibility."

"Route 27 is not zoned for parking. I do not want to see parkiing in Westford. It will only increase crime and litter. No one takes care of the trail now and it has litter all over it. There is plenty of parking for the trail in Chelmsford."

"I pass the Westford terminus often. Before the Westford police postings I saw that there were up to 10 cars parked on the road which tells me that the Westford end of the trail is used as a starting point as opposed to the Lowell end (which is where I go). I would use the Westford end and it would save me time and gas."

"The trail will be extended South eventually through Acton, so the "terminus" in Westford is a mute point. Planning should be done with this in mind."

"I'd use the trail more if I knew okay places to park!"

"Any parking lot should be designed using basic common sense, and safety of everyone should be paramount. Neighbors concerns need to be directly addressed with respect and decency, while holding true that a safe, well-designed and maintained parking lot is a legitimate and necessary part of the public asset that the BFRT is."

"This trail is beautiful and it is a joy to ride. I hope that the parking will not hinder the communities support. It is a real addition to Chelmsford where I had never stopped before but now have eating there a couple of times."

"I don't want to be anonymous, I want my name submitted. Thank You.

Stephen Quinn

75 Hemingway St.

Winchester."

"I live in Chelmsford. Parking in Westford would be useless to me."

"Please take into consideration the surrounding residential neighborhood and the current natural beauty. Some proposals would negatively affect the surrounding neighborhood (traffic patterns and safety) and the natural state of the forests.

Thanks!"

"Parking on a side street is o.k. as long as I don't have to ride on Rte 27 or Rte 4 to get to the trail. "

"How long will Westford be the terminus? Isn't the plan to extend the trail thru Acton, Concord...? Can't the users find an item solution to parking at the end. There's empty space across 225/27 intersection. Put a crossing light in and allow parking there. The light is going to have to go in once the trail is extended anyway so it is not wasted money. Pedestrains and walkers would only have to cross the street, they would not have to ride/walk on 225/27."

"would use the trail more if there was parking"

"lack of parking makes trail use dangerous. There isn't a safe place to unload a bike from a car, and combined with lack of sidewalks and/or a safe route down Boston Road, the trail is effectively unusable for my family. I've parked in small lots for the bike trails in Ayer and Chelmsford and Lexington, and it's sad that we can't use this lovely trail from our home."

"The parking at Westford will not be as important to me once the trail is extended down into Acton where I will access it."

"The Westford portion of the trail is minimal and the Terminus is temporary. I don't see any need for parking in Westford. Just let people know that they can park right on the trail just a couple minutes up the road. "

"It would be so much better to have parking in Westford. Without it, using the trail is problematic because rt 27 really has no shoulders. "

"Please don't de-value my property by putting in an obnoxious parking lot. Ride your bike to the trail or walk...it makes no sense. It's as much of a hazard to Route 27 which is a state highway as an eyesore to the residents. "

“About question 2. The trail itself crosses the street in several places, so I don't see the problem with having to cross the street to get from parking to the trail. Down a side street on the same side of the trail would be more favorable, but I think across is OK.

Question 4: It depends on how much of the street we'd have to ride on. Absolutely not Griffin Rd - that's a hazard. Crossing the street is OK, but any distance on the main road is an accident waiting to happen when kids are involved.

About question 6. The size of the lot depends on so many other factors, like how much demand there is, and the availability of other [legal] parking options in close proximity.

Question 9: Do other bike trails have all these amenities? In tough economic times, this is a hard sell. I must admit that toilets might be convenient, but it would be a recurring expense. With the age of the internet, what information would we need to have in a kiosk? No need for bike racks unless there's something else [shops?] near the parking lot. “

“I am disappointed that this issue is still alive. Why do we need parking in Westford if there is already a bunch of parking in Chelmsford right down the road... even if we are going to be the [temporary] terminus for a long time? One could place stakes in the ground at the intersection of 225/27 so people physically CANNOT park at this dangerous location. “

“Although it is not important to me personally for parking to exist at the Westford terminus, my answers are based on a desire for more trail supporters, although parking doesn't ensure that.”

“Since I walk more than riding a bike, parking can't be too far though I'm willing to walk a couple of blocks (100-200 yards) down a sidestreet if necessary.”

“What about the town owned parcel near Griffin Road, between the trail and rt 27.”

“The trail is wonderful. Widening Parkerville road in Chelmsford from the 4H fairground to the trail, or at least to Pond street, would allow parking at or near the fairground. South Chelmsford road in Westford is already good for biking -- wide, flat and straight. Also, if the existing small path from Vose to Grizzly Bear circle were paved this would also ease access to the trail via Vose to Little Bear to Griffin. “

“If the trail continues into Acton, the parking won't be as important..”

“Parking at the Westford terminus is badly needed.”

“Lovely this is happening”

“The main reason I'm not sure resources should be spent on a parking lot serving the Westford portion (near 225 and 27) is that when the trail is connected with the Acton side other parking opportunities will arise farther south. eventually a big lot for around 50 vehicles would be great somewhere in westford, Acton, or concord. I'd focus on getting the trail connected to the Acton side and look for donated land in Acton or Concord for a parking lot where a rail trail office could be placed that would serve as sort of a park rangers office and information/vending machine kiosk. I also don't see why it couldn't be converted to a winter resource including c.c. skiing/snow shoeing”

"There is already plenty of parking for the trail. Very little of the trail runs through Westford, and it's all in a residential neighborhood that doesn't want a parking lot, informational kiosk or toilets."

"If there is money to spend, I think it should be spent on something more important than a parking lot."

"a map showing the current and proposed parking areas in Westford, plus other parking areas nearby along the trail would make this survey more useful"

"Parking off the side of 27 is SAFE, LEGAL, and there is ROOM for it if some moron would cut it out with the illegal signs, sticks, rocks, markers, etc.!"

"Lot there will NOT be needed once next section of trail opens"

"SIGNS NEEDED ALONG 27 BANNING BIKES & PEDESTRIANS FROM ROADWAY, REQUIRING USE OF TRAIL FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY!!!!!"

"I do not park to use the trail, but I do support parking for others. "

"I have heard from friends with small children that the lack of parking is definitely a problem. They do not feel safe riding on Rt 27 even for a short distance with children under the age of 10 - so parking at the trail would be a big plus for them."

"best trail in metro-west"

"If the ride on the street from the parking lot were short and not on a busy road then I would use that parking area. My concern is the busy roads."

"Please do not locate the lot in a residential area!!!!"

"In the coming years, rail trails will become vital inter-community links as people make wiser choices about commuting and recreational travel. Please do not underestimate the positive impact these pedestrian arteries will have on communities who support a green mode of transportation and recreation. You should be surveying NOW and annually to determine usage breakdown and find where the increases are, so you can plan ahead. "

"The trail in Westford crosses through only residential areas. In Chelmsford and the the planned path in Acton it crosses through non-residential areas which already have parking lots. The parking lots in Chelmsford aren't filled on even the busiest days. There is absolutely no reason or need to spend the money to put a parking lot in Westford in the middle of a residential area. "

"we need no parking in westford"

"The trail is a great resource for town residents. Let's make it easier and safer for residents who drive to the trail to park. Thanks. "

"With only about 2 miles of trail in Westford, a lot adjacent to it is not needed. There is plenty of (under utilized) parking along the trail in other communities. If Westford must explore an option, I suggest the former Irish American club (?) at 27 and 225 where there is already a parking lot. By the way, question number 6 does not give the option of ""not applicable"" since I do not believe we need a lot. Therefore, I was forced to select another option."

"why do we need parking for approximately 1 mile of trail in Westford? how are we going to maintain this facility? where is the \$ coming from to create this parking lot? does our police force have the additional man hours available to patrol the area?"

"I do not think parking lots in or near our neighborhoods is neither fair or safe."

"The Westford section is only about a mile long, we do not need parking in or near our neighborhoods."

"We are very happy with the current parking options, just a few minute car ride, local to the trail, in Chelmsford. Adding parking along a residential area, opens up too many crime related problems that can and will arise with a parking lot."

"Amenities should be kept to a minimum; but I would like to see bike racks and an informational kiosk. "

"The Westford portion of the trail is very small and we should not waste tax payer money to build a parking lot for out of towners. If people want to use the trail there should be signs directing them to park 2 miles down the road in Chelmsford. Also, need to add an item for Q6 - I don't want any parking"

"There is plenty of parking just down the street in chelmsford. Not needed in Westford."

"i understand that funding for bringing Phase II of the trail building is slowed down and won't happen for a while. The truth is, Westford has such a small percentage of the trail in miles compared to other towns- and it seems like parking SHOULD have been part of the original planning, not an afterthought. I LOVE the trail, don't get me wrong. I just don't think you should be squeezing in parking in a neighborhood that loves its trees, and bought into the neighborhood for what it is. If you must insist on parking in Westford, make it across 225 from the trail. Or even bring it into Acton- where the rail trail will eventually lead to. Thanks for respecting the people of the neighborhood's wishes. "

"I'd just as soon see on street parking used instead of creating of a parking lot. there is a substantial stretch of trail over which the Trail land abuts the RT 27 land in which the combined width could be used for on street parallel parking by creating a wide, unpaved shoulder. We have long standing historic right in massachusetts to use our transportation right-of-ways to not only transport goods and people, but also to stop and 'park' our vehicles (or wagons in the past)while conducting our personal business on a nearby property. Limitations to this right should only be put in place in very limited times and places where there is a severe and broad concern which overrides our historically established right to park."

"It's a wonderful resource for exercise, recreation and connecting to the other users - a great feeling of enjoyment and community is experienced by passing and greeting others while on the trail!"

"How about using the old Tara Hall for parking and amenities, it's right at the corner of Rte 27 & Rte 225 with a large parking lot. A parking lot does not belong in a residential neighborhood especially with other parking available nearby."

"riding on street is OK as long as it is not Rt 27; that's too big. prefer several 3-5 slot lots dispersed along trail rather than one `big` lot. thanks for asking."

"Don't need parking in Westford. Put up signs directing people to parking in South Chelmsford (and when completed, in Acton)."

"I often drive by the Westford end of the bike trail at the corner of Rte 27 and Rte 225. Cars park wherever they can fit on the side of the trail which is a bit dangerous as the space is tight. A parking lot would be most appreciated for better utilization of the trail. thank - it is a wonderful trail and so pleasant to ride on!"

"Parking at various places on any Rail Trail, the Bruce Freeman included, allows families to have options as to the distance they are ready to ride."

"It's ok by me to have local advertising at the kiosk/start area to help support the trail and direct people to local food, ice cream, etc."

"I won't use parking at that location very often."

"I would like to be able to use the trail but don't use it at present because there is no parking."

"I do feel strongly that parking should be available. At this time there isn't any parking. People are parking front first along Rte 27, which is okay, but I'm concerned that a child could enter traffic while mounting, dismounting, or distracted parents loading and unloading bikes and gear. "

"I'm not sure where the terminus is in Westford."

"People were parking right next to the ""No parking"" signs last time we went biking. Without a parking lot you're bound to have some kind of mishap. We live in Acton on Rte 27, but the cars often speed by at 50 miles per hour beginning at about Northbriar in Acton to the light at 225 & 27. You really need a parking area. We love bike rail trails - with proper amenities like a parking lot they provide a wonderful place to keep fit, have fun with your kids, and provide excellent entertainment for the many of us who have been hit by the recession. Not to mention the potential for biking to work, if you're lucky, particularly as more length is added to the trail. Look at all the good things NARA park has done for us in Acton thanks to people who thought years ahead!"

"The terminus is at a major road intersection. I recommend the lot be created so that there is no conflict (or minimal conflict) between trail users & local businesses & residents."

"Parking adjacent to the trail is probably more important for families and users with young children than to someone like me who just rides to the trail or could cross the street safely. "

"Parking across the street would be acceptable if it is adjacent to the next segment of the trail and if work on that segment of the trail were to get under way soon."

"lack of parking is significantly impacting how much we use the trail. My wife will not bike on the roads to get there, so we need to drive."

"I'm very happy with the trail but a lot of people use it so we do need some parking. One or two port a pottys would be welcome. Thank you."

"With a section of the trail in Westford, it seems only right that parking is provided in Westford. The current situation (parking on Rt 27) seems dangerous to all involved."

"Thank you for working on the parking situation!"

"Please provide some parking in Westford. This is a true gem that should be enjoyed by all who are interested. The streets adjacent are too dangerous to ride a bike even a short distance."

"A sign indicating For Rail Trail use only. "

"May we park at the top of Shelly Lane?"

"Very important."

"Please make certain that the parking lot has trees (for shade) and grass. I hate when a parking lot is made, like the one behind the Chelmsford Brick House Pizza, and no trees or grass are kept nor planted. Also, you won't need lights because the riders shouldn't be using the Trail after dark and we don't want those lights shining up in the sky or at people' houses. No one ever gets the lighting constructed properly."

"Parking is badly needed in Westford."

"Looking ahead to when Phase II is constructed, Westford being at the 6 1/2 mile point is an important place to have easy trail access, complementing the good parking at the north end and what I would anticipate would be a couple of good entry points in Acton and Concord. Particularly important for Westford residents who don't live close to the trail to have adequate parking within a reasonable distance of the trail. The question about riding down a street to the trail from parking -- I said yes, but how far are we talking about and how busy is the road? I don't like riding in heavy traffic, so maybe a couple of hundred yards on a busy road, maybe half a mile on a quiet street would be OK with me, any more than that, I probably wouldn't use the parking. To encourage the use of the trail for commuting, the lot should be fairly large."

"promote exercise & bike to the trail, not obesity by driving to a bike trail with parking for people to waste fossil fuels, add to greenhouse gases "

"Plenty of Parking in Chelmsford, would advise putting up signs to direct people to these locations."

“Thanks very much for considering it!!!”

“I think it is unnecessary and a waste of time and money. There is already parking a short distance down the street. Put up some signs and that will most likely take care of the problem. “

“the rail trail is great to ride. however, coming in after the fact and pushing your projects on the residents who live adjacent to it is grotesque. plan the project appropriately, funding, engineering, timing, and the like and stop trying to sneak your view over on those adjacent like some thieves in the night. “

“We do not need a parking lot to accommodate the folks who come from other towns...There is only a small portion of this trail that is in westford..we should not have to spend out tax dollars on a parking lot in Westford. Let them go to Hart Pond.”

“The start of the rail trail was not meant to accomodate parking. Parking should not be considered, rather use existing parking at Hart Pond or Chelmsford center. The start of the trail is a neighbor hood and that should be maintained, not made into a roadside attraction.”

“Want to stress again the importance of having the parking directly adjacent to the rail trail. We ride with young kids (on their own bikes), and one of the most important features of the trail is that it is NOT THE ROAD. The safety of rail trail riding (for kids) is completely lost if the parking isn't adjacent to the trail. So parking somewhere "near by" where any riding on street is required to access the trail completely defeats the purpose as far as we're concerned.”

“If I could park I would use. For question 4, I would answer yes if it were not too far from the trail.”

"I do not believe there needs to be parking in Westford for the little stretch of residential ,Land the the trail runs through."

“The rail trail is only in Westford for a short distance. Let's keep our town one of the cut through towns and not turn this residential area into a big attraction. Cars already drive pass the speed limit on route 27 with little police enforcement to the speed limit. Putting in a parking lot would only increase this problem as you move toward changing a residential area. The focus should be on informing people to safe places to part outside of Westford. Enforce the no parking areas with tickets. Having the rail trail in our neighborhood has already taken away some of our privacy. Please do not add the parking lot and change our neighborhood any more. “

“The trail is an asset to the community and each community should be willing to have parking available. Toilets would be nice as a lot of kids are biking with their parents. We all need more exercise and the bike trail is a great way to be outside with people engaging in a healthy way. People also want a safe way to ride bikes to work and shopping and businesses will benefit from the trail. I like what Agway in Chelmsford has done, welcome the riders with drinks available for purchase and a bench to sit on and look out at the trail. Thumbs up to them, I stop for a drink there often to support their gesture of welcome.”

"Please don't put a parking lot in a residential area. We all bought our land/homes in Westford to avoid having things like parking lots, especially ones with toilet or kiosks, in our back yards. There are plenty of parking spots available already without the pollution of new lots just so that people don't have to drive an extra minute down the road to go to Hart Pond or one of the other many places now available to park. Please don't put up a parking lot in residential areas!!"

"Any parking solutions should have minimal to no impact to residents. It should be small and provide parking spaces only. It should not be near a major intersection to avoid interference with traffic. (Should not be near 225/27 intersection and people should be discouraged from illegally parking here.)"

"Safety is the first issue - the proposal for the lot at the end of Landmark road is a bad idea unless a very wide well done sidewalk accompanies it - that stretch of Rt 225 is too dangerous for bikes! I think ticketing any cars parked where it is posted against is a great idea - start tomorrow at the intersection of 27/225. What other possibilities exist for parking after the trail extends into Acton? Any possibilities to work with Butterbrook golf course, and put sidewalks along the Veteran's housing then cross at the lights?"

"The bike trail is of vital importance to conservation-aware and health-minded citizens of Westford and available parking makes use of the trail possible. "

"There's plenty of parking at other points along the trail, there doesn't need to be parking in Westford. Once the trail is continued into Acton parking at "the end" will be moot."

"Parking is very important to me right now because I live in Acton, but when the trail eventually extends through Acton, it won't be so important because my family will be able to ride to it much more easily and safely from our home."

"Good to have a small parking lot near beginning of trail to prevent illegal/dangerous parking near the intersection. Walk from Landmark to Rail Trail start is VERY dangerous. Blind curve, no shoulder, fast road and children on bikes, rollerblades, etc. NOT A GOOD MIX!!! Have witnessed a near miss there myself. Prefer to see smaller lot for local residents since there is plenty of parking on the other end for out-of-towners. Don't think amenities are necessary for a small lot. Benches may be better placed along the trail."

"I don't think another parking lot is needed. There is parking at Hart pond and a small lot across from Agway. If people must start at the very end of the trail they can park on neighborhood streets such as Elderberry, Shelley, Vose Hill, Shannon, Colonial, There are better ways to spend the town's funds. "Hopefully the corner of 27 and 225 will no longer be the end of the trail and an existing lot in Acton will make more sense. "

"By adding all of the things considered, you are tremendously hurting the property values of people living near the trails. This will bring trash, crime and more maintenance to trail than is necessary. I am extremely disappointed that this is even being considered."

"I do NOT want parking!!! Town should have thought about this BEFORE the trail was created. "

"I live close to the trail and am used to riding my bike on roads, so for me personally, I don't have a need for parking. But given that this is presently and will be for quite some time the terminus of the bike path, I believe it is important to have parking for those who want to ride the most uninterrupted stretch of the the trail."

"How come question 6 does not have a NO PARKING Option? I don't think that ANY parking should be in Westford. It is only a terminus now because the trail is incomplete. Parking leads to trash (which the current illegal parking on RT 27 is already causing) and nighttime illicit activities. I live on Elderberry Way and I am already picking up trash (water bottles, etc) left by people parking (BTW within 3 feet of the corner) already."

"I think there is adequate parking, perhaps more information/education is needed on where. The plan is to continue the bike trail, so the Carlisle Road end will no longer be the end."