



Next 3 Phases of the Trail Recommended for Construction!

BFRT Segment	Distance	Towns	Construction Start Year	Amount	Description
Phase 2A	~4.9 miles	Acton, Carlisle & Westford	2014	\$11,088,000	Starts at current Phase 1 southern terminus, ends at Teamworks in East Acton
Phase 2C	~3.0 miles	Concord	2016	\$6,196,494	Starts at Commonwealth Ave by Concord MCI south and ends at Sudbury border
Phase 2B	~0.8 miles	Acton & Concord	2017	\$6,681,600	Bridge over Route 2 connecting Phases 2A & 2C
Total	~8.7 miles			\$23,966,094	



Current southern terminus of the Trail
Trail users are champing at the bit for the construction of the next five miles through Acton.

Almost \$24 million in construction funds for Phases 2A, 2B, and 2C have been recommended by the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) over the next four years. The Draft 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) released in May for public comment is expected to be finalized by the end of June.

Phase 2A Design Being Finalized

The MassDOT is expected to advertise for the construction contractor in late 2013 / early 2014. Ground-breaking is expected in spring 2014.

The Towns and consultant GPI are working hard on the design with assistance of the FBFRT. The next steps to get to 100% design include:

- Review of the 15 culverts that cross underneath the trail to Nashoba and Butter Brooks.
- Finalization and submission of the environmental notifications
 - A Notice of Intent to the local Conservation Commissions
 - An Environmental Notification Form that is prepared by GPI and reviewed and submitted to MA DEP for MEPA (Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act) review.
- Bridge design
 - At the time of writing, sketch plans had been submitted, though without a geotechnical survey, to MassDOT District 3. Geological information will be provided from the test borings (see photo). After sketch plans it is expected there will be a submission of full bridge design for review and comment followed by a submission of full bridge design.
- Finalization of abutter screening and access. The FBFRT led the effort to elicit abutter preferences on screening and access. The Towns are reaching out to a handful of abutters with special concerns or requests to discuss the best solution to various issues (privacy, access, concerns about trail parking). These screening and access proposals will then be submitted to MassDOT for approval.

Some design elements that were finalized recently include:

- Use of the consistent Trail Rules sign (same signage as is used on Phase 1), with one additional rule: All yield to equestrians.
- Use of historic railroad markers to denote mileage (which will be slightly different than actual trail mileage)
- Installation of pads for future benches and kiosks
- Use of pavers and/or vegetative landscaping at crossing demarcations



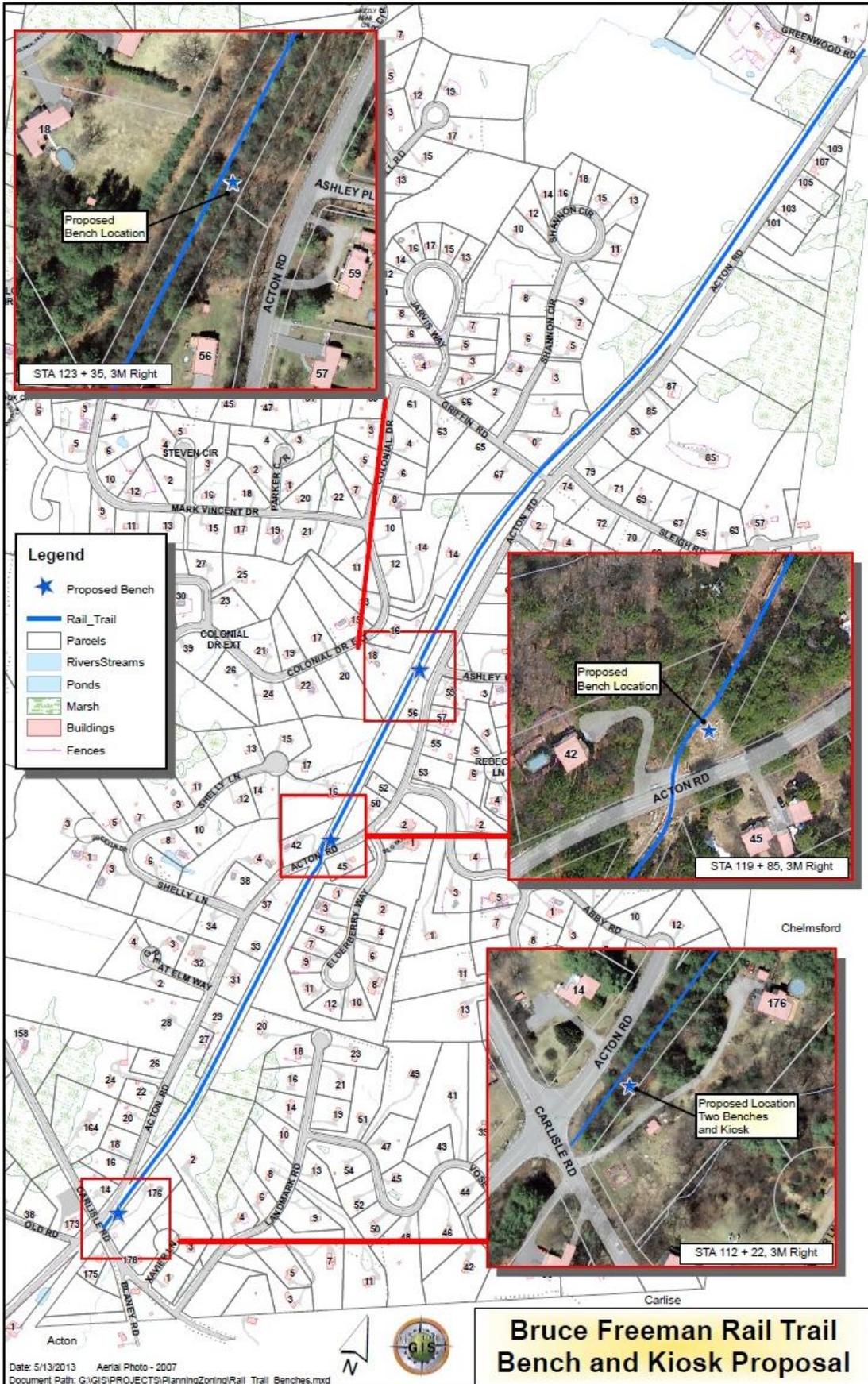
Drilling test borings for the design of the BFRT bridge over Great Road in Acton this May. Note the old railroad crossing signal in the foreground.

One Step Closer to Trail Amenities in Westford

The Westford section of the BFRT has been devoid of trail amenities since the trail's opening in 2009. The Friends, with support from Lowell General Hospital, individual private donations and Westford's Park and Recreation Department, are working to rectify that with the addition of benches and a kiosk.

It has been a long road to get these amenities in place, but in May an important milestone was reached. After several years of negotiations and meetings with rail trail neighbors and many levels of town government, the Friends Board of Selectmen voted unanimously in support of allowing four benches and an information kiosk on the trail right of way.

After approval is obtained from the Mass DOT Right-of-Way Division, the Friends plan to have the benches and kiosk in place by the end of 2013 or early 2014.



Send Us Your Stories and Photos

How do you use the trail? Whether it be for recreation, commuting, athletic training, family outings, healthy living, or whatever, we would love to hear from you. Send your rail trail stories and photos to info@brucefreemanrailtrail.org

Service Project Opportunities

Opportunities are available for Scout and community service projects on the BFRT.

Contact info@brucefreemanrailtrail.org for more information.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Bench and Kiosk Proposal

The Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.