



To: Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues

Date: August 31, 2016

Memorandum

Project #: 12984.00

From: Tracie Lenhardt

Re: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail  
Monthly Update Memo

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This memorandum has been prepared to provide the Town with a monthly update of the design process of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. The memorandum summarizes the work that has progressed during the month of August. Recently the team has advanced on the following work items:

### **Community Outreach**

Public meetings and participation are highly encouraged. The design team will work with the community to understand the concerns of each citizen and help the community feel comfortable with the progression of the project.

The following is a list of public meetings held to date:

- The Board of Selectman hosted a Trail Forum meeting on Jan 22, 2015.
- The coordination meeting with the Town was held on Feb 3, 2015
- Public informational meeting June 21, 2016

**Update:** A public Charrette was held on August 25, 2016.

### **Environmental Constraints**

The rail corridor is adjacent to wetlands, vernal pools, wildlife habitats and natural areas. The design team will be working closely with the Sudbury Conservation Commission throughout the design process to minimize clearing and maintain natural buffers to resource areas.

An Order of Conditions was issued by the Sudbury Conservation Commission on March 23, 2015. The order was appealed to DEP and on the Town's bylaws. On July 15, 2015, DEP issued a Superseding Order of Conditions and on December 18, 2015, Massachusetts Superior Court denied the by-law appeal.

**Wetland Resource Delineation:** The wetland flagging began in January 2015 and commenced again in March/April 2015 after the snow melt except for the section near Codjer Lane where brush needed to be thinned. This location was flagged in January 2016 after the Town thinned the brush. In January, the Town has sent letters to abutters with wetlands along their property to ask permission for VHB to flag and survey the wetlands in order to help complete the wetland resource mapping for the ANRAD. To date, the Town has received 18 permissions and 3 no's of the 41 letters sent out. In February 2016, VHB flagged the wetlands near Codjer Lane. In April/May 2016 VHB flagged and surveyed wetlands on private property.

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**Vernal Pools:** Based on the previous survey (2008), there were nineteen (19) vernal pools shown along the corridor. One of the nineteen is listed as a certified vernal pool and another as a Sudbury vernal pool. The other seventeen (17) were listed as potential vernal pools. VHB conducted an investigation which included verifying the presence or absence of egg masses or individuals of obligate vernal pool species within certified and potential vernal pools along the BFRT corridor. Of the seventeen (17) potential vernal pools only four (4) have been found to be eligible for certification as vernal pools with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. The one Vernal Pool already certified has been confirmed by our findings. No vernal pool species were found in the Sudbury certified vernal pool. VHB recommends this study also be conducted in the Spring of 2016 so that there are two years of observations.

The Conservation Commission Agent recommended against the collection of data this year as the water levels are low due to lack of snow and rain this winter. As such, no data will be collected this year.

The ANRAD was prepared and submitted it to the Sudbury Conservation Commission on July 26, 2016.

**Update:** The project was opened on the August 8<sup>th</sup> Conservation Commission hearing and continued until September 26, 2016.

### **Construction Funding**

The design team will work with the Town, MassDOT and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council to secure funding through the Transportation Improvement Project (TIP) for construction.

The design team prepared the PIF for the Town who submitted to MassDOT on Feb 18, 2015. The MassDOT PRC meeting was held on March 19, 2015 and the project was approved at the PRC meeting.

### **Design Status**

The design efforts will begin after the survey efforts are completed and input from the community is provided. In addition to the design of the path, roadway crossings, parking facilities, trail Heads and Amenities will be considered.

The Town informed VHB that the abutments for the existing trestle bridge over Pantry Brook have been washed out and the structure has been compromised. MassDOT has erected chain link fencing around the bridge as they deemed it an unsafe condition.

### **Structural**

The structural engineers of the design team visually (field) inspected the Hops Brook and Pantry Brook Bridges and have begun preparation of the report for Hops Brook Bridge.

### **Current Activities (August)**

- The team prepared plans and discussion material for the Public Charrette on August 25th.

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