



Place: 322 Concord Road, Town Hall  
Date: March 9, 2017

Notes Taken by: VHB

## Meeting Notes

Project #: 12984.00

Re: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT)  
Public Meeting  
Meeting Notes

---

### ATTENDEES

---

The public meeting was held on March 9, 2017 with the immediate abutters along the rail corridor and abutters to two roadway alternate routes: Alternate 1 (along Union St) and Alternative 2 (along Concord Rd). VHB made a quick presentation about the entire Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and details on the section in Sudbury, including trail rail typical sections, structures, other design considerations (boardwalk, retaining walls, reduced width), roadway crossings and Alternative Routes. Beth Suedmeyer mentioned that the Task Force comment period ends March 14, 2017.

Some comments from abutters and attendees are listed below:

- Has coordination with farm owners occurred? *Yes, and it is ongoing.*
- Concord Rd Alternative Route – Are property owners liable for a maintenance of path along the alternative routes?
- Question/concern about the path width in remote areas? What happens to EMR & Fire Department response times? Will special equipment be required?
- Pantry Rd is on a downhill approach and speed is an issue. The “flashing light” may not be seen. Suggest the overhead signal (Hawk).
- Provide wider path, do not narrow path in challenge areas. The path should not go below 10’ width. If path can go to 12 feet in some areas this is better.
- Keep bridges wider. Concerned about the lifecycle and durability of wood bridge structure.
- Will there be a slippery surface on the bridges or boardwalks? – *Surface options will be looked at.*
- Is there a noise factor with boardwalk? – *Not anticipated.*
- What is the likelihood of alternative routes? *It is recognized they may not be feasible, but the Task Force wanted to gather the perspective of potential roadway route abutters.*
- A resident is surprised that Union St is considered. It is a busy street and may not be best place for the path. There is conservation land that should be avoided

101 Walnut Street  
Watertown, MA 02472  
P 617.924.1770



- What is the process? *The Task Force will make recommendations to the BOS, who will provide guidance to VHB for the 25% design submission to MassDOT. Then MassDOT review → MassDOT 25% Public Hearing → 75% Design → MassDOT 75% Review → Permits → 100% Design → MassDOT 100% Review → Preparation of Bidding Documents → Construction*
- Methods Machine (Dave Duane)
  - They have 125 employees and parking on other side of trail.
  - There are many trucks crossing over the path. Worried about sight distance of truck drivers being able to see path users.
  - Who is responsible for minor maintenance? What about snow plowing?
  - Would want fencing to keep people off property. Vandalism is a concern.
- What is process for getting an alternative route evaluated? Will residents be involved?
- What will task force recommend to BOS? What decisions are needed from the BOS?
- What is being done about alternatives? If one resident can stop an off-rail corridor, then why is the Town looking at alternatives?
- Will the economic impact on businesses be evaluated?
- Paul Cavicchio expressed frustration that Alternative 1 route is not feasible because it only takes one abutter to decline.
- Make sure that surfaces (wood bridge deck, boardwalk, textured pavement) are compatible with in-line skates.
- Can there be any spurs to other destinations? – *Yes, these will be considered at a later design stage*
- There are 3 schools within a close proximity to the path, could there be spurs to the schools or parks? *These will be investigated.*
- Could trail revert to an active railroad in the future? – *State has said it is highly unlikely but it could happen.*