

**Recreational Trails Program  
2018 Application**

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**Part I: Cover Sheet** Please complete this sheet using only the space provided.

**Project Name:** Town of Sudbury Request to Purchase of a portion of the CSX right-of-way, a Missing Link in the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

**Organization:** Town of Sudbury

**Brief organizational overview (include a website link, if available):**

The Town of Sudbury has been working for decades to create regionally significant rail trail connections. The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Project, designing 4.5 miles of multi-use path in Sudbury, is currently at the 25% design stage. This portion of the CSX corridor we seek to purchase with this grant is immediately to the south of the section in currently design. Please see project information for the section in design here <https://sudbury.ma.us/pcd/?p=354>.

**Contact Person and title:** Beth Suedmeyer, Environmental Planner, Planning and Community Development Dept.

**Address:** Flynn Building, 278 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, MA 01776

**Phone (Work):** (978) 639-3387 **Cell:**

**E-Mail:** suedmeyerb@sudbury.ma.us

**Project Location (municipality and county):** Sudbury, Middlesex County

**Amount Requested:** \$100,000

**Match:** \$44,500

**Total Project Value:** \$144,500

**Project Website (if trail/project area has a website associated with it):**

Town website for Bruce Freeman Rail Trail: <https://sudbury.ma.us/pcd/?p=354>

**Please specify which Recreational Trails Program Permissible Use category/s this project falls under?** (see <http://recreationaltrailsinfo.org/imglibrary/use.php> for detailed description of categories)

<input type="checkbox"/> Construction of New Trail	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance/Restoration of Existing Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> Trailside/Trailhead Facility Construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Equipment Purchase
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trail Corridor Acquisition	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Assessment

**The proposed trail project will actively facilitate use by:**

Motorized users     Non-Motorized users     Combination of Both

**Please specify which trail user groups are permitted on and will directly benefit from this trail project:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking/Walking/Trail Running	<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Biking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bicycling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cross Country Skiing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snow Shoe	<input type="checkbox"/> ATV Use	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling	<input type="checkbox"/> Paddling/Rowing
<input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-Road Motorcycling	<input type="checkbox"/> 4-Wheel Driving	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dog Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Climbing			

**Does the project impact a trail under one or more of the following designations?**

<input type="checkbox"/> National Scenic Trail	<input type="checkbox"/> National Historic Trail	<input type="checkbox"/> National Recreation Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> National Water Trail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rail Trail	

**Does this project involve the purchase of motorized equipment?** No

**If so, indicate the type of equipment and cost:**

Equipment Type:

Total Cost: \$

**Have you previously applied for Recreational Trails funding?** No

Year/s Applied:

Year/s Funded:

**Please provide a three-sentence description of your proposed project:**

The Town of Sudbury seeks \$100,000 dollars to fund the purchase of and trail creation on an approximately ¼ mile section of the northern extent of the CSX railroad right-of-way in Sudbury. While the purchase is only for a quarter mile of trail it will, as part of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) in 2024 (or sooner), result in continuity of approximately 20 miles of rail trail corridor reaching from Chelmsford to a new gateway at Route 20 in Sudbury. Prior to construction of the Sudbury section of the BFRT and as soon as the CSX purchase occurs, the Town is committed to creating an unpaved recreational trail in this section for near term use.

Recreational Trails Program - Trail Grant Application Narrative

**Town of Sudbury Request to Purchase of a portion of the CSX right-of-way, a Missing Link in the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail**

The Town of Sudbury seeks \$100,000 dollars to fund the purchase of approximately ¼ mile of the northern extent of the CSX railroad right-of-way (ROW) in Sudbury. The section to be purchased runs north-south, from the CSX intersection with the Mass Central corridor near Station Road, southward to Route 20 (See Maps 1 and 2). While the purchase is only a quarter mile in length it will, as part of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) in 2024 (or sooner), result in continuity of approximately 20 miles of rail trail corridor reaching from Chelmsford to a new gateway at Route 20 in Sudbury. This will provide greater visibility and accessibility to an extraordinary regional trail system. Prior to construction of the Sudbury section of the BFRT and as soon as the CSX purchase occurs, the Town is committed to creating an unpaved recreational trail in this section for near term use. The in-kind services offered by the Town to perform due diligence for the acquisition and to create the unpaved trail is estimated at \$44,500.

The Bruce Freeman Memorial Bike Path, now known as the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, is specifically identified in *Commonwealth Connections*. This particular rail trail furthers the goals of orchestrating the many efforts underway to unify the Commonwealth via a system of recreational trails, connecting us to our land, our history, and our neighbors. It is a tangible step toward fulfilling the vision of a coordinated network of greenways and trails that will help conserve our natural heritage, and link communities throughout the state.

When the BFRT is fully complete, it will be 25 miles long from Lowell to Route 9 in Framingham. In the past three years, the BFRT has taken giant steps forward. By next summer, the BFRT will be completed in Chelmsford, Westford, Carlisle, Acton, and most of Concord. The Sudbury section, from the Concord line to Station Road in Sudbury (Phase 2D) is in the design phase and is on the TIP for construction in 2022. (See Map 3).

There will be two phases for this northern segment of the CSX trail. The first phase, which will result in acquisition of the ¼ mile northern section, will also include creation of a recreational path. The second phase, at a later date, will be continuation of the BFRT as a paved multi-use path. The ¼ mile of CSX ROW to be purchased with Recreational Trail Program funds is the 'missing link' needed to bring the BFRT to Route 20. The BFRT crossing at Route 20 will be a major access point and landmark for the trail system.

Until now, the BFRT has been unable to extend further south from the intersection of the Mass Central / MBTA corridor near Station Road because this portion is owned by CSX. The town has been in discussions with CSX about acquiring its 1.4 mile long corridor in Sudbury for more than 16 years. Negotiations have been on and off over this time, because CSX was unable to commit to selling the corridor and due to transitions in CSX personnel. Sudbury has remained in communication with CSX and determined that they are now eager to make the sale of the corridor to the Town a reality.

By bringing the southern end of the BFRT ¼ mile further south to Route 20, it will be more visible and accessible, providing a gateway to the extended BFRT. The CSX ROW intersects with Route 20 at the center of the commercial district where there are, retail shops, supermarkets, banks and restaurants. There is abundant parking along Route 20 for which agreements with local businesses for parking use by trail users would be sought.

The existing section of the CSX corridor to be acquired has no cross-streets, driveways, paths or streams, the rails and ties have been removed, and some brush overgrowth exists. It is currently passable by foot, but in some sections the vegetation is quite thick. A pedestrian crosswalk and signal already exists on Route 20 near the crossing of the CSX ROW.

The estimate value of \$100,000 to purchase the nearly quarter mile segment of the CSX corridor comes from a 2016 appraisal of the total 1.4 miles in Sudbury, prorated for the length of this section.

While the grant funds will be used to purchase the CSX ROW from Station Road to Route 20, the match-funded activities will include legal costs to acquire the right-of-way, confirm clear title, clear brush from the right-of way, and level the path surface so it can be used in the near term as a recreational trail for walking, running, off-road bicycling, nature exploration and wildlife viewing. These services are estimated to total \$44,500 and will ensure the trail can be used in the near term for walking, running, off-road bicycling, nature exploration and wildlife viewing.

The Sudbury Department of Public Works (DPW) and volunteers will create the path. Brush clearing will be done with hand and small power tools. There are no trees greater than 2 inches in diameter and no large areas in need of fill or excavation. The width of the clearing will be approximately 8 feet, while the width of the path will be approximately 5 feet, sufficiently wide throughout to permit pedestrian traffic to pass in both directions. Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail will organize volunteers to help clear brush. We will also reach out to potential service partners, such as Boy Scout Troops, to broaden community participation. The DPW will utilize a small excavator and skid steer to remove the roots of the cleared vegetation and level the path. The surface material of the new path will be determined in consultation with the Conservation Commission, as the path is in wetland buffer zone/upland resource area. It may be a wood chip or stone dust path.

In the future, the east-west Mass Central Rail Trail (on a MBTA corridor), another major regional rail trail, could intersect with the BFRT, opening accessibility to more residents and recreational and commuter opportunities. The opportunity to create an intersectional crossing of two regional recreational trails, the CSX/BFRT and the Mass Central, is a unique opportunity that warrants governmental support at all levels. Acquisition of the ¼ mile of CSX would provide a gateway to two major regional trails, potentially the largest contiguous recreational trail system in Massachusetts. A possible future connection with the Assabet River Rail Trail via the Mass Central Rail Trail is also on the drawing board.

The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail has enjoyed broad community support in Sudbury for the past 5 years. Completion of the BFRT, including the CSX section were among the goals adopted by

the Board of Selectmen in December 2017. The Town's Master Plan and Open Space Plans include creation of the BFRT and acquisition of the CSX-owned corridor as priorities. Sudbury Town Meeting voted for BFRT design funding 3 times over the past 4 years. The Town's Community Preservation Committee has also supported the project. In the coming years, the Town is committed to completing the design of the BFRT and working with partners to acquire the rest of the CSX corridor to the Framingham line. The town is not aware of any opposition to acquiring the ¼ mile of CSX right-of way.

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**PART II: Narrative** – Limit to 3 typed pages. Address the following questions. Do not forget to read and integrate the RTP grant selection criteria into your narrative (see page 8 of this packet). Remember to be direct, comprehensive and as brief as possible.

**Include:**

1. Provide a clear summary of the specific tasks to be accomplished during the course of the project, including both grant- and match-funded activities. This should directly reflect your budget and should point out the specific tasks of the project; where the work will take place (trail names, nearest road names, intersections), what will be accomplished (new trail construction or maintenance, surfacing materials, types of drainage structures, etc), how it will be accomplished (specific tasks and tools that will be used), and by whom. **DO NOT GENERALIZE** - be straightforward and concise with this summary.  
*\* Please keep in mind that the waiting period between the grant deadline and the actual grant award can be nine months or longer and projects must be planned accordingly.*
2. Describe how your project fulfills a recognized recreational or social need. Describe the need in place-specific terms and how this project will address that need. If the need has been documented through a planning exercise or other means (such as a trails assessment, management plan or open space & recreation plan) briefly describe the documentation as it directly relates to the project. Do not include the actual documents themselves – just describe in this section of the application.
3. Describe the range of trail uses/users that the project will actively facilitate, and how.
4. Describe how this project connects to and enhances the Massachusetts, regional and/or local trail system.
5. Describe the outreach to the community and stakeholders which has been conducted for this project. Describe any support and/or opposition your project has from the community. Identify any partnerships that will be formed among trail users, organizations, agencies, and others.
6. Include any additional information, not listed above, as to how your project meets the program criteria listed in the guidelines (see page 8 of this packet)

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**Part III: Standard Budget Form** - Please round to whole numbers. Alternative budget forms are acceptable provided they show a similar breakdown in budget items

1. **Total Project Value:** \$ 144,500

2. **Grant Amount Requested:** \$ 100,000

Federal share of project not including match. Total from tables in A and B below.

3. **Proposed Match Amount:** \$ 44,500

Must be at least 20% of the total project value. (Calculate funding request amount by 0.25 and you will come up with required match). Total from tables in A and B below.

A. **Cost of Personnel Time:** \$

For employee or consultant time, the hourly rate is the rate at which they will be paid. Fringe can be incorporated into the total. If volunteer time, use the latest Massachusetts estimate for the value of non-skilled adult volunteer time found at [http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer\\_time.html](http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html)

Please note, since the link above was broken, we used the data at this link

<https://independentsector.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Value-of-Volunteer-Time-by-State-2001-2016.pdf>

Person	# hours needed	Hourly rate	Total \$ amount applied to <u>grant</u>	Total \$ amount applied to <u>match</u>
Sudbury DPW	416 hrs	25 /hr	\$ 0	\$ 10,400
Legal services	45 hrs	135 /hr	\$ 0	\$ 6,075
Planning and Permitting.	85 hrs	70 /hr	\$ 0	\$ 5,950
Adult volunteer	180 hrs	29.88 hr	\$ 0	\$ 5,378
Totals	hrs	-----	\$ 0	\$ 27,803 (call it \$27,500)

(Extend table as necessary)

B. **Cost of Materials/Services:** \$

Includes materials, equipment, tools, and contracted services. Must be based off of estimates or price quotes from vendors and contractors, or from donations if being applied to the match. This can also include equipment rentals, where "unit" is actual time (hours, days).

Material/Service/ Contractor	Unit	Number of Units	Price per Unit	Total \$ amount applied to <u>grant</u>	Total \$ amount applied to <u>match</u>
Purchase Trail Corridor			\$	\$ 100,000	\$
Materials and Disposal			\$	\$	\$ 7,000
DPW Equipment Use			\$	\$	\$ 10,000
-----	-----	-----	Totals	\$ 100,000	\$ 17,000

(Extend table as necessary)

Note about Match: Since you are preparing your application prior to starting the project, the values of match contributions will probably be estimates. If your project is selected for a grant, the match will need to be documented with invoices, proof of payments, time sheets, site inspection, etc., as with federal fund reimbursement. The documented value of the match must equal at least 20% of the total of each reimbursement request.

All purchases **MUST BE PAID IN FULL** in order to be reimbursed (no financing or partial payment/plans permitted).

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**PART IV: Specifications**

**These questions will be important in the environmental approval process. Answer every question listed on this page and be thorough with your answers. This information will be filed directly with the various regulatory agencies.**

**1. Provide a project summary, including specific tasks to be accomplished (this can be taken directly from question #1 in the narrative, but do not include the entire narrative):**

The Town of Sudbury seeks \$100,000 dollars to fund the purchase of and trail creation on an approximately ¼ mile section of the northern extent of the CSX railroad right-of-way in Sudbury. While the purchase is only for a quarter mile of trail it will, as part of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) in 2024 (or sooner), result in continuity of approximately 20 miles of rail trail corridor reaching from Chelmsford to a new gateway at Route 20 in Sudbury. Prior to construction of the Sudbury section of the BFRT and as soon as the CSX purchase occurs, the Town is committed to creating an unpaved recreational trail in this section for near term use.

While the grant funds will be used to purchase the CSX ROW from Station Road to Route 20, the match-funded activities will include legal costs to acquire the right-of-way, confirm clear title, clear brush from the right-of way, and level the path surface so it can be used in the near term as an unpaved recreational trail for walking, running, off-road bicycling, nature exploration and wildlife viewing. These services are estimated to total \$44,500 and will enable the recreational trail to be utilized for walking, running, off-road bicycling, nature exploration and wildlife viewing.

**Historic/Cultural Resources:** Any projects that receive funding from federal agencies must be reviewed in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. This legislation requires projects to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, and afford the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) and federally recognized tribes the opportunity to review and comment on the project.

2. To the best of your knowledge, is your project near any historic or archaeological resources? Yes    No  X  
If yes, describe the resources and how you will attempt to minimize and/or mitigate any effects that project tasks could have on those resources. Note, please continue to next question, regardless of your answer here.

3. Will your project involve any (even minimal) excavation or soil disturbance?                      Yes  X                      No  
If yes, describe the extent of excavation (depth, width, length), the exact location of the work (\*enclose a map with these locations identified clearly) and the machinery or tools that will be used.

**Soil disturbance and excavation will be minimal throughout the corridor to accommodate removal of roots and leveling of the path. We estimate that we will create a 5 foot wide pathway. Any soils to be disposed of offsite will be sampled for hazardous materials and disposed of appropriately. The trail creation will be subject to review and permitting by the Sudbury Conservation Commission. Equipment to be used will be of a smaller scale, such as a mini-excavator and skids steer.**

**Wetland Resources:** Any projects located within or adjacent to wetlands must be reviewed by the area Conservation Commission which will also trigger NHESP review. If you are unsure if your project is located within a wetland or resource area, contact the area Conservation Commission directly for guidance.

4. Will the project occur within 100ft of a wetland or 200ft of a stream?                      Yes  X                      No  
If yes, describe the activity occurring within this wetland resource area. Has the project been reviewed by the Conservation Commission yet? How will you attempt to minimize and/or mitigate impacts to the wetland? Will there be any permanent impacts? Include any official communication with the Conservation Commission.



**The trail construction project will require an Order of Conditions from the Sudbury Conservation Commission. No formal review has been conducted to date. Avoidance and minimization of impacts to wetlands resource areas will be prioritized. Impacts will be limited to buffer zone and upland resource areas. We have discussed the project with the Conservation Director and anticipate the specific surface material of the trail will be selected with input from the Commission.**

**Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program:** If the project is located within priority habitat for endangered species, it will need to be reviewed by NHESP and a separate filing may be required before grant work begins.

5. To the best of your knowledge, will the project occur within Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife and/or Priority Habitats of Rare Species, according to MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage Atlas? (available at [http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/PRI\\_EST\\_HAB/viewer.htm](http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/PRI_EST_HAB/viewer.htm) or by hard copy from the Conservation Commission or Planning Board of each town) Yes No  X

**Other:**

6. Will your project involve any bridge construction, rehabilitation, or replacement? Yes No  X  
If yes, describe the activity and provide construction specifications, including the depth and width of soil excavation, width and length of the bridge, type of tools and equipment to be used, etc.
7. Will the project occur within a Massachusetts Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)? Yes No  X  
If yes, please identify which ACEC and any impacts the project will have on the designated area.
8. Will your project occur near or adjacent to an existing Superfund site? Yes No  X  
If yes, please identify and describe the site and any impacts (positive or negative) the project will have on it.

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**PART V: Supporting Materials**

1. Provide a clearly labeled USGS topographic LOCUS map(s) showing the specific location of the project.
2. Provide additional maps as needed using various imagery and data to provide project location details including existing conditions and proposed work.

**See attached maps and photos.**

3. Provide pictures of the project location. Include as many as are necessary in order for the reviewers to have the ability to assess the project conditions. Be sure to clearly label each picture and provide a description of its context as it relates to the project.

**See attached maps and photos.**

4. Provide any pictures, plans, drawings, or specifications of proposed structures to be built (bridges, boardwalks, kiosks, signage, platforms, trail drainage structures, culverts, etc.). **None**
5. If proposing an equipment purchase, provide a picture of the equipment and three quotes from separate regional vendors. For all equipment purchases, see **PART VI for additional required information that must be submitted for this application to be considered for a grant award. Also, see #6 below.**

**No equipment purchase anticipated.**

6. **BUY AMERICA:** If proposing to buy a piece of equipment or construction supplies that are made with any steel or iron, this activity will fall under the U.S. DOT Buy America provision – see <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/contracts/bas182.cfm>. Steel or iron must be purchased from a U.S. source in order to comply. Please indicate that you are aware of this requirement and will be in compliance.
7. Provide a realistic time-line for completion of the project, including both grant- and match-funded activities. Projects contracts are awarded for a period of approximately 2 years after the grant award has been made.  
*\* The waiting period between the grant deadline and the actual grant award is, on average, about NINE MONTHS. Please keep this in mind while planning the project and developing your timeline.*

**Project Timeline:**

Activity	Timeline
Grant Decision	November 2018
Negotiations with CSX	March 2018- June 2019
Appraisal and Due Diligence on property	March 2018- June 2019
Acquire property	June 2019
Environmental Permitting	Summer 2019
Site work, Trail creation	Fall 2019
Project Completion	December 2019

8. If you are proposing a project that will take place on land that is not owned or managed by your organization/agency, you must include a signed statement from the landowner or manager authorizing the project and ensuring “continuing public access.” If there is a Conservation Restriction (CR) on the parcel, the CR holder must provide written authorization for the project as well. If the project will take place on private land, you must provide proof that an easement for public access is in place prior to the award, or comparable landowner permission documentation. **Not applicable.**
9. If you are proposing a project involving land acquisition, you must submit an appraisal of the land to be acquired, and a review of the appraisal by an independent review appraiser. The review appraiser must certify that the appraisal meets the standards of the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions, found

at <http://www.usdoj.gov/enrd/land-ack/>. Projects involving land acquisition must also conform to the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, 42 U.S.C. § 4601 et seq., as amended, found at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/realestate/ua/index.htm>. These regulations apply to evaluating the acquisition of real property and any potential displacement activities. If you need clarification for these requirements, please call or e-mail: (413)586-8706 ext. 19, or [amanda.lewis@state.ma.us](mailto:amanda.lewis@state.ma.us)

**We understand a new appraisal is not needed at this time. The valuation of the portion of the trail to be acquired is based on a 2016 appraisal of the full 1.25 miles of CSX corridor in Sudbury. For this acquisition, we will meet the required standards and regulations for appraisal.**

10. Provide copies of any permitting that has already been obtained directly related to the proposed project. Permitting is not a requirement at the time of submitting the project application. However, permitting for wetlands, endangered species and historical/prehistoric resources will be required before any project work is authorized and before any reimbursement will be issued. **No permits have been obtained thus far.**
11. **RTP Recognition:** Every project should include recognition of the RTP as a funding source. Indicate where and how this will be done. Suggestions for wording and logos are listed on the MA RTP website. **RTP recognition and logos will be included on the Town BFRT website as well as the signs at the entrance to the BFRT from Route 20 and near the MBTA ROW.**

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**PART VI: Equipment Purchase Request Information Supplement**

**Please answer each question listed below for ALL proposals to purchase equipment with a value of \$3,000 or more. This is REQUIRED in order to be considered for a grant award.**

1. Three bids **MUST** be solicited for all equipment purchases with a value of \$3,000 or more. If the equipment is used and available through only one specific vendor, provide two other estimates based on a newer but similar piece of equipment. Attach three quotes to this application or explain why three quotes could not be obtained. If the winning bid was not the lowest bid, explain why.
2. Where and how will this equipment be stored during both the winter and summer seasons?
3. Is this equipment replacing an older piece of equipment that was purchased using RTP funds? If so, what is the plan for that piece of equipment's disposal/re-allocation?
4. If proposing to purchase accessories, justify each individual addition with an explanation.

**If this request is to purchase Trail Grooming or Maintenance Equipment, please answer the following additional questions:**

**Club or Organization Information:**

5. If applicable, what is your total club/organization membership count?
6. What is the estimated daily use of the section of trail that the equipment will be grooming/maintaining? Please *describe* the amount of use if you do not have hard numbers for this.
7. How many **total** miles of trail does your club or organization groom/maintain? Please indicate how many of these miles are corridor/main trails and how many are secondary/spur trails. Please also indicate if the responsibility for grooming/maintenance is shared with another organization or club, their name, and how many of those miles are shared.

**Equipment Request Information:**

8. Please explain why your organization/club needs this piece of equipment and for what type of trails it is best suited (i.e. flat main corridor trails versus mountainous secondary spurs).
9. Please provide a map highlighting the approximate trails that the proposed equipment will impact. Include specific reference to and clearly differentiate between **corridor/main trails** and **spur trails**.
10. Please indicate the club/organization's current inventory of grooming/maintenance equipment. Will this piece of equipment replace an older piece, or will it be an addition to the fleet? Are all pieces of equipment being utilized? If not, then why?

## Recreational Trails Program Project Selection Criteria and Requirements

To evaluate and select proposals for grant awards, DCR and the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board will use the following criteria to assess the proposal. A successful proposal:

- Clearly demonstrates the need for the project, such as satisfying a recreational demand, connecting under-served communities, or solving a significant trails issue.
- Furthers one of the goals or strategies identified in *Commonwealth Connections* ([www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/greenway/connections.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/greenway/connections.htm)), or an adopted regional or local plan.
- Describes a realistic, tangible trails project that can be accomplished in the time given. Has a realistic and appropriate budget.
- Creates, expands or enhances a trail system or trail linkage, with real and lasting public benefits.
- Thoroughly considers relevant environmental, social and cultural issues, and minimizes or mitigates impacts to natural and cultural resources, addressing all applicable permitting issues.
- Creates partnerships among trail users, organizations, or agencies.
- Demonstrates community support for the project.
- Actively facilitates a variety of compatible trail uses.

In addition to the standard criteria considered above, all grant projects *must* comply with the following:

- **Accessible Trails/Facilities** – A trail or trail facility must be constructed as accessible according to accessibility standards as defined in the U.S. Forest Service “Trail Accessibility Guidelines”. Any new trail construction must be built as accessible to the extent feasible. Any trail facility/structure must comply with accessibility standards whether or not it is built on an existing accessible trail (leading up to or away from the structure). See the Guidelines document at ([http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility/FSTAG\\_2013%20Update.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility/FSTAG_2013%20Update.pdf)).

In addition to the standard criteria considered above, all grant projects are *encouraged* to include the following, where applicable:

- **Youth Corps/Volunteers** – enlisting and/or partnering with youth in the community or organized youth corps/groups (i.e. SCA, Boy Scouts, Green Team) to work on part or all of the project components. Note that hiring/contracting of a youth corps does not require the standard 3-bid process. Youth Corps can be hired directly without obtaining three quotes.

## List of Attachments

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Locus Maps

Photos of Trail Corridor

Letters of Support

1. State Senator Mike Barrett
2. State Senator Jamie Eldridge
3. State Representative Chris Walsh
4. State Representative Carmine Gentile
5. Travers Mauldin, CSX Regional Manager, Real Estate and Facilities Management
6. Tom Michelman, President, Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail
7. Leonard Simon, Vice Chair, Sudbury Board of Selectmen
8. Melissa Rodrigues, Sudbury Town Manager

## Locus Maps

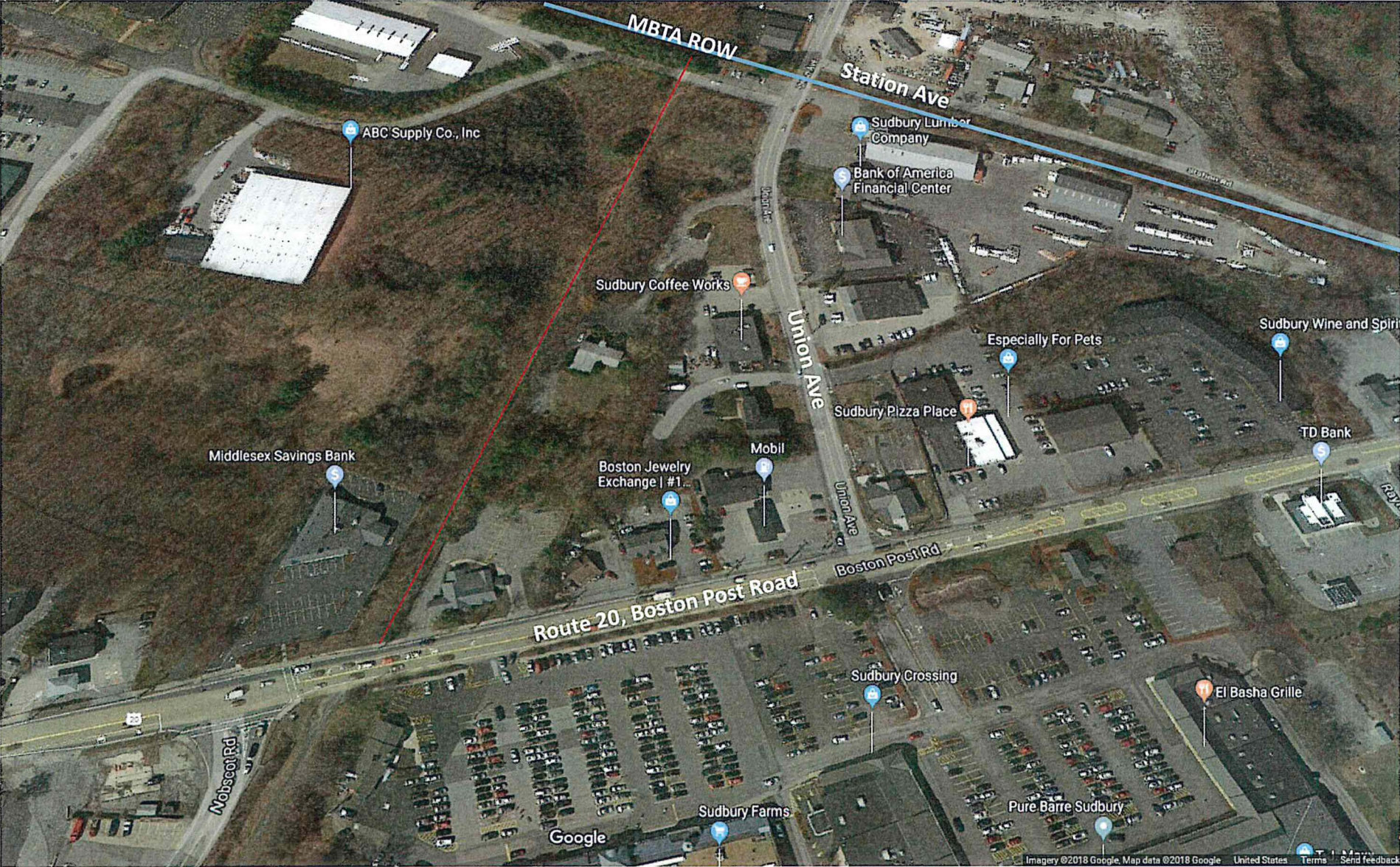
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Map 1: Locus Map  
Sudbury Proposal for Acquisition of CSX Corridor  
Approximately ¼ mile from Station Ave. to Route 20  
Project area shown by red line.

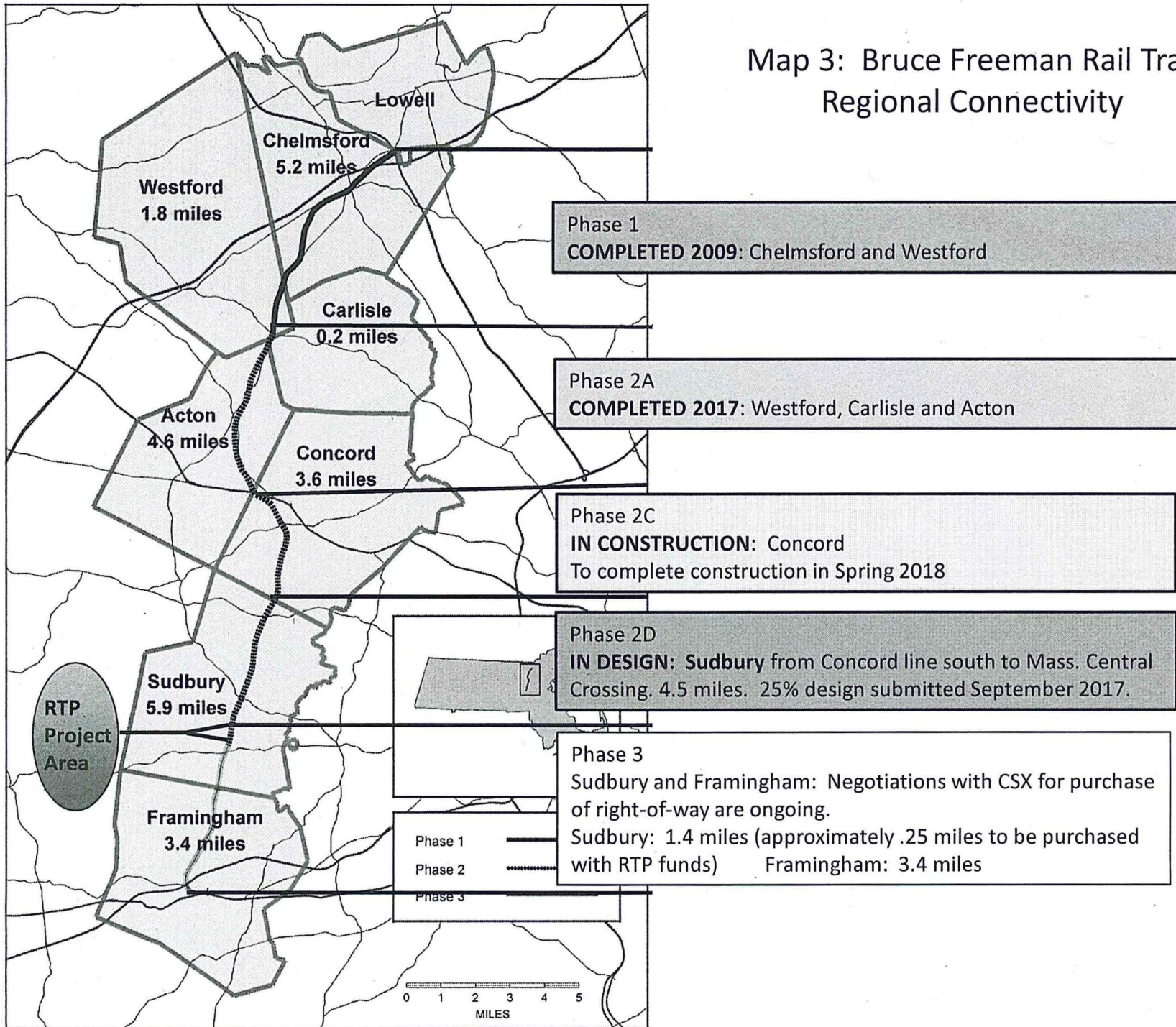




Map 2: Sudbury Proposal for Acquisition of CSX Corridor  
Approximately ¼ mile from Station Ave. to Route 20  
Project area shown by red line.



# Map 3: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Regional Connectivity



**Photos of Trail Corridor**

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Photo 1: Junction of the Proposed Bruce Freeman and Mass Central Rail Trails  
Sudbury, MA



Photo 2: CSX ROW from  
Junction with Proposed Mass  
Central RT, Northern Terminus  
of CSX Purchase RTP Project

Looking south at the start of the CSX  
ROW

Photo dates: February 2, 2018 (right) and May 2008 (below)

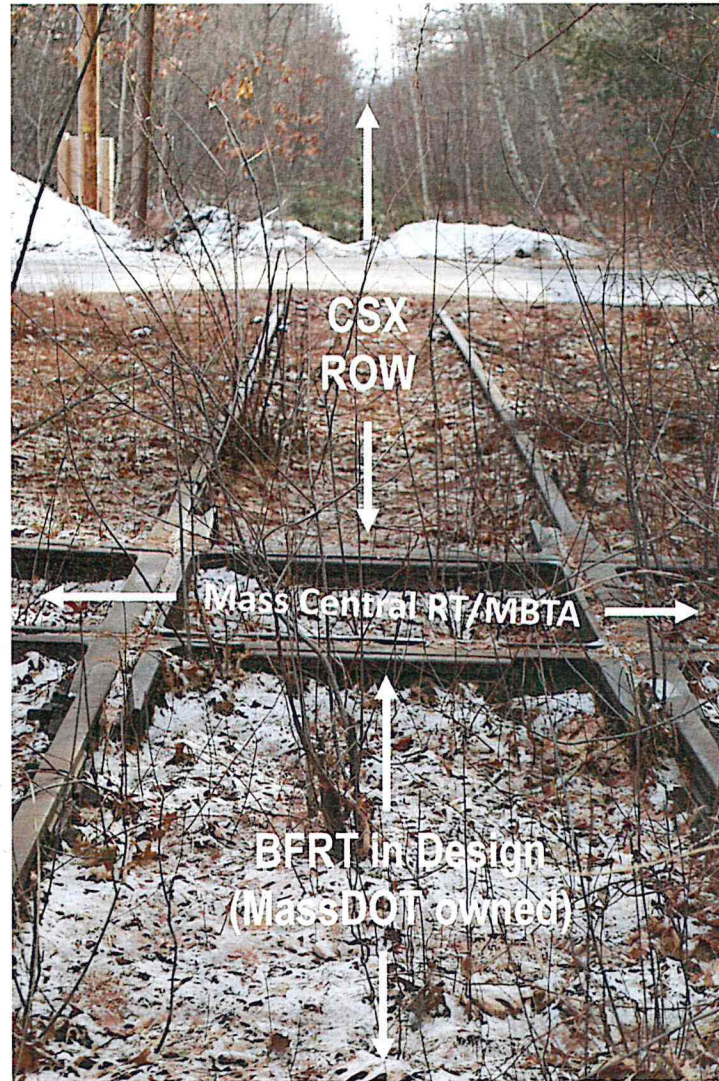
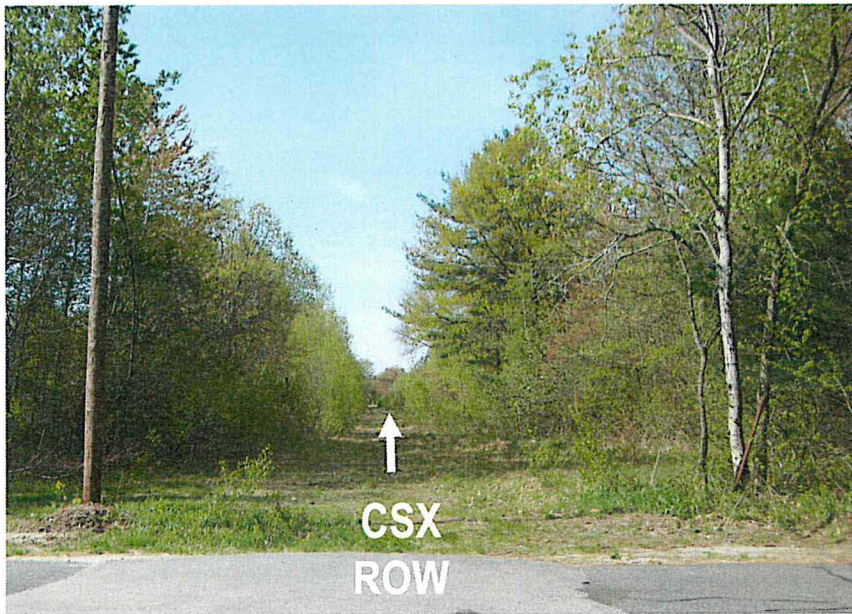


Photo 3: CSX ROW Junction with Route 20, Southern Terminus of CSX Purchase RTP Project



Photo 4: CSX ROW Looking North across Route 20;  
Southern Terminus of CSX Purchase RTP Project



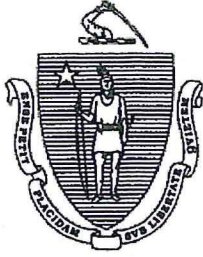
Photo date: February 2, 2018

## Letters of Support

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1. State Senator Mike Barrett
2. State Senator Jamie Eldridge
3. State Representative Chris Walsh
4. State Representative Carmine Gentile
5. Travers Mauldin, CSX Regional Manager, Real Estate and Facilities Management
6. Tom Michelman, President, Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail
7. Leonard Simon, Vice Chair, Sudbury Board of Selectmen
8. Melissa Rodrigues, Sudbury Town Manager





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR MIKE BARRETT  
Third Middlesex District

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 416  
BOSTON, MA 02133-1054  
TEL. (617) 722-1572  
FAX. (617) 626-0898

Chairman  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, UTILITIES  
AND ENERGY

Vice Chairman  
ELECTION LAWS

MIKE.BARRETT@MASENATE.GOV  
WWW.MASENATE.GOV

February 8, 2018

Amanda Lewis  
Recreational Trails Program Coordinator  
Department of Conservation and Recreation  
136 Damon Road  
Northampton, MA 01060

Dear Ms. Lewis,

I'm writing to express my support for the Town of Sudbury's grant request for \$100,000 to be used to acquire a critical portion of the CSX railroad right-of-way as part of the planned extension of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT). The extension connects the BFRT South to a commercial district on Route 20, giving trail users access to shops, supermarkets, banks, restaurants, and abundant parking. Grant funds will be used for purchasing the right-of-way, confirming a clear title, and clearing brush so the trail will be immediately open for walking, running, off-road biking, nature exploration and wildlife viewing.

As the State Senator for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Middlesex District, I hope to see the BFRT stretch from Lowell to Framingham. With an extensively connected trail system, constituents like my wife (who frequently bikes to work) can reach their destinations safely without using carbon-emitting vehicles. This encourages people to help the environment while maintaining an active lifestyle.

Thank you for considering our community for a Recreational Trails Program Grant. Please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of my staff at [mike.barrett@masenate.gov](mailto:mike.barrett@masenate.gov) or 617-722-1572, if you have any questions or seek additional information.

Sincerely,

Senator Mike Barrett  
3<sup>rd</sup> MIDDLESEX DISTRICT



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

**SENATOR JAMES B. ELDRIDGE**

*Middlesex and Worcester District*

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 320  
BOSTON, MA 02133-1053  
TEL: (617) 722-1120  
FAX: (617) 722-1089

JAMES.ELDRIDGE@MASENATE.GOV  
WWW.MASENATE.GOV

*Chairman*  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

*Vice Chairman*  
COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AND SMALL BUSINESSES

*and*  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GLOBAL WARMING  
AND CLIMATE CHANGE

DISTRICT OFFICE  
225 MAIN STREET, ROOM 106  
MARLBOROUGH, MA 01752  
TEL. (978) 460-8564

February 12, 2018

Amanda Lewis, Coordinator  
Recreational Trails Program  
Department of Conservation and Recreation  
136 Damon Road  
Northampton, MA 01060

Dear Ms. Lewis,

I write to express my strong support for the Town of Sudbury's grant request for \$100,000 to be used to acquire a critical portion of the CSX railroad right-of-way as part of the planned extension of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT). The extension connects the BFRT to a commercial district on Route 20, giving trail users access to shops, supermarkets, banks, restaurants, and abundant parking. Grant funds will be used for purchasing the right-of-way, confirming a clear title, and clearing brush so the trail will be immediately open for walking, running, off-road biking, nature exploration and wildlife viewing.

Thank you for your consideration of the Town of Sudbury's request for a Recreational Trails Program Grant. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff if you have any questions or need additional information.

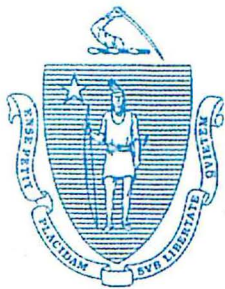
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James B. Eldridge".

James B. Eldridge

State Senator

*Middlesex & Worcester District*



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

HRIS WALSH, AIA  
REPRESENTATIVE  
6TH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT

Vice Chairman  
Joint Committee on Education

Committees:  
Economic Development and  
Emerging Technologies  
Public Service  
Financial Services

ROOM 473G, STATE HOUSE  
TEL. (617) 722-2070

February 5, 2018

Amanda Lewis  
Department of Conservation and Recreation  
136 Damon Road  
Northampton, MA 01060

Dear Ms. Lewis,

I am writing in support of the Town of Sudbury's Recreational Trails Grant Program application.

The Town of Sudbury is applying for this funding for the purchase of a quarter mile portion of the CSX right-of-way to add to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, which will eventually extend into the City of Framingham, which I represent in the Legislature.

The long term objective for both the Town of Sudbury and the City of Framingham is to acquire 5.5 miles of the CSX right-of-way in Sudbury and Framingham to extend the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is a good example of how access to right of ways can be developed as community assets in the form of trails. This trail has a demonstratively positive effect on the surrounding communities.

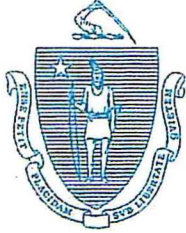
As the founder of the Legislative Trails Caucus, I have often thought of ways to expand our current trails and believe that this grant would help the Town of Sudbury to do just that.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Representative Walsh's office at 617-722-2070 or [chris.walsh@mahouse.gov](mailto:chris.walsh@mahouse.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris Walsh".

Chris Walsh  
State Representative  
Sixth Middlesex District



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
House of Representatives  
State House, Boston 02133-1054

CARMINE L. GENTILE  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
13TH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT  
SUDBURY • MARLBOROUGH  
WAYLAND • FRAMINGHAM

Committees:  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Joint Committee on Health Care Financing  
Joint Committee on Housing  
Joint Committee on Elder Affairs

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 167  
TEL. (617) 722-2810  
Carmine.Gentile@MAhouse.gov

February 13, 2018

Amanda Lewis  
Department of Conservation and Recreation  
136 Damon Road  
Northampton, MA 01060

RE: Sudbury – Recreational Trails Program Grant Application

Dear Ms. Lewis,

I write to express my support for Sudbury's application for \$100,000 as a grant from the Recreational Trails Program. Their short-term objectives contribute to the local community, while their long-term aims reap benefits for a variety of Massachusetts residents across the region.

In accordance with the Program's aims to construct community rail trail projects and improve existing recreational trails, Sudbury is currently attempting to complete the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT). Approving Sudbury's grant application would be a successful first step in advancing the development of this this popular and long sought recreational trail.

At this time the southern end of the BFRT would terminate at a small cross street in Sudbury, Station Road. By bringing the end of the trail one quarter of a mile further south to Rt. 20 and the heart of downtown Sudbury, it will be more visible, accessible, and convenient for all who use it. In addition, this project would immediately allow greater access to this area and the businesses who call it home.

This quarter mile is the 'missing link' needed to bring the BFRT to the natural terminus of Rt. 20 until the entire BFRT can be completed. Even when complete, I firmly believe that this location will remain a major access point and landmark for the entire rail trail.

Thank you for your serious consideration of Sudbury's application.

Sincerely,

Carmine L. Gentile



February 13, 2018

Amanda Lewis  
Department of Conservation and Recreation  
136 Damon Road  
Northampton, MA 01060

Dear Ms. Lewis,

I am writing on behalf of CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) to express our support for the Town of Sudbury's Recreational Trails Program grant application to acquire the northernmost section of CSX's right-of-way in Sudbury. I am the Regional Manager for CSXT Real Estate and Facilities Management and would be working with the Town to process the sale.

The CSXT corridor stretches northward from the intersection with the MBTA corridor into the City of Framingham. CSXT has acknowledged their interest in selling the entire corridor to the Towns of Sudbury and City of Framingham for many years under a Notice of Interim Trail Use (NITU). This NITU transaction would allow for the Towns to convert the property for use as a recreational trail, while still maintaining the corridor for possible reactivation for railroad purposes and allow CSXT to fulfill their common carrier obligation, if ever needed, or "rail banking" the corridor. While CSXT would ideally convey the entire corridor with a single transaction, we understand that involves a higher level of funding for the Towns to secure. Taking this into consideration, CSXT is open to selling the corridor in up to 4 segments starting from the north to the south. This would allow CSXT to maintain the continuity of the entire rail banked corridor. CSXT intends to sell the property at a yet to be determined market value and is not interested in any type of donation or bargain sale offer.

CSXT is hopeful that a sales agreement can be reached for the entire corridor or in 4 smaller segments from north to south, beginning with the northernmost segment in Sudbury. We view the approval of the grant application would be beneficial in allowing the development of this recreational trail.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Mauldin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Travers Mauldin  
CSXT – Regional Manager – Real Estate and Facilities Management



## Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

P.O. Box 1192  
Concord, MA 01742  
[www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org](http://www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org)

February 11, 2018

Amanda Lewis  
Department of Conservation and Recreation  
136 Damon Road  
Northampton, MA 01060

Dear Ms. Lewis,

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (FBFRT) in support of the Town of Sudbury's Recreational Trails Grant Program application to purchase of a quarter mile portion of the CSX right-of-way.

The section to be purchased runs north-south from the CSX intersection with the MassCentral corridor at Station Road southward to Route 20. Connecting northward from this quarter mile section is 20 miles of stated owned right-of-way that is currently sections of the BFRT that are completed and in use (Phase 1 in Chelmsford and Westford), under construction (Phases 2A & Phase 2C in Westford, Carlisle, Acton and Concord), or being designed (Phases 2B & 2D in Acton, Concord and Sudbury).

While all the above the right-of-way is controlled by the MassDOT the FBFRT, with its 500 dues paying members, and 4000+ supporters, would relish the opportunity to support the clearing, building, and maintenance of a section of the trail a la our brethren at the Wachuetts Greenways.

To that end we are currently working to extend the BFRT northward into Lowell (ultimately connecting to the Merrimack River). Of course, our other long-term objective is to extend the BFRT south by supporting acquisition of the CSX right-of-way in Sudbury and Framingham.

The benefits of extending the trail to Route 20 include:

- Including a specific destination at the southern terminus (in this case the Sudbury Crossing shopping plaza);
- Ample parking at the shopping plaza; and,
- Momentum to engage CSX in actual sale of the right-of-way

Please support this grant application and extend the great resource of the BFRT. And please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Tom Michelman - President Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail  
[www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org](http://www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org)  
[tmichelman@gmail.com](mailto:tmichelman@gmail.com) 978-580-6190 (m)

**LEONARD A. SIMON  
40 MEADOWBROOK CIRCLE  
SUDBURY, MA 01776**

February 6, 2018

Amanda Lewis  
Department of Conservation and Recreation  
136 Damon Road  
Northampton, MA 01060

Dear. Ms. Lewis:

I am Vice Chair of the Sudbury Board of Selectmen. I am writing in support of the town's grant application to the Recreational Trails Program for \$100,000 to acquire ¼ mile of the CSX right-of-way to extend the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) to Route 20 in Sudbury.

At this time the section of the BFRT to be constructed in the near future terminates at Station Road because the rail line south of that point is owned by CSX. A terminus at Station Road makes accessibility to the rail trail difficult because there is no parking at that location and it is not served by a walkway. Bringing the southern terminus ¼ mile south to Route 20, a major thoroughfare in the heart of the commercial district, via the CSX right-of-way would increase accessibility and enhance safety. There is abundant parking and a walkway along Rt. 20. It is a natural stopping point for the recreational rail trail.

Within Sudbury the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is a multi-facility connector because it runs close to parks, schools, playgrounds, athletic facilities, houses of worship, town center, and the safety campus. Design of 4.8 miles of the BFRT in Sudbury is well underway and the project is on the TIP.

North of Sudbury the BFRT has been built or is under construction in five towns for more than 15 miles. Connectivity with those towns would be greater by bringing the southern terminus to Rt. 20.

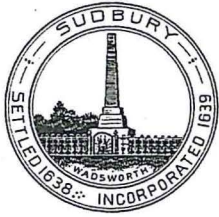
Where constructed, the BFRT is well used for recreational activity, e.g., walking, running, roller blading, dog walking, and bicycling. The sections under construction in Carlisle, Acton and Concord are also being accessed, even though they are not officially open. Clearly, the need is there for this regional recreational trail amenity.

Town meeting and the Board of Selectmen have consistently supported the Sudbury section of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, including the CSX portion south of Station Road. In December 2017 the Board of Selectmen renewed its commitment by voting the BFRT/CSX project as one of its goals.

Very truly yours,

Leonard A. Simon





**TOWN OF SUDBURY**  
*Office of the Town Manager*  
[www.sudbury.ma.us](http://www.sudbury.ma.us)

278 Old Sudbury Road  
Sudbury, MA 01776-1843  
978-639-3381

Fax: 978-443-0756

Email: [townmanager@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:townmanager@sudbury.ma.us)

Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues, Esq.  
Town Manager

February 14, 2018

Amanda Lewis  
Department of Conservation and Recreation  
136 Damon Road  
Northampton, MA 01060

RE: Sudbury Application for Recreational Trails Program Grant

Dear Ms. Lewis,

I am writing to support the Recreational Trails Program application to acquire the northern quarter mile of the CSX-owned corridor in Sudbury to link the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) segment currently in design to Route 20. We are pleased to submit the application requesting \$100,000 from the grant. The Town offers significant in kind services estimated to be valued at \$44,500 to conduct due diligence associated with the purchase and creation of a near term unpaved recreational trail until the BFRT in this section may be designed and constructed.

The Town has demonstrated tremendous support for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail in Sudbury. It has been consistently supported at Town Meetings and by the Board of Selectmen as well.

We believe the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail will be a popular and well-used amenity not only for Sudbury residents, but for the wider community, as it is part of a regional transportation network-- especially with the addition of this section connecting it to Route 20. The BFRT will connect schools, parks, recreation areas, houses of worship, municipal facilities, and commercial areas.

With the significant advancement last year of the inclusion of the initial section of the BFRT in Sudbury, Phase 2D, on the FFY 2018-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Town now looks to acquiring the CSX corridor to complete the southern extent of the BFRT in Sudbury. This purchase of the first quarter mile through this grant will demonstrate the Town's ability to work with CSX and to make the rest of the acquisition of the corridor a reality.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [rodriguesm@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:rodriguesm@sudbury.ma.us) or 978-639-3385 or Beth Suedmeyer, BFRT Project Manager, at [suedmeyerb@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:suedmeyerb@sudbury.ma.us) or 978-639-3363, if you have any questions or seek additional information.

Sincerely,

*Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues, Esq.*

Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues, Esq.  
Town Manager