



Town of Sudbury

Planning & Community Development Department

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To: Sudbury Residents and Businesses
From: Marcia Rasmussen, Interim Rail Trails Coordinator
Re: **Update on Sudbury Rail Trail Projects**
Date: Late Summer 2026

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase 2D – from the Concord town line south to Union Ave.

- MassDOT has signed off on the construction of BFRT Phase 2D and has turned maintenance responsibility over to the Town of Sudbury, with the exception of handicapped access issues over the access ramp and plaza at the Broadacres Farm parking lot on Morse Road. Pending remediation work in this area later in the fall, MassDOT District 3 should be in a position to schedule a formal opening of the trail.
- With additional work anticipated in the Broadacres Farm plaza, the sculpture commissioned by the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is currently being stored in Sudbury awaiting final installation in the plaza.
- Concerns about the coordination and timing of traffic signals at the intersection of Peakham and Hudson Roads continue to occur periodically. Since responsibility for the traffic signals have been transferred to the Town, Public Works Director Tina Rivard recommended a corridor study of Hudson Road to determine what follow up is needed regarding the signal timing.
- Reports from residents and drivers of pedestrians and bicyclists not stopping or activating the crossing signals/flashing beacons at busy road intersections along the BFRT continue to be of concern. The Rail Trails Advisory Committee, working with the Police Department and a graphic consultant, designed additional 'yard' signs that have been installed along the trail alerting people to be safe and be seen by pressing the flashing beacon signal.



Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase 3 Design – from Union Ave. south to the Framingham line

- Fuss & O'Neill has been working on the 100% Design Plan package for BFRT Phase 3 over the summer, incorporating information provided by the RTAC regarding trail crossings and connections along Phase 3. Included in this package is a handicapped accessible side ramp/path to allow people to view the cattle pass under the former railbed near the Framingham/Sudbury town line and a new parking lot and trailhead on Nobscot Road.
- Fuss & O'Neill expects to submit the plans to the Sudbury Conservation Commission later this fall for review and Order of Conditions.
- The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the federally mandated policy-making body in the U.S. responsible for regional transportation planning and funding in the Boston area. The MPO recently approved full construction funding for this project in the latest Transportation Improvement Program for federal fiscal years (FFY) 2027-2031.

Mass Central Rail Trail

- A ribbon cutting celebrating completion of the Mass Central Rail Trail in Sudbury and Hudson was held at the “Diamond Intersection” with the BFRT on Thursday, July 16th. The trail is open for use.
- With limited parking available for the MCRT (recent improvements at the “Diamond Intersection” formalized 9-10 parking spaces), members of the Rail Trails Advisory Committee (RTAC) have been in discussion with the owners of land with frontage on the Chiswick Park driveway about possible use for additional rail trail parking. This parking would be created for use by trail users of both the MCRT and the BFRT.
- Reports from residents and drivers about bicyclists crossing local streets without slowing or stopping for vehicular traffic have been on the rise. The Town is reaching out to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation about future actions that may be necessary to improve safety at street crossings.
- The next phase of the MCRT, extending the trail from its current end point near Landham Road easterly to connect with the MCRT in Wayland Center, is in design. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2028.

Working with the Rail Trails Advisory Committee (RTAC)

- The RTAC has worked with the Sudbury Commission on Disability to sponsor/host an accessible biking programs on the BFRT with the group “All Out Adventures”. The Commission received additional funds in 2026 to provide more events, which have been staged at the Broadacres Farm parking lot.
- The RTAC was granted funds from the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail for the installation of two handicapped accessible restrooms. One is located at the Broadacres Farm parking lot and the other is at the “Diamond Intersection” with the MCRT.
- Members of the Sudbury Cultural Council attended an RTAC meeting this past summer to discuss the Council’s hope to install additional artwork along the BFRT. RTAC members were very encouraged by the discussion.
- Rail Trail etiquette and courtesy has been a topic of discussion at recent RTAC meetings, with the Committee considering ways to educate and encourage courteous behavior by all trail users.