

**Town of Sudbury
Bruce Freeman Rail Trail
Environmental & Engineering
Assessment Report**

Public “Kick-off” Meeting

June 15, 2006

Meeting Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Rail Trail Conversion
Advisory Committee
Update
- Presentation
- Workshop
- Conclusion



Meeting Goal



- Prioritize the issues most important to residents in advance of preparing the Assessment
- Use the ideas, comments and concerns raised to help guide this study effort

Assessment Report

- ROW Corridor
- Use of ROW
- Existing Conditions
- Road Crossings
- Connections
- Bridges
- Trail Design
- Special Design Considerations
- Contamination Issues
- Stormwater Management
- Mitigation Measures
- Trail Access & Parking
- Environmental Resource Areas
- Implementation Plan

Rail Trails

- A rail trail is a shared use path created along a former railroad right of way
- According to the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy:
 - Open: 1,396 rail trails for a total of 13,361 rail trail miles
 - Under development: 1,200 rail trails for a total of 14,168 rail trail miles



Shared-Use Paths

- Shared-use paths are often referred to as:
 - Rail trails
 - Linear Parks
 - Bikeways
 - Bike paths/trails
- Used for recreation, commuting and/or local travel
- Physically separated from motor vehicle traffic

Recreation

- Rail trails can be designed to accommodate a variety of users including:
 - Walkers, runners
 - Hikers
 - Bicyclists
 - Inline skaters
 - People with disabilities
 - Cross-country skiers
 - Equestrians



Transportation

- Rail trails accommodate non-motorized modes of travel
- Local travel to:
 - Schools
 - Neighborhoods
 - Town facilities
 - Shopping areas
- Commuting to work



Railroad History

- 1870** Rail line chartered as the Framingham and Lowell Railroad
- 1880's** Sold at foreclosure and reorganized into the Lowell & Framingham Railroad and subsequently merged into the Old Colony Railroad
- 1969** Penn Central acquired the rail line and renamed it the Lowell Secondary
- 1970** Penn Central declared bankruptcy
- 1976** Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) took over operations of key Penn Central lines, but did not acquire the Lowell Secondary
- 1970's** Commonwealth of Massachusetts EOT subsidized service between South Sudbury and Chelmsford Center
- 1982** Freight service suspended due to lack of rail traffic
EOT purchased the rail line to preserve the corridor for other public uses

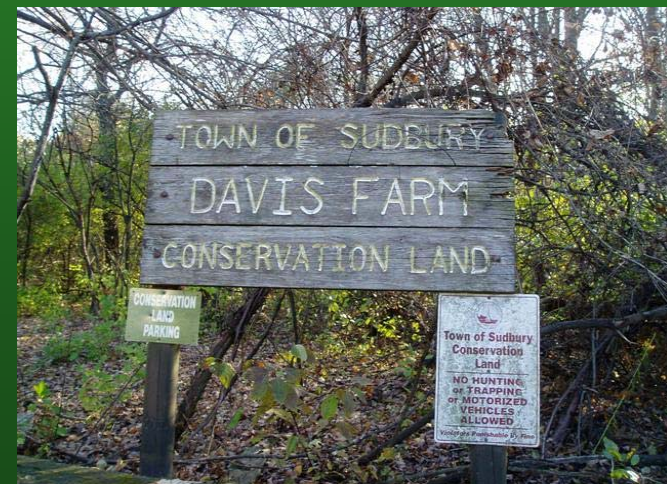
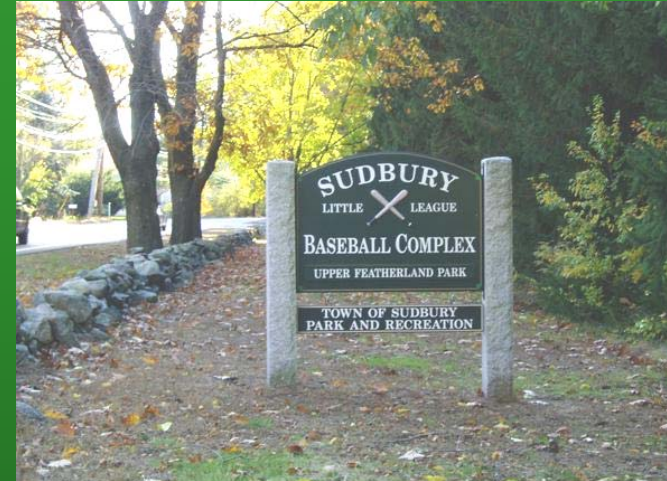
Location

- North to south railroad corridor
- Corridor crosses 7 roads:
 - Route 117 (North Road)
 - Pantry Road
 - Haynes Road
 - Morse Road
 - Route 27 (Hudson Road)
 - Old Lancaster Road
 - Codjer Lane



Location

- Travels adjacent or near to:
 - Frost Farm Conservation Land
 - Davis Farm Conservation Land
 - Davis Field
 - Barton Farm Conservation Land
 - Featherland Park
 - John Nixon Elementary School
 - Ti-Sales Fields
 - Sudbury Town Center



MassHighway Design Guide

- Design guidelines for shared use paths:
 - Most commonly designed for two-way travel
 - 10 foot minimum width for a two-directional path
 - 8 foot reduced width may be acceptable given severe site constraints
 - 6 foot minimum width for a one-way shared use connector path



Surface Material

- Hard or soft surface options
- Surface must be firm, stable, and slip resistant to meet accessibility requirements
- Selection based on various considerations:
 - Aesthetic
 - Contextual
 - Functional
 - Maintenance



Example Paths & Trails



Example Paths & Trails



Example Paths & Trails



Example Paths & Trails



Example Paths & Trails



Next Steps

June	Public “Kick-off” Meeting
Summer	Data collection, mapping and report preparation
September	RTCAC Public Information Meeting on survey results
November	Public Information Meeting on Assessment Findings
December	Submit final report to Town

Workshop Session

Break into smaller groups led by facilitator



Each group will discuss a set of questions



Ideas, comments and concerns discussed
will help guide the preparation of
the Assessment report

Other Comments

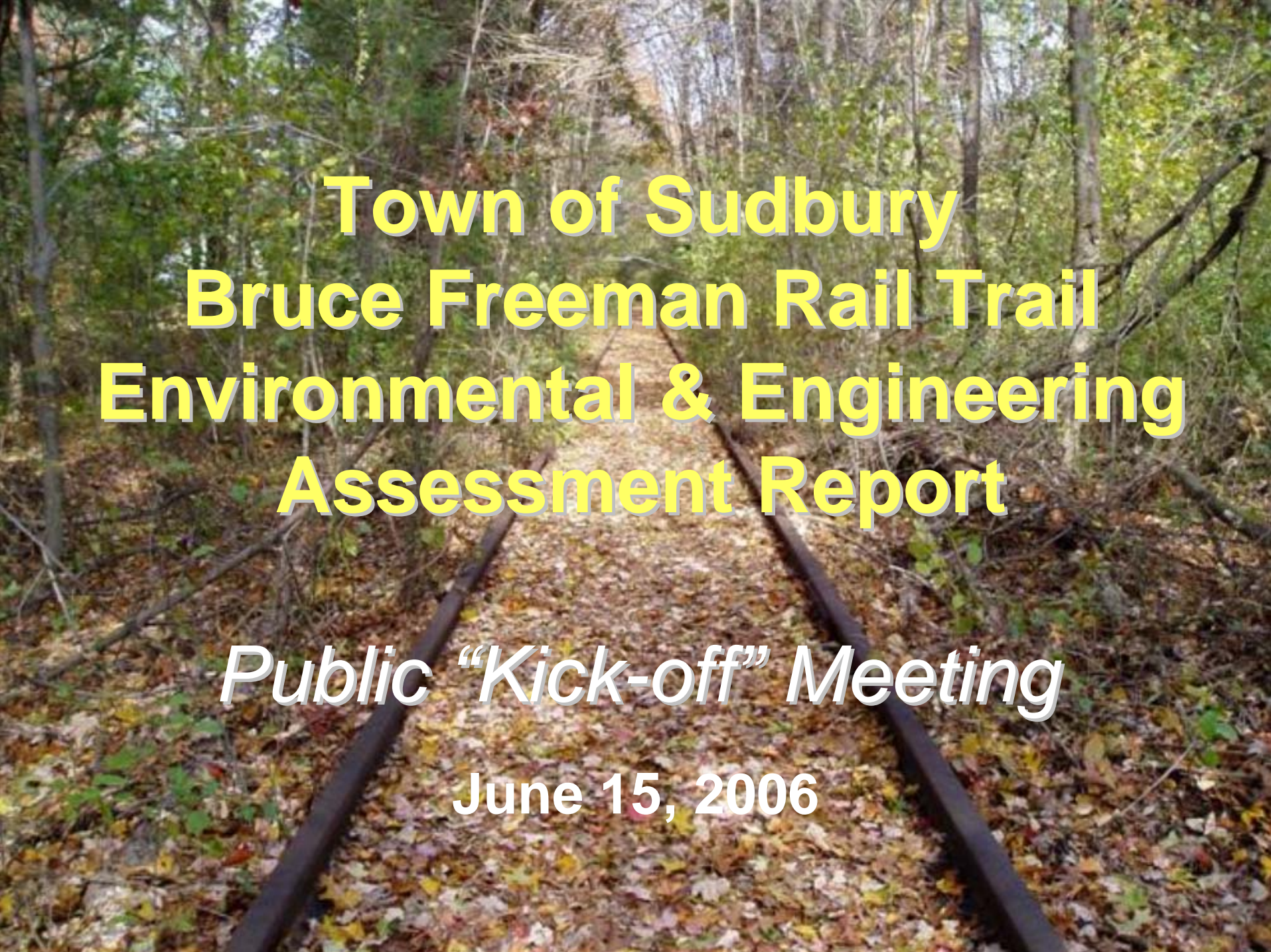
- Email comments to:

BFRT@town.sudbury.ma.us

- Mail comments to:

*Bill Place, Director of Public Works/Town Engineer
BFRT Comments
275 Old Lancaster Road
Sudbury, MA 01776*

Include your full name and address with correspondence



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