

*Recommendations:*

The Rail Trail Conversion Advisory Committee (RTCAC) approved four recommendations on September 25, 2008.

Recommendation 1: The RTCAC and BOS should listen to the concerns, together with possible mitigations, of all abutters--residents, farmers and business people--before and during the 25% design phase of the BFRT and convey that information to the responsible parties.

Recommendation 2: The Town should invite an expert, or experts, to come before the BOS to describe the complex and volatile funding process, or various aspects of it, and the design implications of the process in a public meeting or hearing.

Recommendation 3: Advise the BOS to view the BFRT (phases 2 and 3) in the context of other trail and transportation projects in Sudbury and surrounding towns, such as the Mass Central Trail and Town Center Improvement project.

Recommendation 4: The Town appoint a Town employee as a point person who will educate his/herself about rail trail issues in Sudbury, not limited to phase 2 of the BFRT, who would serve as a resource to Town government and the community and facilitate communication about rail-trail issues.

The RTCAC approved the following two additional recommendations on January 22, 2009.

Recommendation 5: The Board of Selectmen should obtain a clear understanding, in writing, from the Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) on the conditions under which the right of way can be converted. These include specifically a clear explanation of the extent of title verification the Town must provide and also a clear explanation of any trail design or use requirements which EOT requires as a condition for awarding a lease for the right of way. A explanation of these conditions should form part of the public hearings, since EOT's approval is critical to any planned trail.

Recommendation 6: Town staff should post on the Town website the results of Town Meeting articles pertaining to conversion of the corridor. These include the Preliminary Engineering Assessment by Fay, Spofford, and Thorndike (Article 43, 2005 ATM, already posted), the results of the title search (Article 22, 2007 ATM), the wildlife study (Article 23, 2007 ATM), and the field survey/wetlands delineation (Article 24, 2007 ATM) as they become available. If the complete results are too unwieldy to post, a summary explaining the results should be posted.