



Town of Sudbury

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Task Force

bfrt@sudbury.ma.us

Flynn Building
278 Old Sudbury Road
Sudbury, MA 01776
978-639-3387
Fax: 978-639-3314

<https://sudbury.ma.us/bfrt/>

MINUTES

November 17, 2022 AT 7:00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

Members Present: Chair John Drobinski, Laurie Eliason, Glenn Pransky, and Frank Vitale

Others Present: Director of Planning and Community Development Adam Duchesneau

Discussion on Fuss & O'Neill report on ¼ mile project options:

Sudbury has 2 options. We could design/build with a consulting contractor, or go through the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Transportation Improvement Program (MassDOT TIP) for construction costs (but we'd have to pay for all the design costs). Fuss & O'Neill suggested that going only to Route 20 (without the crossing) is too small a project for MassDOT to take on. It would likely have to include the Route 20 crossing as well to meet the requirement for a minimal TIP project. The TIP route could take 3-6 years, as opposed to 2 years for a Town-funded project.

We can get another Mass Trails grant, but this is a matching grant – we need to have Community Preservation Committee (CPC) allocated funds for FY24 that we are expending to get reimbursed by Mass Trails. The funding we are seeking from CPC does not at the present time include design or construction of the Route 20 crossing.

Dave Henkels asked questions for clarification. Does the construction include risk management standards whether or not MassDOT builds it? We don't know.

Questions on timing of current funding - CPC Article 48 and the Mass Trails grant from last year both have a sunset, in June 2023. The Town anticipates that all of the \$300,000 from this CPC allocation will be spent by then, and that will release the \$240,000 of the Mass Trails grant for expenditures.

If we obtain the \$300,000 CPC request from Town meeting in May 2023, we assume that the Town will then apply for another Mass Trails 80% match grant for FY24 – exact amount to be determined.

There was additional conversation about the pros and cons of the Town-funded vs the MassDOT-constructed approach; costs to the Town are higher for the Town-constructed

approach, but completion could be between 1.5 and 6 years earlier than going through the TIP process. We decided to continue discussion to another meeting, so we can collect more information from Fuss & O'Neill as they develop additional information on design and environmental issues. We need to provide a recommendation from the Task Force to CPC by mid-December.

MassDOT groundbreaking ceremony for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BRFT) – Adam attended a MassDOT BFRT project meeting, and one of the directors in District 3 said that they typically do only completion ribbon-cutting ceremonies, but would be willing to consider a groundbreaking ceremony in March 2023.

Administrative update: For the BFRT in Sudbury, the Select Board unanimously supported the concept of uniform rules signs (8 items), and town-specific kiosks.