

Article 52*

This article is to provide direction from you, the residents of Sudbury, to the Town Manager, town staff, town departments, and town boards and commissions;

To move as quickly as possible, to complete all designs, submit them to the state, and take all other actions needed to bring the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail to Sudbury.

*This article does not ask for any funding.

History of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

1987

33 YEARS AGO

In 1987 the Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) prepared a feasibility study for the Lowell – Sudbury Bicycle Path, currently known as the Bruce Freeman Trail. The objective of CTPS study was to determine if building a multiuse trail from Sudbury to Lowell along the abandoned rail right-of-way was viable, and what the short- and long-term costs would be.

The study concluded that it is feasible to construct a trail along the abandoned rail line. Since the completion of the CTPS study, the town has invested significant resources

1989

31 YEARS AGO

An Act creating the Bruce Freeman Memorial Bike Path was signed into law.

2004

16 YEARS AGO

Sudbury began planning for the rail trail

Every community that borders Sudbury, with the exception of Stowe, has designed and constructed a rail trail.

Acton	Assabet River Rail Trail
Concord	Bruce Freeman Rail Trail
Framingham	Cochituate Brook Rail Trail
Hudson	Assabet River Rail Trail
Maynard	Assabet River Rail Trail
Natick	Cochituate Brook Rail Trail
Wayland	Cochituate Brook Rail Trail

Residents of these communities have been enjoying the benefits and advantages of a rail trail for years.

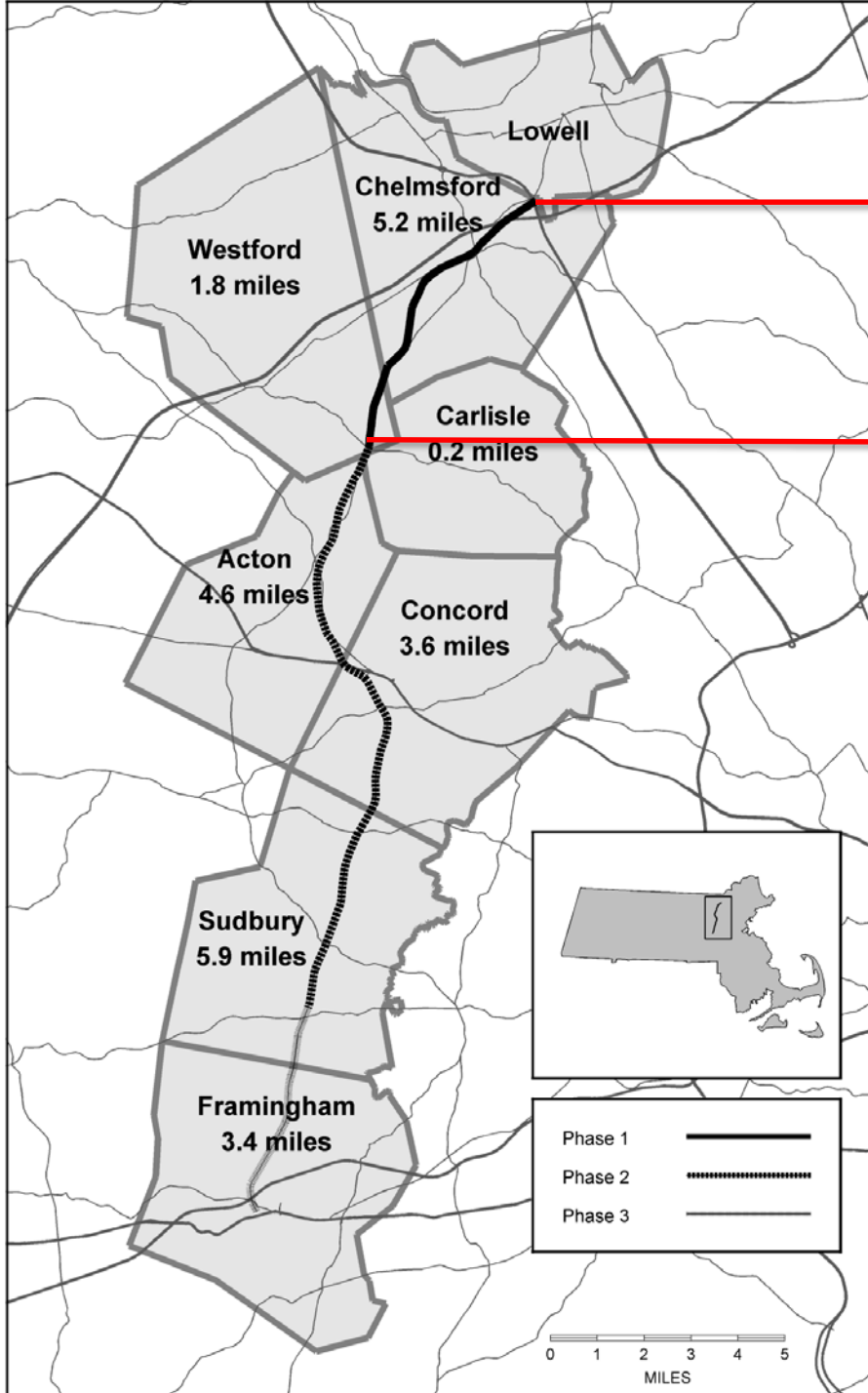
All six towns north of Sudbury on the **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail** were able to complete their designs and begin construction in the time allowed by the Mass. Dept. of Transportation.

1. Lowell
2. Chelmsford
3. Westford
4. Carlisle
5. Acton
6. Concord

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

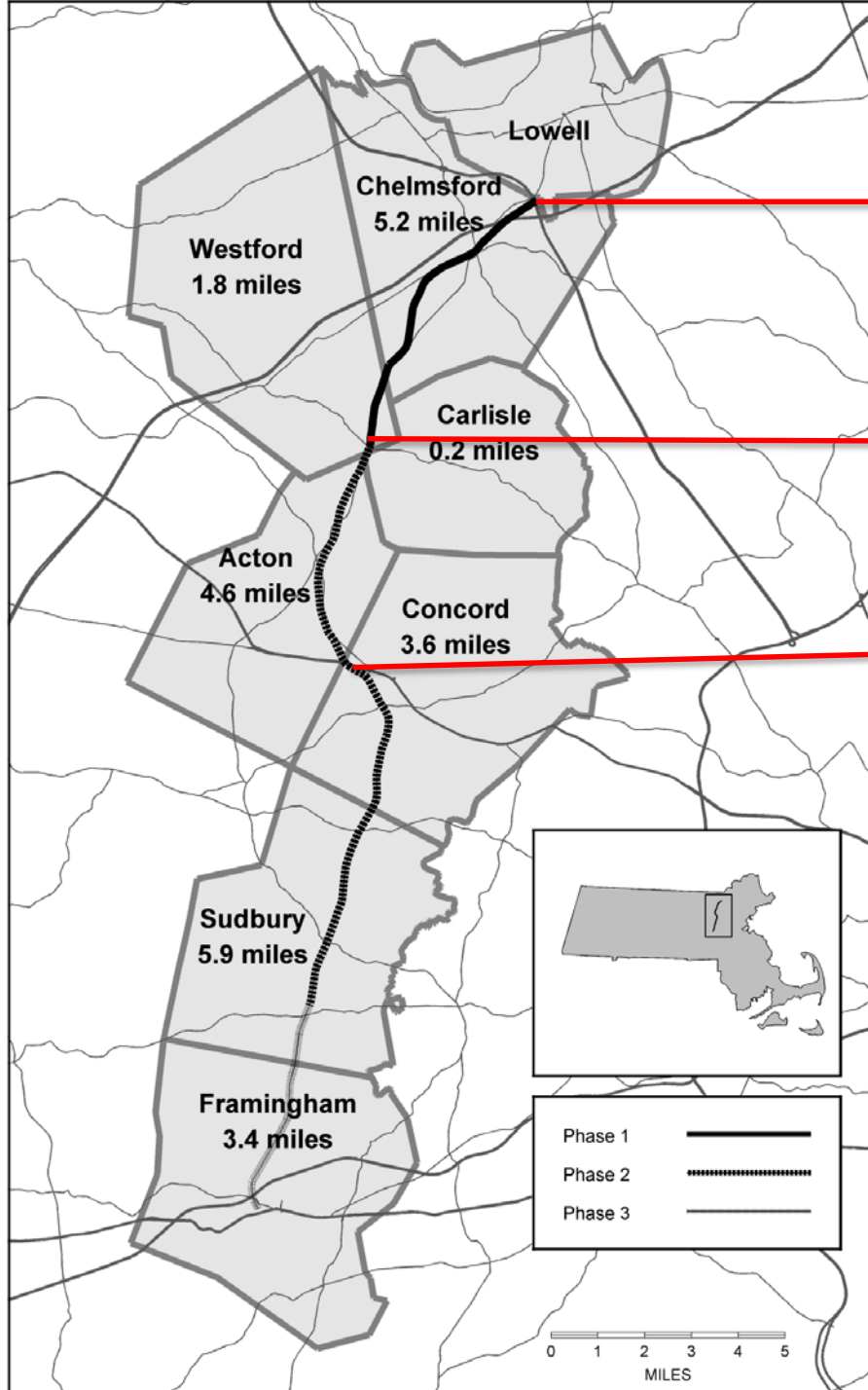
Seven Towns

Chelmsford and Westford
CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED 2009



Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

Seven Towns

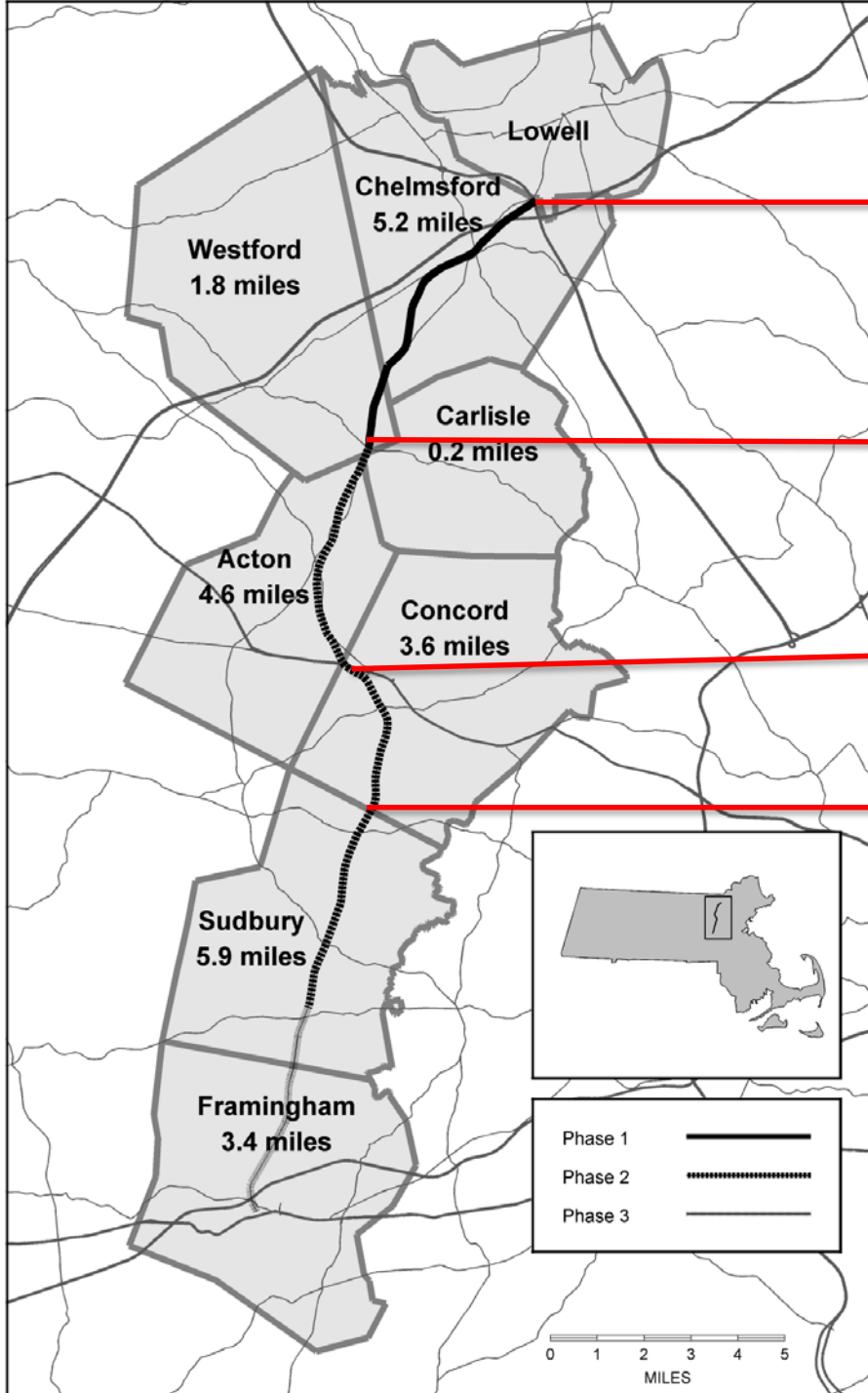


Chelmsford and Westford
CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED 2009

Westford, Carlisle and Acton
CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED 2017

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

Seven Towns



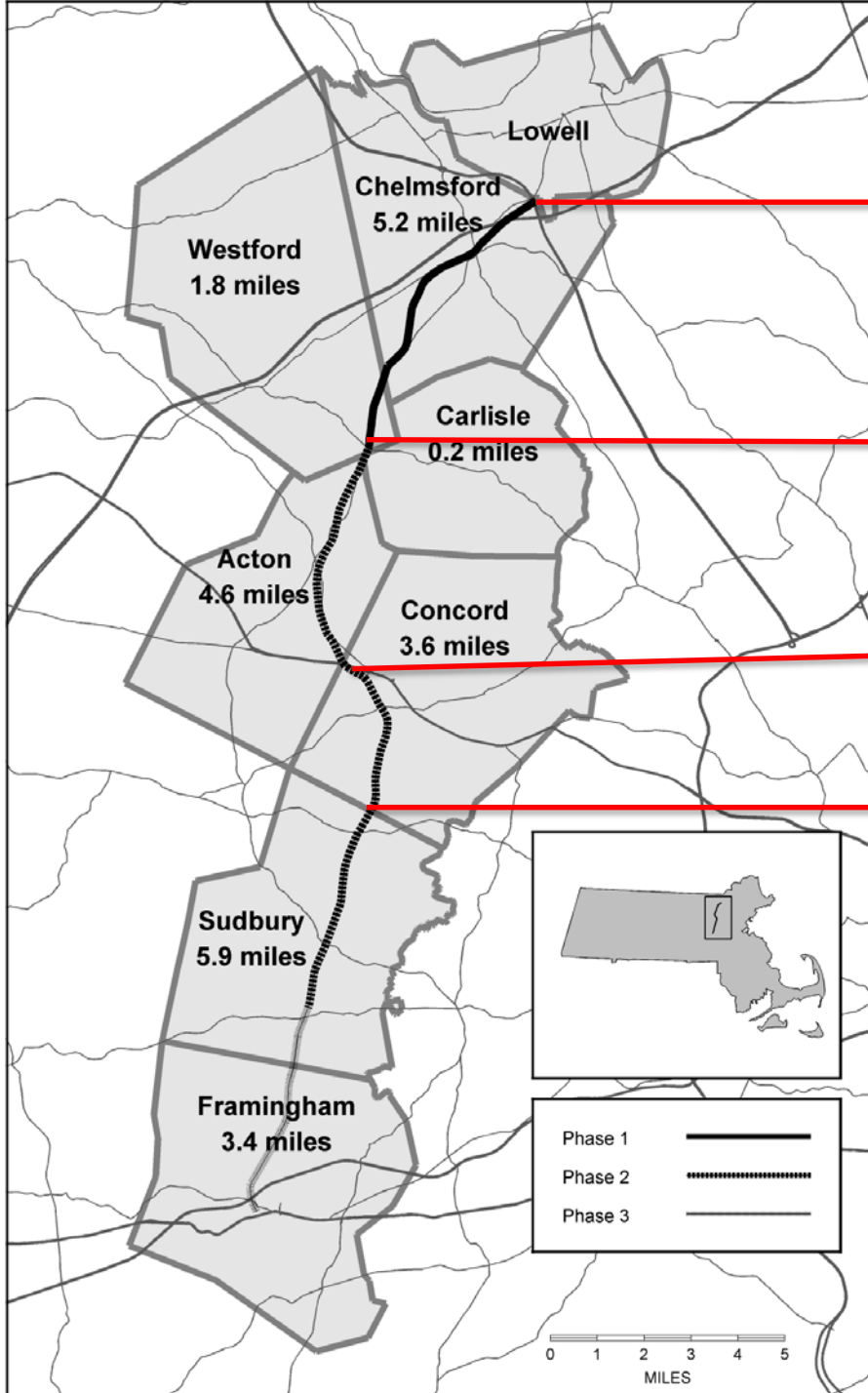
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Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

Seven Towns



Chelmsford and Westford
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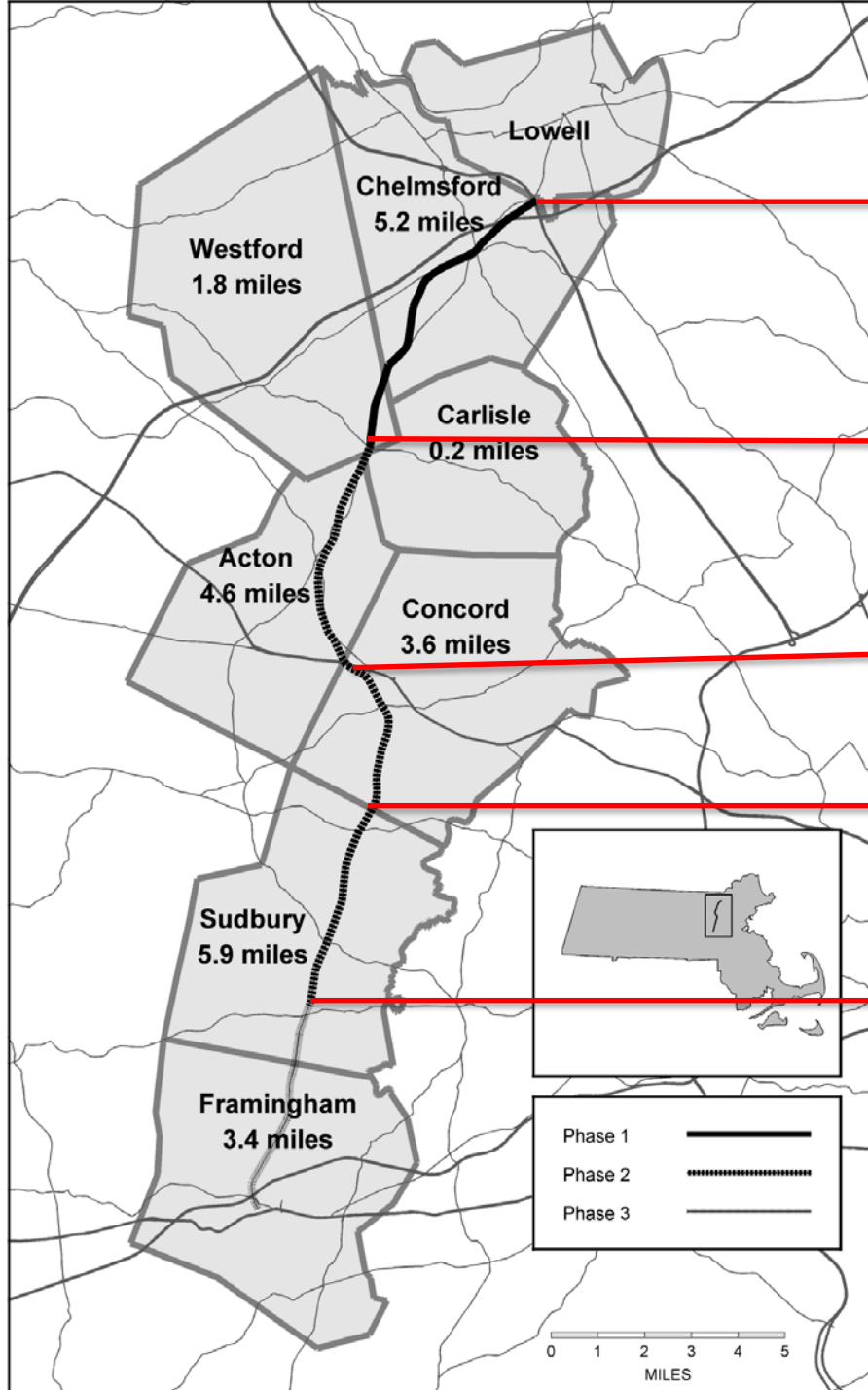
Westford, Carlisle and Acton
CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED 2017

Concord
CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED 2019

**All six towns completed
their designs and began
construction on schedule.**

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

Seven Towns



Chelmsford and Westford
CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED 2009

Westford, Carlisle and Acton
CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED 2017

Concord
CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED 2019

Sudbury:

- Design funded: 2014
- Design contract signed: 2014
- Placed on Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 2017
- **25% design was supposed to be completed by March 2017.**
- The 25% design was completed in August 2020.
- A section of the design south of Hudson Road is still not complete.

RAIL TRAIL CONVERSION

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 9, 2004 (16years ago)

The Board of Selectmen created the Rail Trail Conversion Advisory Committee (RTCAC) to provide a mechanism for the Town to examine the conversion of an existing unused rail line in Sudbury to a recreational path and alternative transportation corridor.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

Discussed in Sudbury since 2004, For sixteen years

- Board of Selectmen Goal since 2013
- Town Meeting voted funding and support *six* times (2008, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018)
- Ballot box support (2012)
- 2 separate town committees
 - Rail Trail Conversion Advisory Committee, 2004-2013
 - BFRT Design Task Force, 2017-2020
- 75-80 rail trail committee meetings
- Town forum (2015)
- Abutter meetings
- Meetings with design contractors
- Wildlife studies completed
- Environmental studies completed
- Careful evaluation by Sudbury Conservation Commission

FROM: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, Phase 2D in Sudbury:
TIP Programming Request Supporting
Documentation, February 14, 2017

“...votes taken by the Town residents at Town Meetings and the ballot box, by the Board of Selectmen, and by other committees have been strongly supportive of the BFRT. The funding of the 25% design and the 75% design has been approved each time it faced a vote. The Board of Selectmen, the Community Preservation Committee, and Town Meeting have continuously voiced and voted strong support. ***The Town’s votes for funding have outpaced actual progress on the design, an indication of how supportive and determined Sudbury is in making the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail a reality.***

“The most recent 25% Design schedule prepared by VHB indicates a 25% design submission to MassDOT in March 2017”
(See Appendices).

Days have rolled into weeks, weeks into months, and months into years.

- The initial design should have been completed by 2017.
(2 to -2 1/2 years)
- It took Sudbury SIX years.
- The final design must be completed in 2021 for the trail to start construction in 2022.

- The full cost of construction, over \$10,000,000, will be paid for with state and federal funds.
- That funding, and construction of the rail trail, will be in jeopardy if the final design is not completed in 2021.
- The pace of the final design will need to be greatly accelerated to meet the funding and construction schedule.

Date: July 6, 2020

Subject: Re: BFRT safety improvements at crossings

“...trail usage has increased exponentially during the past few months, and safety features on trails are being reevaluated in light of many more bicyclists and pedestrians than previously.”

Peter Sutton

Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Coordinator

Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Office of
Transportation Planning



The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail corridor, Sudbury, 2019.



Award winning Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, Concord, 2019.

This is what Sudbury will have when the design is completed and the trail constructed.

Asking for a 'yes' vote

- Get the designs completed quickly so the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail will be built on time.
- So that residents can use the rail trail.