

MINUTEMAN EXTENSION

On November 14, the Fall Special Town Meeting will vote to authorize the town to acquire clear ownership of the Reformatory Branch Trail. This the final step in a decades-long process to extend the Minuteman shared-use trail and provide access for all. Railbeds are unique resources that were built in populated areas and connected people to the places where they wanted to go. Similar railbeds have been converted into multi-use trails across the country and state. The project has been consistently supported by Town Meeting.

SAFETY Provides safe route for pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchair users, others to West Bedford and a Safe Route to School for BHS, JGMS, Lane

- Improves crossings at Railroad Ave., Hartwell Rd., and Concord Road (Rt. 62)
- Improves conditions on Railroad Ave. with new sidewalk and shared-use path, reducing flooding hazards
- Installs rails in otherwise dangerous areas such as the Mongo Brook crossing
- Creates stone dust shoulders to separate cyclists from walkers and runners

CONNECTION Makes neighborhoods, businesses, schools, conservation areas more walkable and bikeable

- Connects neighbors to neighbors, workers to their jobs, and kids to their schools and playing fields
- Links Bedford east to west, connecting people on the west side to Town Center, including MBTA bus stops
- Connects people on the east side of Bedford to businesses on the west side and to conservation areas
- Connects both ends of town to the library, Town Hall, playground, JGMS, BHS, and playing fields
- Links to the Narrow Gauge Trail, leading to shops, Springs Brook Park, Fawn Lake, and Lane School
- Connects to Minuteman, leading to Lexington, Arlington, and Cambridge, ending at MBTA Alewife Station
- Strengthens Bedford's position in the growing regional network of transportation alternatives

ACCESSIBLE, Inclusive Inclusive: Natural amenities, recreation, and active transit options available to all

- Supports users of all ages and abilities, including users of adaptive devices
- Provides a safe, affordable option for those who do not drive, and who may not have access to a vehicle
- Provides unpaved stone dust shoulders along 75% of the trail for those who prefer a soft surface
- Enables the trail to be usable for more of the year

ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH Takes cars off the road, reduces emissions, improves quality of life

- Supports active transit, replacing car trips, improving health with less congestion, less idling, less pollution
- Addresses drainage on Railroad Ave., increasing resilience to climate change impacts
- Skipping just one year of road resurfacing would offset asphalt carbon cost of project
- No Adverse Effect under Clean Water, Endangered Species, Historic Preservation Acts
- No portion of the proposed project is in Estimated Habitat of Rare Wildlife
- Meets the requirements of the Town's tree policy by replacing trees with 68 trees that are native to the area and climate resilient, and providing \$21,700 to tree fund to mitigate the loss of trees along the path
- Conservation Commission unanimously approved under the MA Wetlands Protection Act and Town of Bedford Wetlands Protection Bylaw
- Environmental Site Supervisor to ensure protection of resource areas, submit monthly progress reports

Utilities & Other Benefits Good for the town independent of above-described benefits

- Fixes Railroad Ave. with \$3.2M of state funding. As town road, it is not a good candidate for TIP funding, which prioritizes connectivity and greenways, on its own
- Ensures the Town has the necessary land rights to keep the trail open to all
- Assures access to maintain utilities, such as sewers and fiber optic lines
- Preserves our reputation as a serious partner to the state



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