

Suggested CPA Project: 25% design of the Waltham section of the Mass Central Rail Trail

Extent -- the section from Beaver Street to the Weston line that is included in the DCR lease from the MBTA. A paved, fully accessible trail, roughly 10 feet wide.

Survey work done by DCR to date has established the feasibility. Paul Jahnige from DCR has stated the following:

- We should further coordinate on Bridges, because DCR may be able to take that on, and we have a preliminary assessment document
- We have a defined and leased Right of Way
- We have done, areal survey and mapping (not ground survey)
- Preliminary GIS based wetland delineation (not field delineation)
- MEPA cert
- Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment and targeted soil sampling
- Basic encroachment identification
- We have articulated some basic design parameters

*John Diekman
representing the
Waltham Land
Trust (WLT) for
Design of the
Waltham Section
4/12/15*

The steps to get to a complete Waltham section of the MCRT:

- Complete the 25% design, a process that includes extensive public input, funded by Waltham CPA. A rough guess is that this will cost \$250,000 to \$300,000, similar to what 4 miles of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail 25% design is costing in Sudbury
- Complete the 100% design and obtain all necessary permits, making the project genuinely "shovel-ready" -- this step, which costs about as much as the 25% design can be funded by state/federal or by Waltham CPA. The latter would be faster.
- Construction, to be funded on the TIP, could be fairly quick, once the project is shovel ready

While the Land committee of the Waltham Land Trust is suggesting this as a high-value, cost-effective CPA project which will benefit a large number of Waltham residents, and we stand ready to assist with preparation of the application for CPA funding, we expect that the City of Waltham would be in charge of the project.

An example of this approach being followed successfully:

- Phase II of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, extending the original 7 miles in Chemsford (Phase I) another 7 miles through Acton and Concord
- Both Acton and Concord funded the 25% design with CPA funds.
- The remaining design cost was covered by the state
- Construction funding has been programmed on the tip for the 2014-2017 time period from statewide CMAQ funds