

Minuteman Bikeway Extension

Abutter Forum

September 13, 2022

Welcome!

- Participants
 - Please sign in with your name and address
- Agenda
 - Provide a project status update
 - Review the Right-of-Way (ROW) process and property rights
 - Q&A

Contact Bikeway@bedfordma.gov or (781) 918-4274
for individual property and appraisals questions.

What is the Minuteman Bikeway Extension?

- The Minuteman Bikeway currently ends at Depot Park near the intersection of South Road and Loomis Street.
- Extension would:
 - Continue the Minuteman Bikeway to just west of Route 62
 - Improve Railroad Ave, Hartwell Road, and Concord Road crossings
 - Create a paved 12-foot-wide shared use path along the Reformatory Branch Trail (the “Project”)
- \$11 million of state and federal money will be available for Bedford to make the project happen

What are the benefits of the project?

- Greater access: an improved shared use path for all ages and abilities
- Connections to neighborhoods, schools, and conservation land
- Improved road/trail crossings
- Railroad Avenue/Commercial Avenue improvements
- Infrastructure improvements

Existing Conditions



Reformatory Branch Trail Dimensions





Bruce Freeman Rail Trail





Railroad Avenue looking west with new shared use path and sidewalk



Overhead view of paved trail with stone dust shoulders



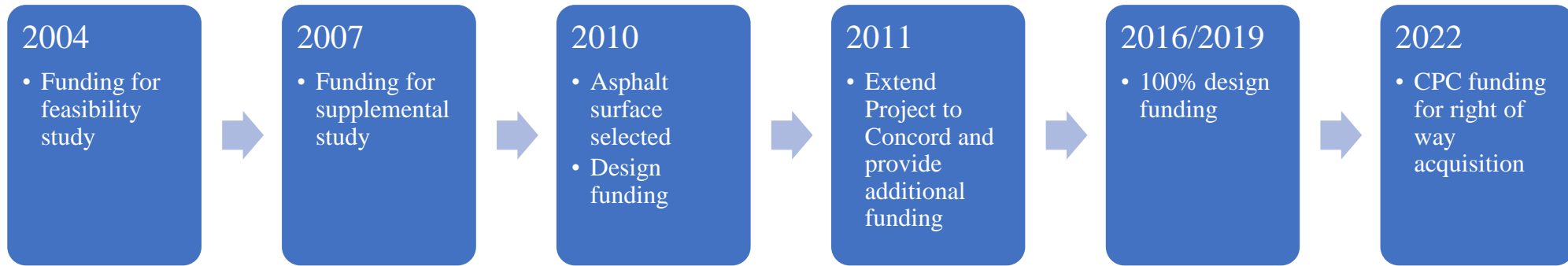
Lavender Lane parking area



**Concord Road parking area
and underpass**

How did we get here?

- **Town Meeting approvals**



- **Design plans**

- 2010 – 2020: Concept to 25% Design (RR Ave improvements, underpass under 62)
- 2020: 75% Design (Ramp west side of 62, Lavender Lane parking reoriented, stone dust shoulders)
- 2022: 100% Design (Lavender Lane parking lot size reduced, ADA ramp down to Evans Ave, additional replacement trees, abutter requests)

What happened in 2022?

- **March 2022 Annual Town Meeting**
 - Article 6-12 providing CPC funding PASSED (simple majority needed)
 - Article 11 authorizing the Select Board to use eminent domain to obtain land and easements DID NOT PASS (2/3 majority needed)
 - 60.7% of voters supported
- **November 2022 Special Town Meeting**
 - Town leadership has opportunity to address questions and provide updated information
 - Warrant article will seek same authorization for the Select Board to use eminent domain for land and easements

Where are we now?

- **Design**

- 100% design plans finalized and approved by Mass DOT
- Right-of-way (ROW) plans finalized
- Properties reappraised and notified
- All local, state, and federal permits approved

- **Funding**

- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)—federal/state
- Community Preservation—local

How does this affect me?

- The Town seeks to **acquire a portion of your property**
 - *Land in fee vs permanent easement vs temporary easement*
- Rights are acquired for **specific, enumerated public purposes**
- For this Project, property rights are acquired two ways:
 - The Town pays you the highest economic value.
 - You donate your property to the Town.

Questions?

What's next?

Community Forum

- Sept. 29,
7:00pm
- Town Hall,
Reed Room

Community Forum

- Oct. 17,
5:00pm
- Town Hall,
Reed Room

Special Town Meeting

- Nov. 14,
7:00pm
- BHS
Auditorium

Thank you!

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