



TOWN OF CONCORD

Planning Division

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MEMORANDUM

To: Community Preservation Committee
From: Elizabeth Hughes, Town Planner
Re: Assabet River Bridge & Trail CPA Application Update
Date: March 17, 2022

In 2020, the Town received \$250,000 in CPA funds, which were used as a match for a \$135,000 MassTrails Grant. These funds were used to hire an engineering consulting firm GPI, Inc., the consultant that is doing the work for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. GPI also partnered with La Dallman Architects, the consultant that worked with the Town on the public outreach and conceptual design consideration.

Based on community feedback on the conceptual architectural design, the trail approach and the bridge will be wide enough to accommodate pedestrians, bicycles, and appropriate emergency vehicles, utilizing a paved surface so that it can be used all year. The floodway in this location is 129 feet, but due to the changes in topography, the bridge approaches will be elevated. This elevated condition produces a desirable, gentle (non-aggressive) slope conducive to pedestrians and cyclists. The overall length of the trail from the commuter rail platform to the building at 300 Baker Avenue is approximately 1,000 feet.

CPA and MassTrail funds have allowed GPI to complete the wetland delineation, survey, and base plan, hydraulics analysis and report, submission of a Request for Determination to the NRC and the Geotechnical Investigation and Report. GPI and La Dallman have advanced the Design Project Development, which includes the architectural modeling, structural design, and civil plan development, design concept revisions, abutment locations, River overlook areas, structural framing alternatives, horizontal and vertical geometry, retaining walls and fill areas, structural design concept development. The remaining work as part of the 2020 CPA project is to finalize the Bridge Type Selection Report for submission to MassDOT.

There currently is remaining in the 2019 CPA funds \$86.10 and \$3,800 in the 2020 CPA funds. The Planning Division requests that these allocated funds remain available for the continued advance on the current design, permitting and development of final construction drawings.