From: Judith Sprott
To: publicinformation@bostonmpo.org
Subject: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail
Date: Tuesday, September 13, 2011 10:46:41 AM

Dear Chairman Mohler and members of the MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee:

I understand that once again we have an opportunity to comment on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. I have presented the following points in the past and I think it is important to say again that I oppose funding any further work on the proposed BFRT, especially in Concord, for the following reasons:

1. For Concordians, this trail essentially comes from nowhere and goes nowhere that anyone needs (or even wants) to go. Whether or not it will ever be accepted by Sudbury is not yet determined.

2. I live near White Pond and I am extremely worried about how cyclists will behave when they see such an inviting major kettle pond only 50 or so feet away. White Pond already has an abundance of nutrients causing accelerated eutrophication. White Pond is already a destination for fishing and other water recreations. Erosion and surface water run-off caused by visitors scrambling up and down the steep banks is a major source of these nutrients. The Town has made several major land acquisitions, which lie between the shoreline of the pond and the trail, but the Town cannot afford to monitor or maintain this land, leaving the pond vulnerable to unmanaged use of both land and pond. White Pond, despite its water quality problems, is in pretty good shape and is worth preserving.

3. I drive on Concord roads that do go where I need to go and I wish that they were safe for me and other cyclists. I would certainly support spending money to create true commuting and recreational opportunities along our arterial streets for all cyclists.

4. There are some serious unsolved problems for the trail in Concord and further south: the MBTA crossing in West Concord is a very large problem. There seems to be no solution that is safe, practical and won't cause unfortunate problems for West Concord. To the south, whether or not it will ever be accepted by Sudbury is not yet determined.

5. There are some important values to the existing rail corridor that will be compromised by making such a wide, paved road. [In fact, the proposed design would be wider and better paved than most of the streets around White Pond (and I'm not complaining about our streets, they are part of our history).] For example, the trail would pass through environmentally sensitive areas and impact the present

uses of the existing corridor by humans and wildlife (not any special species, but the ordinary plants and animals that are part of an ordinary neighborhood ecology).

6. I know that the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Trail speak with a loud, organized, well-funded voice, but there are many other voices in Concord that have serious problems with the proposed trail. Some of us wish that the trail would just go away. Others of us would at least like to see a design that adequately protects Concord from the worst impacts of such a trail.

Sincerely,

Judith Sprott
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