



Office of the City Manager
City Hall • 375 Merrimack Street • Lowell, MA 01852
P: 978.970.4000 • F: 978.970.4007
www.LowellMA.gov

Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

Kara Keefe Mullin
Assistant City Manager

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 14, 2021

Contact: Christopher Glenn Hayes
Department of Planning & Development
Neighborhood Planner
(978) 674-1405 | chayes@lowellma.gov

Construction Commences on Lowell Connector Trail Project

LOWELL, MA – The City of Lowell has announced that construction has begun on the Lowell Connector Trail Project, a multiuse path that will serve as a future connection between the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and the Concord River Greenway in Lowell.

The project will create a 1,200 foot long, 10 foot wide, paved asphalt path that will be fully accessible under Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The trail will run along Lowell's River Meadow Brook and take advantage of an underpass under the Lowell Connector highway, strengthening the connection between neighborhoods on both sides. The trail will incorporate an existing Outdoor Urban Art Gallery, as the underpass is a popular location for aerosol art, representing a unique aspect of the project that will attract well-regarded regional street artists. The trail would provide additional safety for the street artists and residents viewing the art, with the hope that the trail would become the first sanctioned aerosol art venue in Massachusetts.

Once fully completed, the Concord River Greenway and all phases of the Connector Trail will fill one of the last remaining gaps in the 200-mile Bay Circuit trail. The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail's northern terminus would be linked to the 5.2 mile system of downtown Canalway trails and the 50-mile Merrimack River Trail. This complete system will link residences and employment centers, and has been projected to take 2.3 million "vehicle miles travelled" off Lowell's roads, reducing the City's carbon dioxide by 1.12 million kilograms.

The project is a product of collaboration between the City, State authorities, and community organizations. It is supported by a grant from MassTrails, a program of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation; an earmark secured by State Senator Ed Kennedy; a gift from the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail; and capital funding provided by the City of Lowell. In addition, Lowell Parks and

Conservation Trust has pledged to assist in maintenance and public outreach related to the trail and its programming. Their first effort was a cleanup prior to construction partnering with the Lowell Litter Krewe. Easements for the trail were donated by Gervais Volkswagen and the Meadow Brook Shopping Center. The trail was designed by TEC, Inc., and is being constructed by Belko Landscaping, Inc.

Construction on the trail is anticipated to last roughly two months. Please direct any questions to Christopher Glenn Hayes, Neighborhood Planner, at (978) 674-1405 or chayes@lowellma.gov.



Underpass beneath the Lowell Connector that will be paved through Lowell Connector Trail Project.

###