

BORDER TO BOSTON TRAIL – NORTHERN SECTION
Towns of Boxford, Georgetown, Newbury and Salisbury, Massachusetts

Public Information Meeting #1

November 15, 2011 from 4:00 - 8:00pm
Lincoln Hall – 564 Main Street, Boxford, Massachusetts

What is the Border to Boston Trail – Northern Section project?

The Border to Boston Trail is a proposed trail system nearly 30 miles in length. The Northern Section will link eight Essex County communities – Danvers, Wenham, Topsfield, Boxford, Georgetown, Newbury, Newburyport, and Salisbury. Development of the Northern Section Trail is occurring in stages. Portions have already been completed such as the Clipper City Rail Trail in Newburyport, the Old Eastern Marsh Trail in Salisbury and the Linear Common in Topsfield. This specific Northern Section project proposes to connect the towns Boxford, Georgetown, Newbury, Newburyport, and Salisbury along a 19 mile, multi-community corridor. This project will utilize a combination of former railroad corridors, utility right of way, and local roadways to create a continuous regional corridor of local trail segments. The Border to Boston - Northern Section will help connect neighborhoods, town centers, schools, parks, recreational areas, scenic, historic and other cultural, economic, social and natural significance areas. When completed, it will provide safe, healthy, non-motorized transportation and recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.

What is the goal of this meeting?

The goal of this meeting is to provide the public with an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments/concerns at this early phase in the project. The information gathered will be considered as part of the design process. As the project advances, there will be additional Town and public outreach efforts.

What type of information will be included as part of the design?

The project is following a Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Highway Division design process and will adhere to state and federal design standards. A MassDOT process includes submissions at the 25%, 75%, 100% and PS&E (Plans, Specifications & Estimate) design levels. The 25% Design includes performing a detailed survey of the corridor including wetland resource delineation, establishing the horizontal and vertical alignment of the trail, and developing critical cross sections and other design details. Achieving the 25% Design level is an important milestone, but still represents an early phase of the project. As the project moves to more complete design phases, recommendations and decisions about trail design elements will be finalized. Environmental documentation will be prepared between the 25% and 100% Design phases in order to obtain the necessary permits/approvals.

How is this project being funded?

The design phase of this project is being funded using a combination of federal, state and local funds. Funding was appropriated under the Federal Transportation Bill, SAFETEA-LU of 2005. MassDOT and the Towns provided additional funds to support the design development process. The Towns will need to work with the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) to secure the necessary construction funding from state and federal sources for this project.

Where I can find out more information about this project?

For further information about the Border to Boston Trail – Northern Section, please visit the project website being maintained by the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC):

<http://mvpc.org/programs/transportation/border-to-boston-trail>

See reverse for more information

What is the project schedule?

The Border to Boston trail had been in the planning phase for over 15 years. In recent years, some Towns have prepared feasibility studies to further assess design issues while others have constructed sections of the trail. An implementation plan was published in 2007, by the Border to Boston ad-hoc coalition, to present a preliminary strategy for the project.

The tentative design schedule for this project is as follows:

June 2012	Submit 25% Design
November 2012	25% Design Public Hearing
February 2013	Submit 75% Design
March 2013	Public Information Meeting #2
June 2013	Submit 100% Design
October 2013	Submit Final Plans, Specs & Estimate

Where can I send my comments in follow-up to this meeting?

The MassDOT Project Manager can be contacted at the following:

Shawn Holland, Project Manager
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza, Room 6340
Boston, MA 02116-3973
Email: shawn.holland@state.ma.us
Phone: (617) 973-7242

Your local project liaisons can be contacted at the following:

Town of Boxford
Nancy Merrill, Chair, Boxford Border to Boston Committee
Email: nancymerrill@comcast.net
20 Cross Road, Boxford, MA 01921

Town of Georgetown
Jeffrey Wade, Chair, Georgetown RecPath Committee
Email: jwade@addinc.com
Town of Georgetown, Rec Path Committee, Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown,
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Town of Newbury
Martha Taylor, Town Planner
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Newbury Town Hall, 25 High Road, Newbury, MA 01951

Town of Salisbury
Lisa Pearson, Director of Planning and Development
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Salisbury Town Hall, 5 Beach Road, Salisbury MA 01952

Please include your full name and mailing address with correspondence.