

# Welcome!

RAIL TRAIL EXTENSION, FROM THE GALVIN MIDDLE SCHOOL  
TO LYNNFIELD / PEABODY TOWN LINE  
Lynnfield & Wakefield | Project File No. 607329

## DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Lynnfield Middle School  
March 19, 2019 | 6:30 PM

# Introduction

- Shahpar Negah, P.E., MassDOT Project Manager
- Linda Walsh - MassDOT Right-of-Way
  
- Representatives from the Town of Lynnfield
  - Robert Dolan, Town Administrator
  - John Tomasz, Director of Public Works
  
- Representatives from the Town of Wakefield
  - Stephen P. Maio, Town Administrator
  - Richard F. Stinson, Director of Public Works
  - William J. Renault, Jr., P.E. Town Engineer

# Introduction

- Design Consultants
  - WorldTech Engineering, LLC
    - President – Richard J. Benevento
    - Project Manager / Vice President – William P. Mertz, PE
  - BETA Group, Inc
    - Landscape Architect - Randall L. Collins, Jr., RLA, ASLA
    - Project Engineer - William P. McGrath, PE
  - LEC Environmental Consultants
    - Ecological Services / President - Ann M. Marton

# History of Public Outreach

- **Project Informational Meetings**
  - Held in April 2014 in Lynnfield and Wakefield
  - Project Team presented an overview of the project including funding sources, goals and objectives, and schedule.
- **Neighborhood Design Workshops**
  - Held on January 13, 2016 (Town of Wakefield)
  - Held on November 3, 2016 and March 27, 2018 (Town of Lynnfield)
  - Project team met with residents of each community to present the status of the project and exchange ideas on elements of the project in a workshop format.
- **MassDOT Right of Way (ROW) Coordination Meeting**
  - Held on May 16, 2017 in Lynnfield / Wakefield
  - Project team, including a representative from the MassDOT Right of Way Department, conducted a site walk and discussed the Right of Way Process with Town Officials from both Communities
- **MassDOT 25% Design Coordination Meeting**
  - Held on January 23, 2018 at MassDOT
  - Project team met with Town Officials to provide overview of proposed improvements, review the 25% Design Submittal, and discuss future development of the project



## Project Team



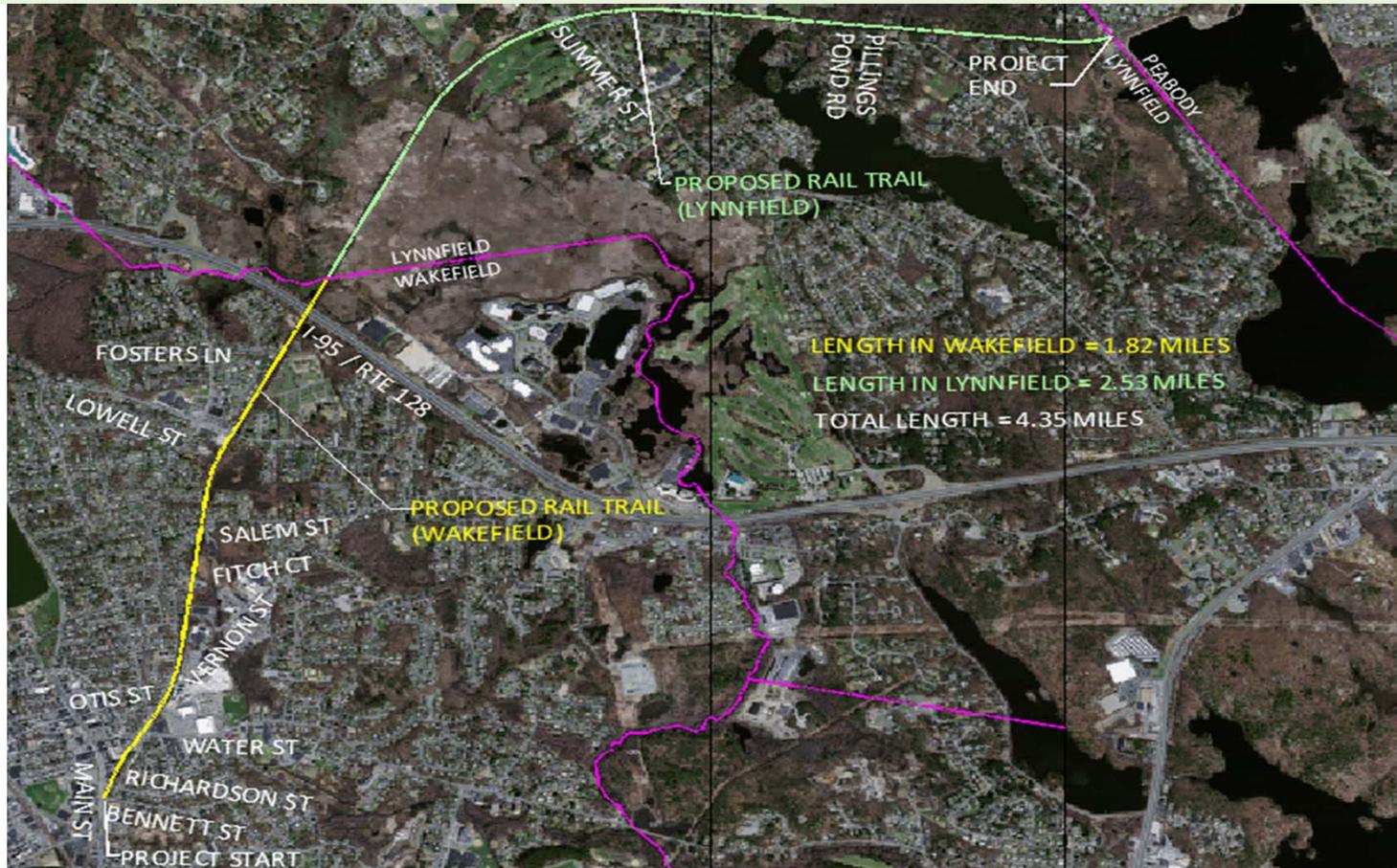
**Towns of Lynnfield and Wakefield**  
Project Proponents

**WorldTech Engineering, LLC**  
**BETA Group, Inc**  
**LEC Environmental Consultants**  
Responsible for Design

**MassDOT's Highway Division**  
Responsible for administering the  
Design Process and providing  
Resident Engineer Services

**Federal Highway Administration**  
Responsible for Oversight

# Project Area



Galvin Middle School in Wakefield to the Lynnfield/Peabody Town Line  
Limits of Work

Why do we need  
this project?



## Existing Issues

- Missing connection to the Border to Boston Trail, a proposed, 30-mile rail trail (or shared use path) via Peabody and Danvers linking eight Essex County communities
- Safety and security concerns associated with existing abandoned rail Right of Way;
- Lack of safe bicycle accommodations on local roadways in both communities accessing schools, residential areas, and commercial areas;
- Limited facilities to provide multi-modal recreation opportunities;
- Lack of ADA compliant crossings for both bike and pedestrians at roadway crossings;

# Project Goals

- **Active Recreation** | Provide recreational opportunities such as walking and bicycling to increase physical activity, health, and provide an alternative mode of transportation other than motor vehicles;
- **Enhance Bicycle Accommodations** | Improve bicycle accommodations through repurposing the existing abandoned railroad Right of Way
- **Increase Intersection Safety / ADA Compliance** | Improve intersection safety and accessibility for all users by upgrading roadway crossings along the proposed Rail Trail route through both communities
- **Preserve Environmental Resources** | Provide for context sensitive solutions to preserve and protect the Reedy Meadow

## Project Scope

- The proposed Lynnfield / Wakefield Rail Trail extends from the Galvin Middle School in Wakefield north to the Lynnfield/Peabody Town Line, a distance of approximately 4.4 miles;
- 1.82 miles of the trail is located within Wakefield;
- 2.53 miles of the trail is located within Lynnfield;
- Approximately 0.6 miles of the trail is located within the Reedy Meadow;
- Proposed 12 foot wide paved trail / linear park along existing railroad alignment;
- Elevated boardwalk structure crossing Reedy Meadow;
- At- Grade Intersection crossing enhancements;
- Landscaping and screening opportunities;
- Trail Amenities

*Note: National Grid constructing electric transmission line and building portion of the trail in Wakefield from Main Street to Salem Street.*

# Project Schedule

25% Design Submittal  
March 7, 2017  
*(Revised January 17, 2019)*

Complete Design,  
Permitting, and ROW  
Process  
Fall 2021

Design Public Hearing  
March 19, 2019

Construction Starts  
Spring 2022

*Construction funded through the State Transportation  
Improvement Program (STIP) for FY 2021*

# Alternatives

- Alternatives to the proposed project included the following:

## On Street Bicycle Facilities

- Dedicated on street bike lanes
- Separated Bike Facilities
- Sharrows
  - Vehicular volumes, number of conflicts, and travel speed concerns



# Alternatives

- Alternatives to the proposed project included the following:

## Abandoned Rail Car Re-Use

- Originally seen as an environmentally conscious solution for crossing the Reedy Meadow. Re-use of existing materials / rails.



- Shortfalls

- Logistics

- Procurement / Availability (70 Required)
    - Local Transport Issues / Access
    - Cost



# Alternatives

- Alternatives to the proposed project included the following:



- Shortfalls (cont.)

- Hydraulic Analysis - Use would result in raising of floodway water surface level elevation by 3 inches. Any rise considered a fatal flaw by regulatory agencies.
- Geotechnical Analysis - Differential Settlement of surface elevation along rail car alignment approx. 2" – 3"

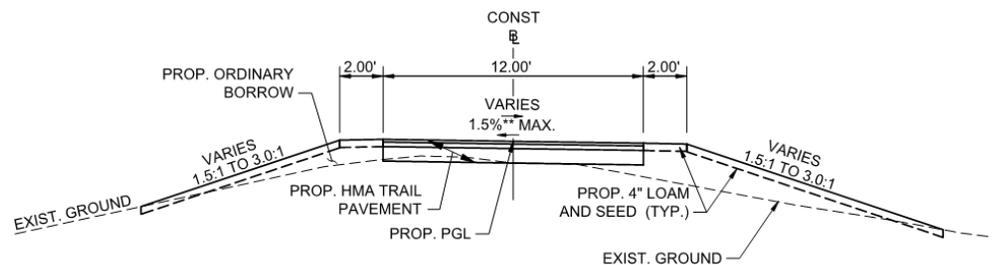




# Proposed Improvements

## Proposed Trail (Linear Park)

- Provide new asphalt recreational trail and trail amenities
  - Trail follows alignment and elevation of existing rail line;
  - Generally 12 feet wide (Reduced to 10 feet in resource areas)





# Proposed Improvements

- Reedy Meadow Segment
  - Requires alternative solution to reduce environmental impacts;
  - Needs to address safety and emergency response;
  - Sustainable solution to reduce maintenance costs





# Proposed Improvements

- Provide Elevated Boardwalk for trail section through the Reedy Meadow
  - Composite decking material, reduce long term maintenance costs;
  - Foundation supports reduce environmental impacts;
  - Designed to accommodate emergency vehicles





# Proposed Improvements

## At-Grade Street Crossings - Wakefield

- Richardson Street
- Water Street
- New Salem Street
- Lowell Street
- Fosters Lane

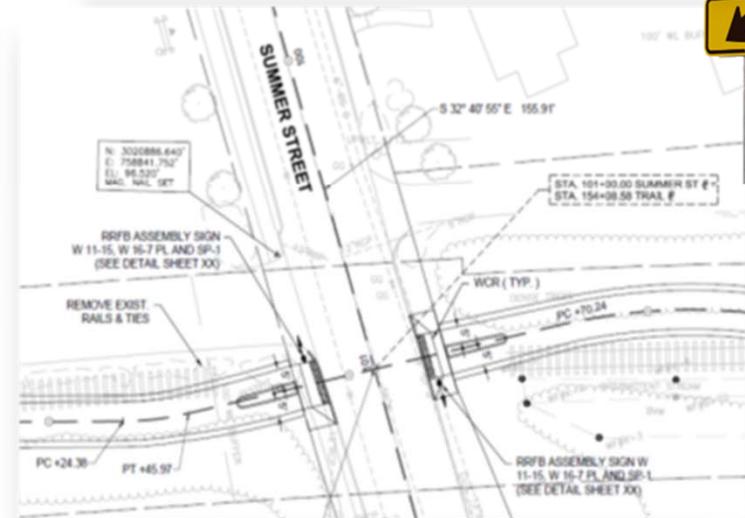
## At-Grade Street Crossings - Lynnfield

- Summer Street
- Pillings Pond Road



# Proposed Improvements

- At-Grade Street Crossings
  - Improved sight distance and advanced warning signs;
  - Installation of Rapid Flashing Beacons at Crossing;
  - Trailhead / Entry Layout Amenities





# Proposed Improvements





# Proposed Improvements





# Proposed Improvements

- Landscape Amenities and Features
  - Trailhead and Path Design
    - Information Kiosks
    - Interpretive Signage
    - Trail Markers
    - Benches and Bike Racks
    - Low Maintenance Plantings



Trash Receptacle



Bike Rack



Bench



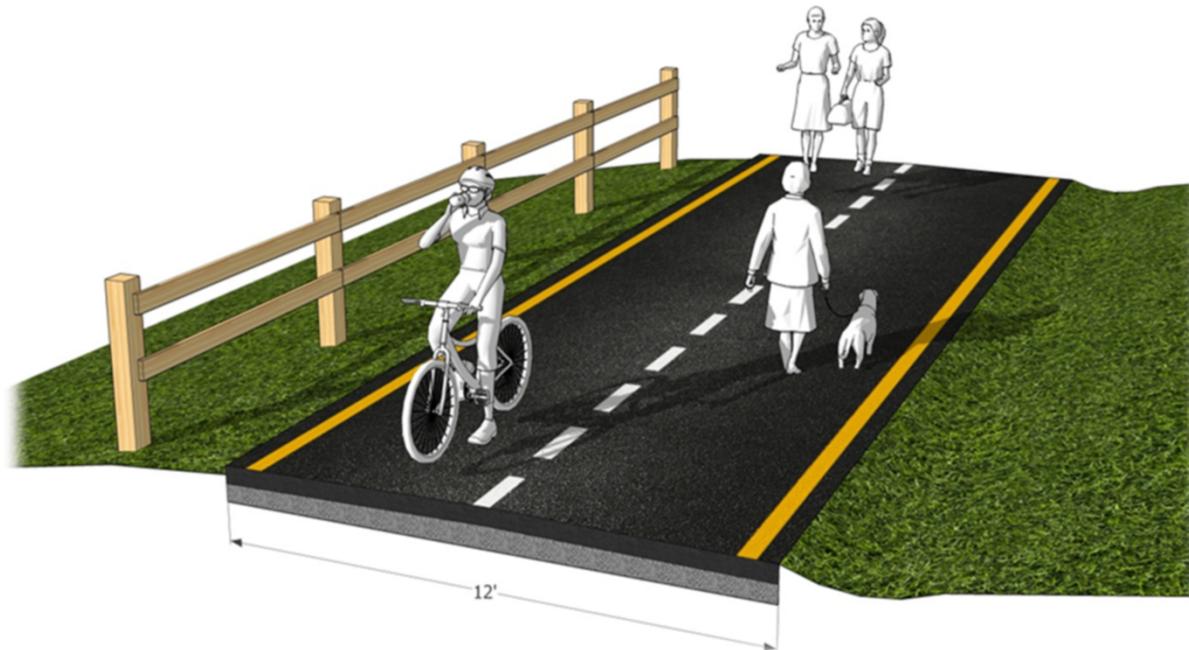
Planters





# Proposed Improvements

- Landscape Screening Alternatives
  - Screening and Fencing Alternatives to be evaluated.....





# Proposed Improvements

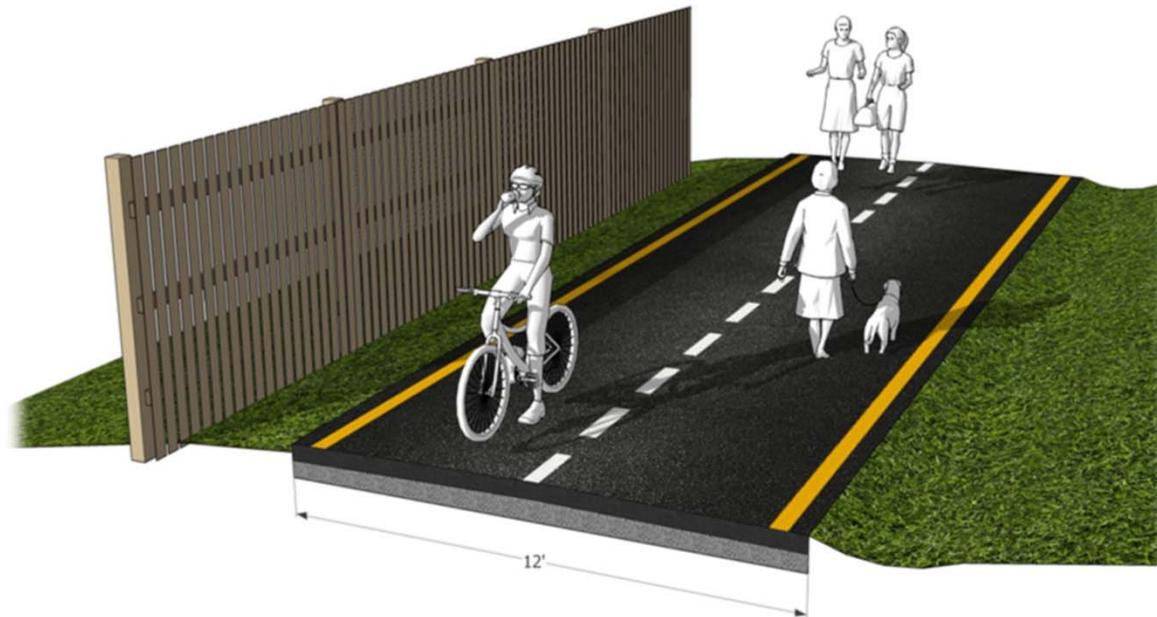
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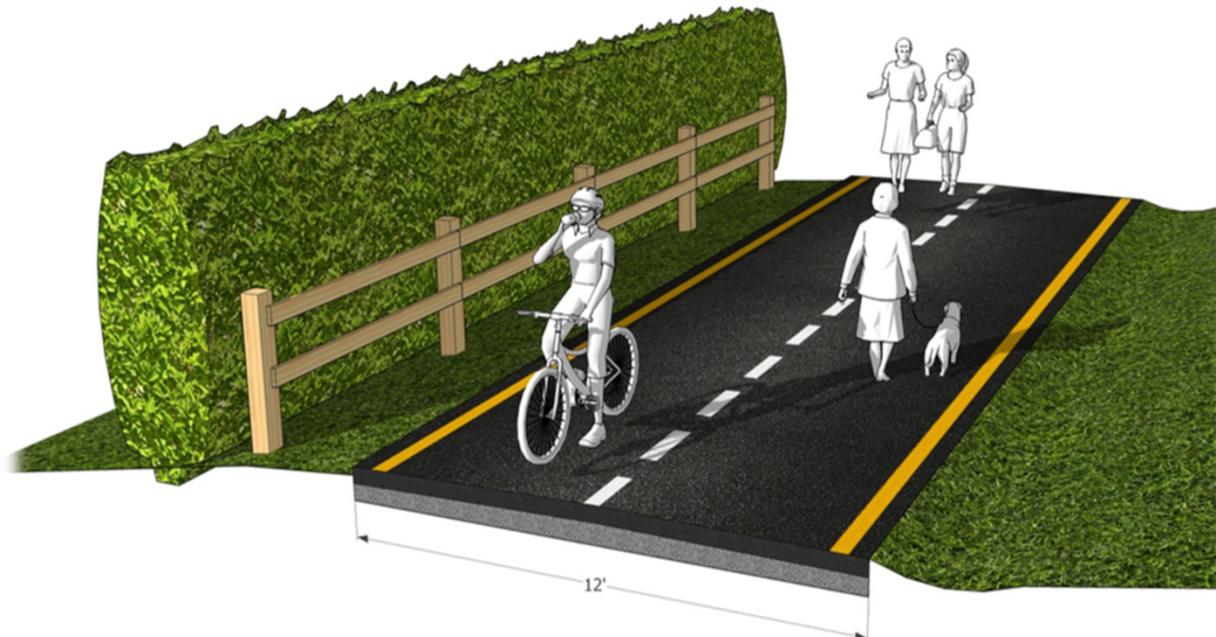
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# Proposed Improvements

- Landscape Screening Alternatives
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# Environmental Permitting



- MEPA/NEPA (National Environ. Policy Act)
  - **Environmental Notification Form-ENF (MEPA)**
  - **Categorical Exclusion Checklist (NEPA)**
  - **Completed after the Design Public Hearing**
- USACE Preconstruction Notification
- DEP Water Quality Certification
- NHESP (Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program)
  - **Ongoing Consultation and Coordination**
- Local Conservation Commission Filings
  - **Residents will have opportunity to review the Notice of Intent as part of each communities Conservation Commission hearings.**
- Oversight by MassDOT Environmental Section

How will traffic  
be affected?





# ALERT: Traffic Impacts

- Majority of work located on cross country rail bed alignment (off street);
- For at-grade crossing locations - temporary shifting of traffic using signage and police details;
- Temporary pedestrian detours (*as needed*) will ensure accessible routes throughout the duration of construction;
  - Temporary ramps and pedestrian detour signage with sidewalk impacts
- Construction operations will be coordinated with Town Officials to reduce traffic impacts during peak hours;
  - Temporary road closures may be anticipated (i.e. final paving)
- Limited impacts to daily operation of area schools.

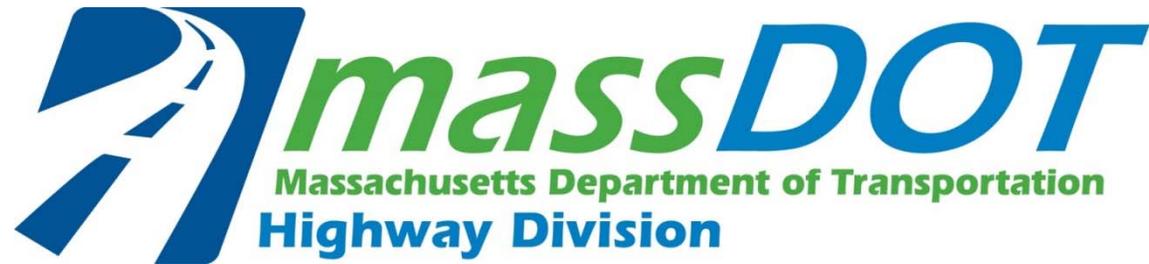
# Next Steps/Meeting

- Submission of 75% & Final Design Plans, Specifications, Estimate (PS&E) to MassDOT for approval
- Right of Way Coordination
  - Temporary Easements
  - Limited Impacts to adjacent properties (i.e. regrading of driveway aprons, loam and seed at back of sidewalk)
- Project award & start of construction
  - Start of construction Spring 2022
  - Funding and Contract Management/Resident Engineering Services by MassDOT

# Contact Information



- **Communication regarding project:**
  - Mail-in comment sheets
  - **Contact Person; Shahpar Negah**
    - E| [Shahpar.Negah@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:Shahpar.Negah@dot.state.ma.us)
    - P| 857.368.9339



# Thank You

## Q&A

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