

Belmont Community Path Recommendations



Board of Selectmen



Community Path Advisory Committee (CPAC)

Monday, 9 June 2014

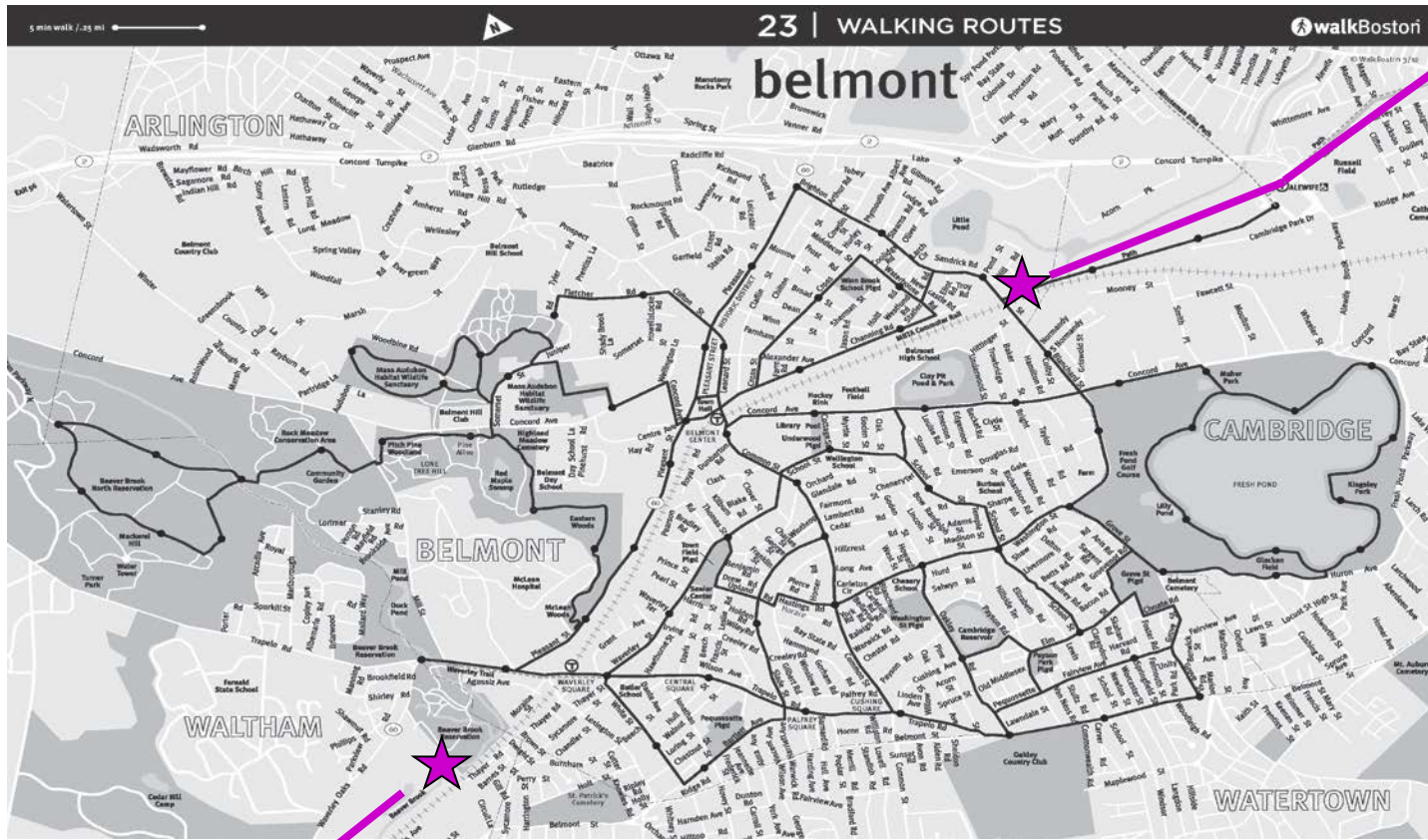


Outline

- **Mission and Charge for Community Path Advisory Committee (CPAC)**
- **Achievements**
- **Recommendations and Next Steps**
- **Acknowledgements**



Belmont Mass Central Rail-Trail Gap



- **Belmont Community Path: shared-use path for walking and biking**
- **Would connect into existing and planned neighboring community paths**



CPAC Mission, Charge and Achievements

- **In 2012, Selectmen tasked CPAC with three primary tasks:**
 1. **Gather and review all existing studies**
 2. **Discuss and address concerns and issues**
 3. **Deliver written report of recommendations and next steps**
- **Committee began meeting in August 2012 and completed work in June 2014**
- **Highlights of tasks achieved by CPAC**
 1. **Outreach and engagement with community elicited wide support for Belmont Community Path**
 2. **Public Forum #2 for potential abutters**
 3. **Researched and responded to wide range of issues and concerns**
 4. **Engaged with many stakeholders: Abutters, Fire, Police, Schools, DPW, BHA, MBTA, DCR, Business developers, Selectmen**
 5. **Produced written final report with recommendations and next steps**



Recommendations and Next Steps

- 1. Proposed Community Path routes**
- 2. Engineering feasibility study**
- 3. Questions requiring further research**
- 4. Coordination with Waltham segment of Mass Central Rail-Trail**
- 5. Continued conversation and dialogue with Belmont community**
- 6. Formation of permanent planning and construction committee**
- 7. Secure funding for next steps in design and construction**



Recommendations and Next Steps

- 1. Recommended Community Path routes**
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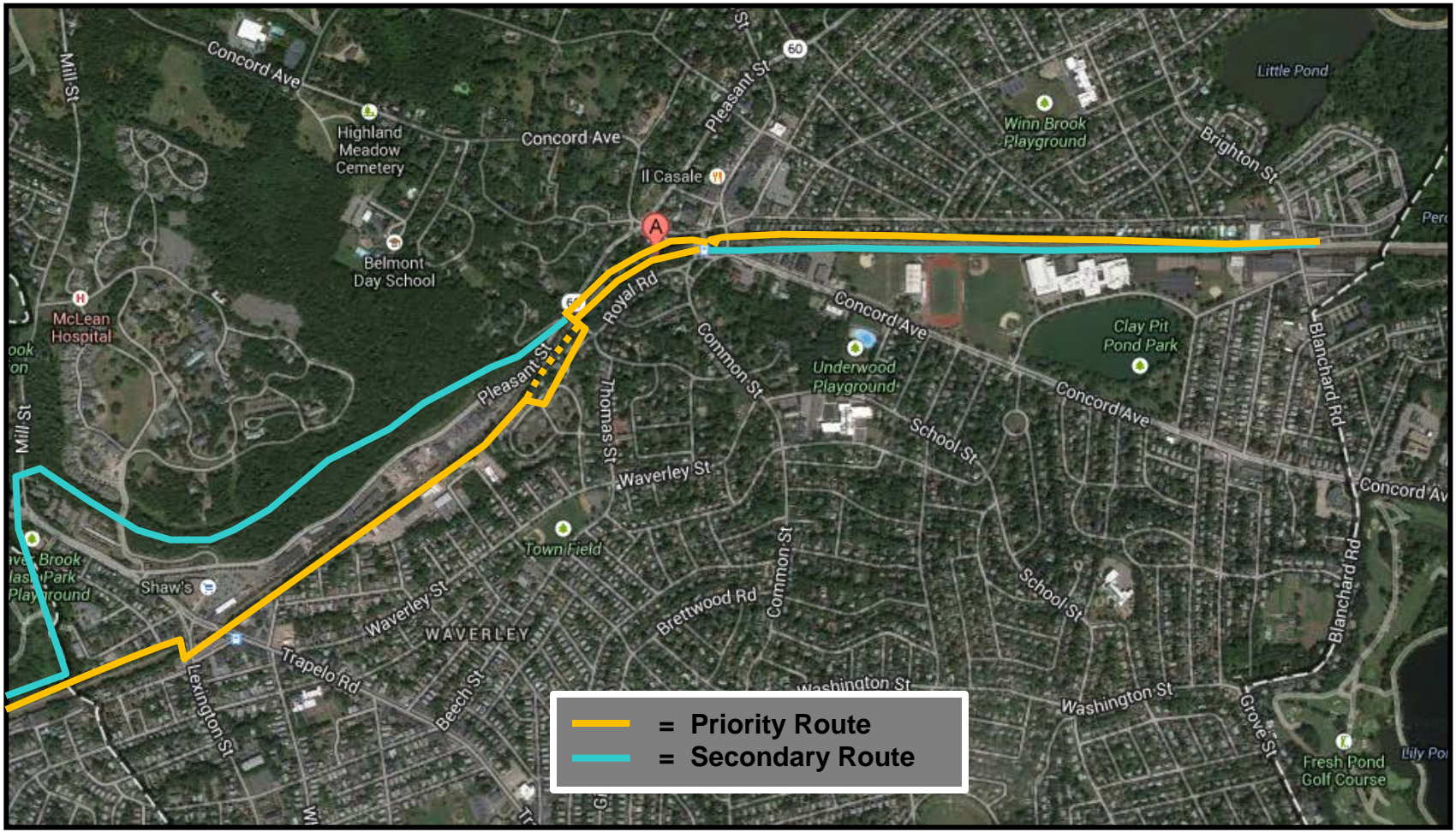


#1) Recommended Community Path Routes

- **Site visits and research used to identify Path locations**
- **Evaluation criteria used to assess routes**
- **Input from public on mitigation strategies to address concerns**
- **Importance of Off-Road paths**
- **Eastern Belmont (primary: north of tracks; secondary: south of tracks)**
- **Belmont Center: use railroad bridge**
- **Western Belmont (primary: along Fitchburg line; secondary: McLean woods)**



#1) Recommended Belmont Route Segments

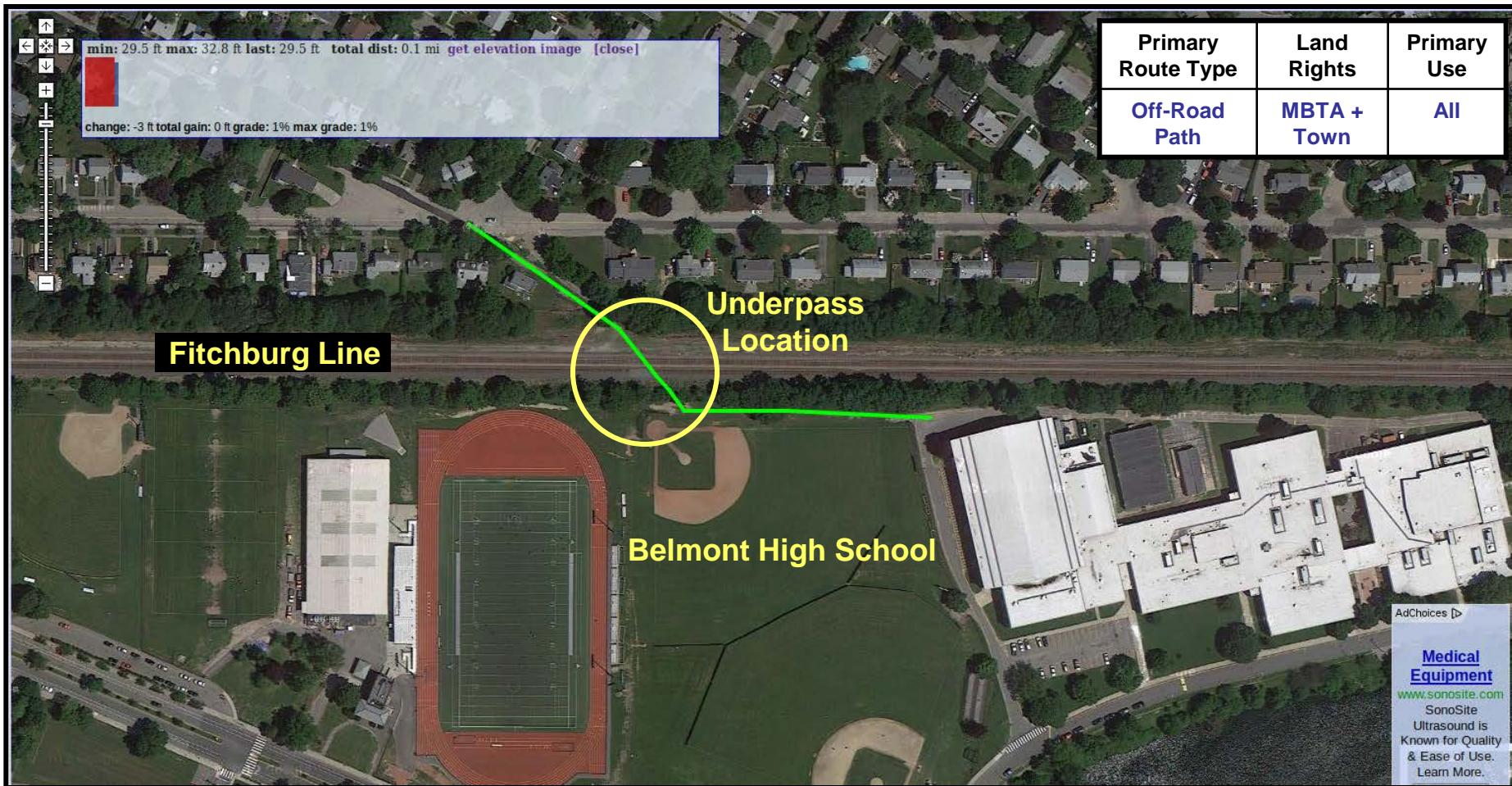


Route details and mitigation measures for abutters available on CPAC webpage



#1) Recommended Belmont Route Segments: Underpass Connecting Winn Brook to High School

Pedestrian access way between Winn Brook neighborhood and Belmont High School via underpass of Fitchburg line



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#1) Concord Avenue Safety Improvements

- Rationale for improving Concord Avenue
- Public expressed interest in using Concord Ave.
- Generally not suitable for Community Path route due to safety issues and endpoint connection issues
- Still makes sense to improve safety there for bicyclists and pedestrians
- Near-term and low-cost safety recommendations
 1. Bollards
 2. Green painted lanes through intersections
 3. Buffer lane between parked cars and bike lanes





#2) Engineering Feasibility Study

- **Purpose is to determine whether certain routes are feasible or not, and to provide more details on Community Path routes**
- **Critical next step for Community Path**
- **Recommend performing on all of proposed Community Path routes**
- **Would also look at tunnel construction feasibility**
- **Clark Lane: requires more than engineering, since there are legal questions there as well**
 - **Alternative options need to be explored since it is a private way**
 - **Real-estate legal expertise needed**
- **Feasibility study could include some preliminary design work**



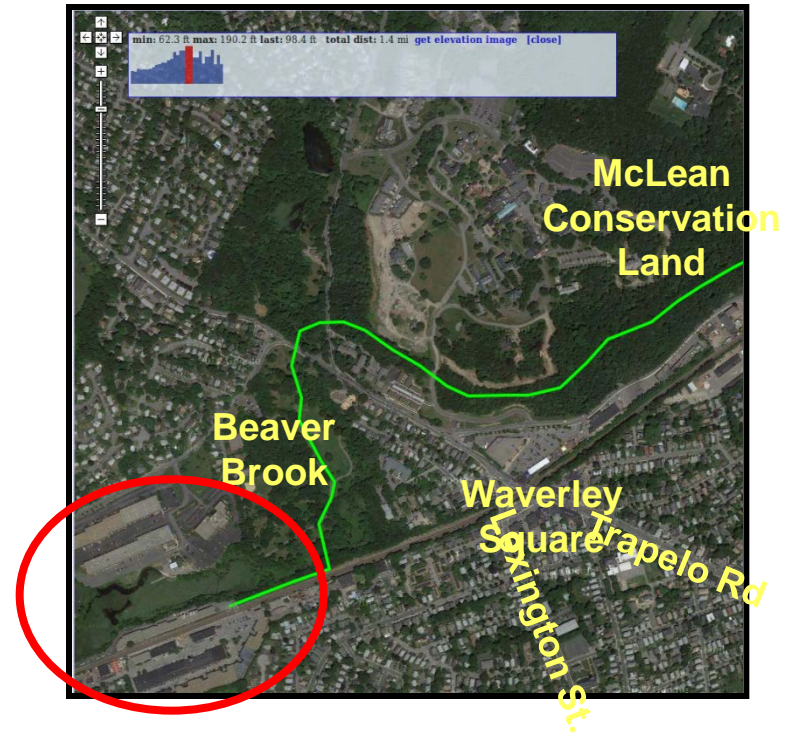
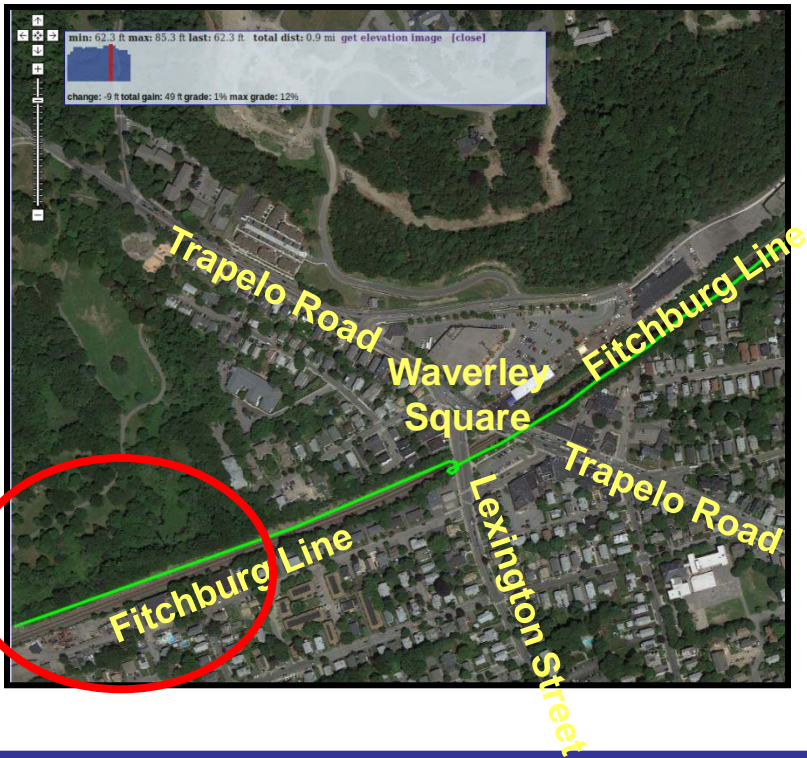
#3) Topics Requiring Further Research

- **Belmont Center Redesign and how integrates with Community Path**
- **Potential Path access points**
- **Exploring alternative off-road options to address Clark Lane issues**
- **Land surveys needed along MBTA right-of-way**
- **Continued dialogue with MBTA**
- **Further investigation of Moraine Street redevelopment project**



#4) Coordination with Waltham segment of Mass Central Rail-Trail (MCRT)

- MCRT currently planned to Beaver Street (west of Belmont border)
- Need off-road connection from Belmont Community Path to Waltham MCRT





#5) Continued Conversation and Dialogue with Belmont Community

- **Continued conversation needed with:**
 - **Belmont residents**
 - **Business owners**
 - **State and local officials**
 - **Other key stakeholders in the development of the Path**
- **Concurrent effort with the feasibility study and collection of further information and research**
 - **This information would be shared with above stakeholders**



#6) Formation of Permanent Planning and Construction Committee

- **Help prepare and submit grant proposals for funding of engineering feasibility studies, preliminary design work, and construction work**
- **Help provide oversight of these contracts**
- **Continue to engage community, residents, and stakeholders about project; take feedback and solicit public input for the Selectmen**
- **Advise the Selectmen on future next steps and perform any other tasks as directed by the Selectmen**
- **Look more generally at pedestrian and bicycle topics both related to Path development and elsewhere in Town (for example, Safe Routes to School network)**



#7) Secure Funding for Next Steps in Design and Construction

- **Funding needed for construction once the community has come together around proposed routes and made the necessary arrangements regarding right-of-ways, abutter concerns, and MBTA coordination**
- **Project would need to be added to long range regional transportation plan for the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) office**
- **Depending on funding availability, it would be programmed (likely in phases), into the Transportation Improvement Program**
- **This final process will require close coordination with the MPO, and could likely be aided by the DCR**



Acknowledgements

Name	Precinct	Street
Amy DeDeo	1	School Street
Jeffrey Roth, chair	1	Watson Road
John Dieckmann, vice-chair	3	Lorimer Road
Kevin Sullivan	3	B Street
Vince Stanton	3	Royal Road
Brian Burke, Sr.	4	Trapelo Road
Tommasina Olson	5	Bay State Road
Price Armstrong	7	Grove Street
Cosmo Caterino	8	Channing Road
Charlie Conroy	8	Channing Road
Joseph Noone	8	Channing Road

- **Jeffrey Wheeler and Leanne Fierro (Community Development)**
- **Board of Selectmen's Office**