

TOWN OF MARION SHARED USE PATH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Overview

The Marion Shared Use Path (SUP) project consists of the construction of a path for non-motorized uses (bicycling, walking, jogging) in the Town of Marion from the Mattapoissett/Marion Town line to Point Road. The Town of Marion and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division (MassDOT) are proposing the construction. The total length of the project is approximately 3.8 miles.

Project Highlights

- Majority of corridor sited on abandoned former transportation use railroad/trolley bed.
- Corridor passes through wooded settings and property that are near developed land uses in Marion:
 - Close to properties on Village Drive, Front Street, and Washburn Park.
 - Passes through Washburn Park and undeveloped land adjacent to roads and athletic fields, wetlands, wooded habitats, and segments on Washburn Lane and Washburn Park Road.
- Project includes intersection improvements at the Front Street (Route 105)/Spring Street crossing to accommodate pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular traffic.

Project Benefits

- Improved transportation network within Town of Marion.
- Long-desired asset in Marion that offers residents a readily available resource for exercise and passive recreation.
- Increased connectedness to open space and recreational areas.
- Reduced need for use of motorized vehicles in the community.
- Improved stormwater management.
- Incorporated safety systems:
 - Upgraded signalized crossing at the Front Street (Route 105)/Spring Street intersection.
 - Improved ADA accessibility and handicap parking areas.
 - Development of rest bench areas that offer refuge from the main path.
- Connection point between existing Mattapoissett SUP and another proposed for development in Wareham as part of continued development of the 50-mile continuous system South Coast Bikeway that will connect Rhode Island to Cape Cod.

Environmental Justice (EJ) Impacts

- Overall benefit to EJ communities in Marion:
 - Including benefits to address a vulnerable health criterion identified within the project's designated geographic area.

Construction Impacts

The project's selected location of already disturbed, abandoned former trolley/railroad beds that pass through wooded settings and careful selection of design elements helps minimize impact to the surrounding environment. The project involves unavoidable impacts to wetland resource areas (43,560 square feet of riverfront area, 49,794 square feet of land subject to coastal storm flowage, and 4,949 square feet of bordering vegetated wetland.)

No Construction Impacts foreseen for the following:

- Rare species:
 - The project will not result in the take¹ of any rare species. In support of this, a special conservation plan will be implemented for one species, whose mapped habitat range exists in the footprint of this project.
- Air Quality.
- EJ populations.
- Historic or cultural properties.
- Public water or groundwater supplies.
- Wastewater.
- Storage, treatment, processing, or disposal of solid and hazardous waste.

Mitigation

- This project has presented multiple opportunities to implement mitigative measures, including the following:
 - Replication of the altered Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW) at a 1:1 ratio addresses unavoidable impacts to resource areas.
 - A Protection Plan that provides a long-term Net Benefit to the conservation of a State-listed Species.
 - Several safety amenities, including those to provide ADA compliance.

Stormwater management improvements:

- Appropriate erosion and sedimentation controls as well as pollution prevention controls to safeguard against any unintended impacts to adjacent wetland resource areas during construction:
- Path-side swales and crushed stone trenches to intercept the runoff prior to discharge to wetlands and other waters.
- Proposed grass depressions to collect runoff of sediment and minimize the potential for erosion and sedimentation towards adjacent wetland resource areas.

Project Status/Cost:

The project program cost is approximately \$5.49M and will be funded with a combination of moneys from the Federal Highway Administration and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

¹ The term "Take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, hound, kill, trap, capture, collect, process, disrupt the nesting, breeding, feeding or migratory activity or attempt to engage in any such conduct, or to assist such conduct.