



Taunton River Trail

Virtual Public Listening Session

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

6:00pm to 7:30pm

dcr



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

Charles D. Baker

Lieutenant Governor

Karyn E. Polito

Energy and Environmental Secretary

Kathleen A. Theoharides

Department of Conservation and Recreation Acting Commissioner

Stephanie C. Cooper



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

DCR MISSION

To protect, promote and enhance our
commonwealth of natural, cultural
and recreational resources
for the well-being of all.

Meeting Logistics

- You will have the opportunity to submit comments over the course of the next two weeks at:
 - DCR Public Comments: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/dcr-public-comments>
 - Online survey on project website: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/taunton-river-trail-at-sweets-knoll-state-park>
- Two ways to ask questions during the meeting
 - Use chat feature
 - Raise your hand using the Teams function, and you will be given permissions to unmute and speak.
- *Please note that this public meeting will be recorded; the recording will be a public record.*

Project Team

DCR

- **Gerald Autler**, *Director of Trails and Greenways (Project Manager)*
- **Daniel Cushing**, *Director of Public Engagement*

Horsley Witten Team

- **Jennifer Relstab**, PE, *Project Manager, Senior Water Resources Engineer at HW*
- **Nate Kelly**, AICP, *Community Engagement Lead, Principal at HW*



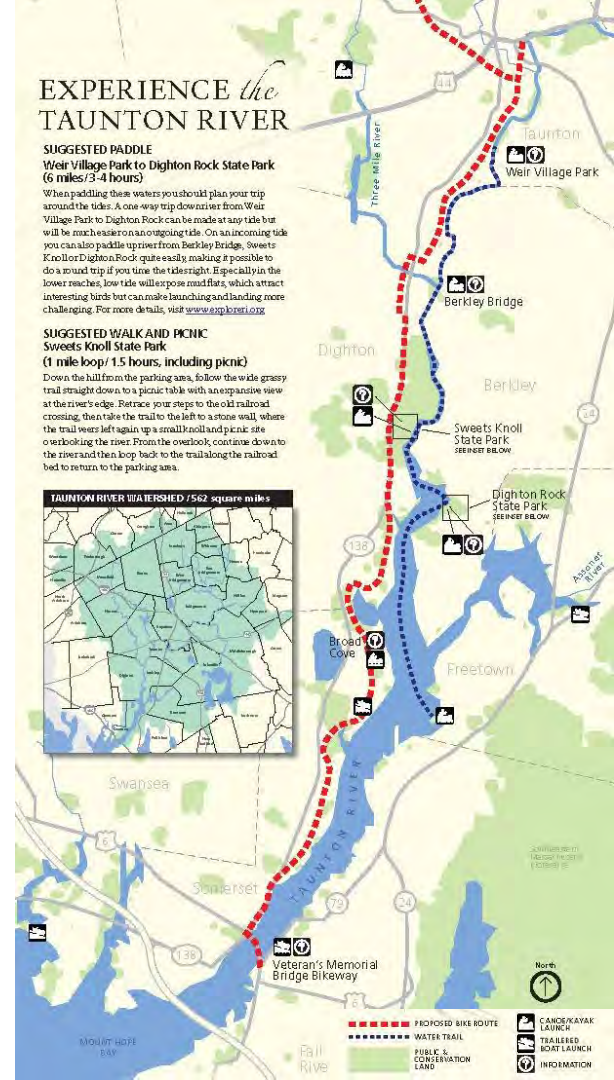
Welcome

Agenda :

- Introduction and Project Goals
- Overview of Project Scope and Timeline
- Present Project Locus and Photos of Existing Conditions
- Similar Shared-Use Paths and Path Benefits
- Questions and Comments

Taunton River Trail

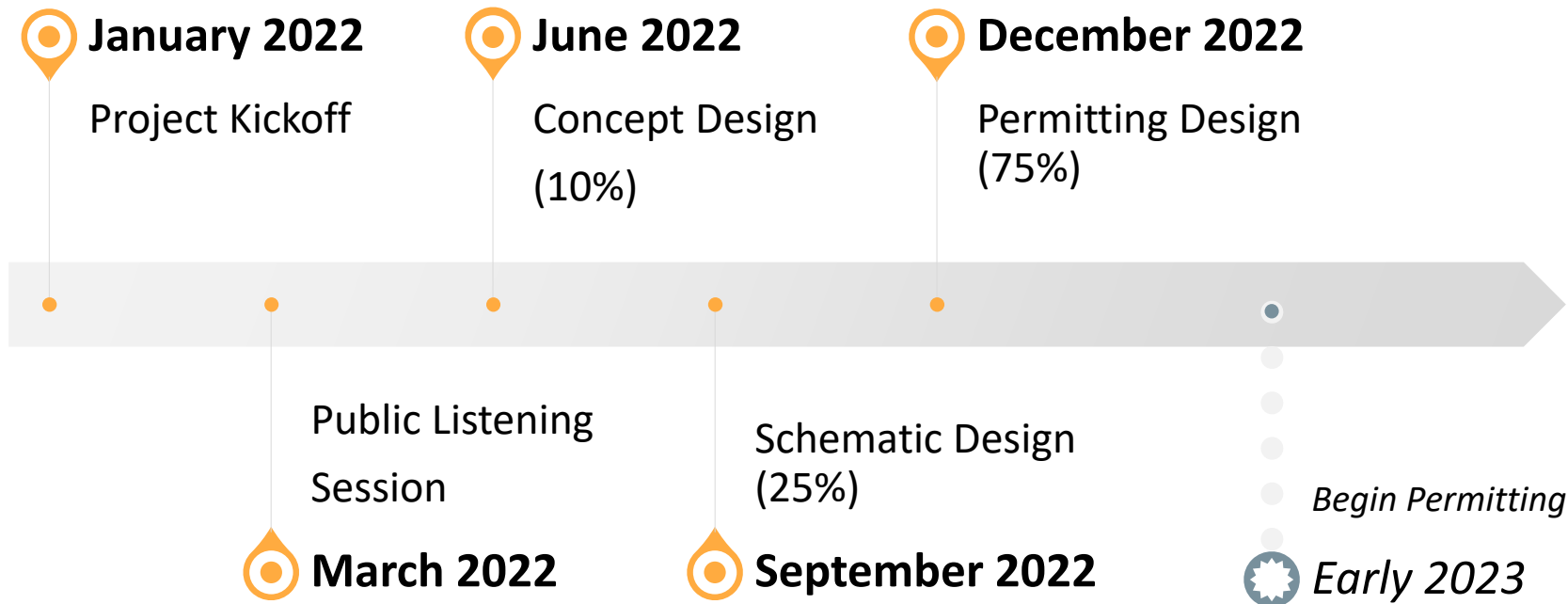
- Regional connection between Fall River, Somerset, Dighton and Taunton
- Proposed 22-mile continuous network of on- and off-road trails to intersect with the South Coast Bikeway
- Opportunities to access Taunton River, parks, and open spaces, in addition to community connections



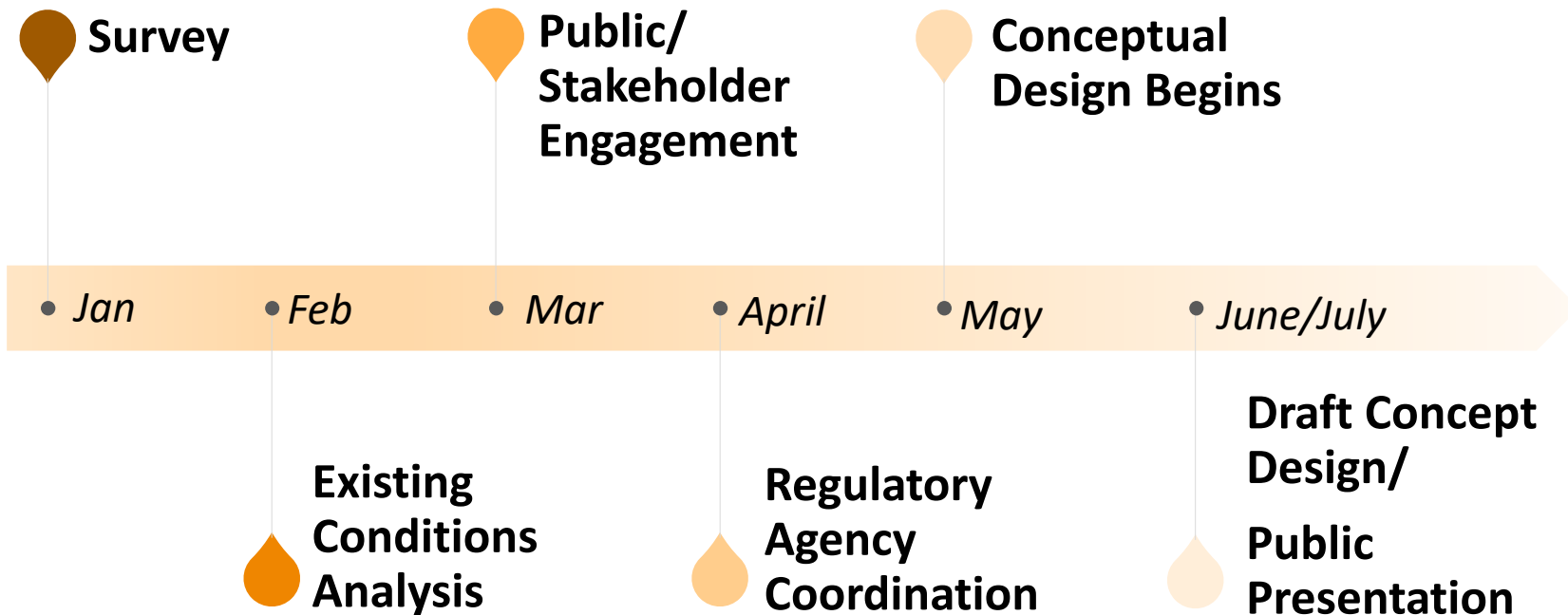
Project Goals

- Create a shared-use accessible path
- Use ecologically sensitive design techniques to protect resource areas
- Improve local connectivity between Somerset Ave and Sandpiper Way
- Initiate design of parking/trailheads at Somerset Ave and Sandpiper Way
- Create access for kayaks and canoes

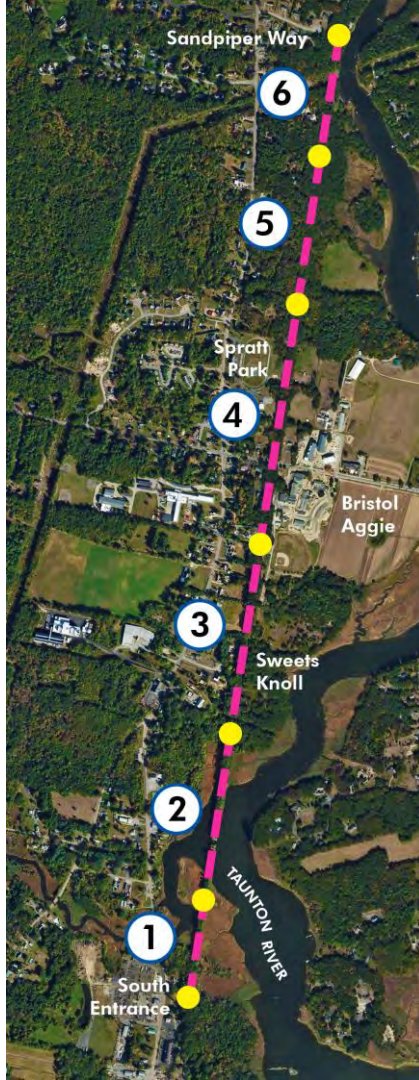
Project Schedule



Concept Design Schedule



Site



6

**North Entrance/Parking Area
at Sandpiper Way**

5

Forested Wetland

4

**Center Street Crossing at Bristol
Agricultural High School**

3

Sweets Knoll State Park

2

Segreganset River/Bridge Crossing

1

**South Entrance/Parking Area
at Somerset Avenue**

1



Parking Area at Somerset Avenue



Stormwater Outfall at Parking Area



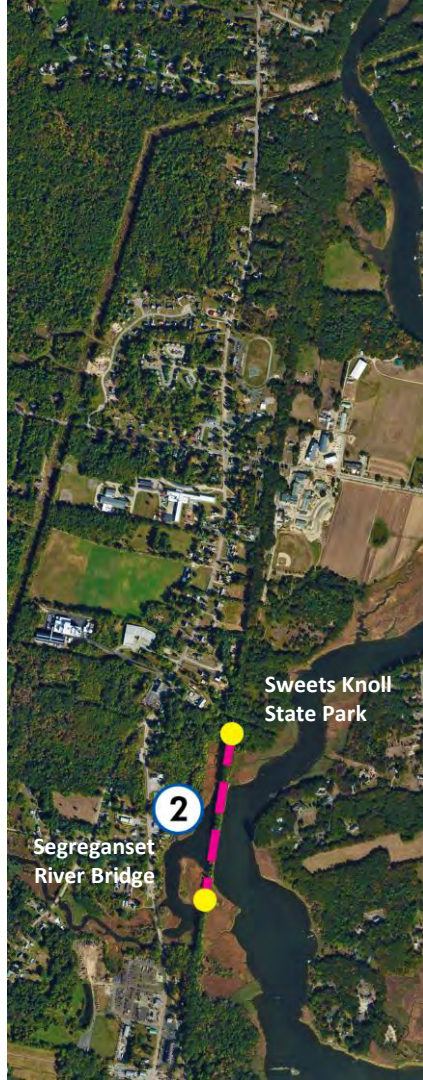
Footpath along Rail Bed



Views of Taunton River and Marsh



2



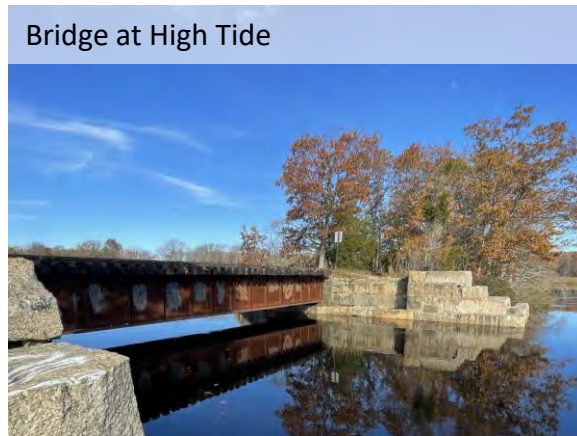
Segreganset Bridge Crossing



Bridge Abutments



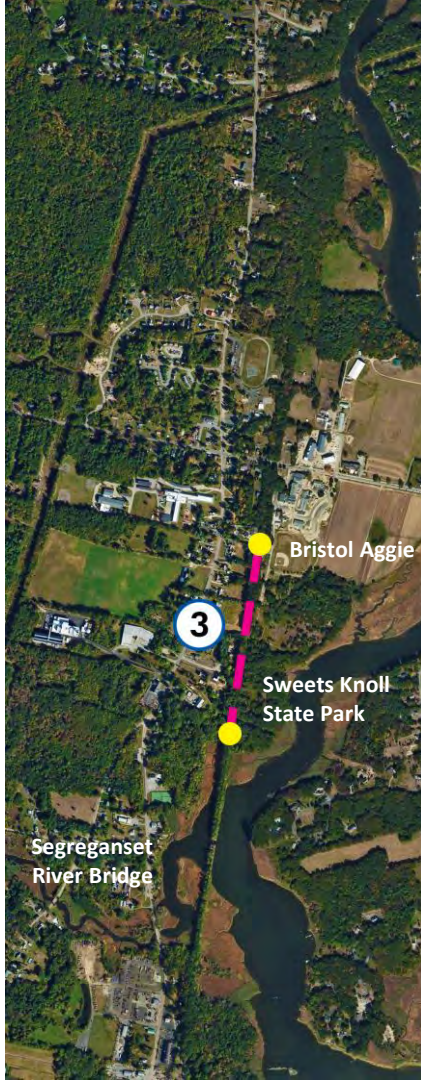
Bridge at High Tide



Footpath Along Rail Bed



3



Footpaths in Forested Areas



Historic Stone Walls



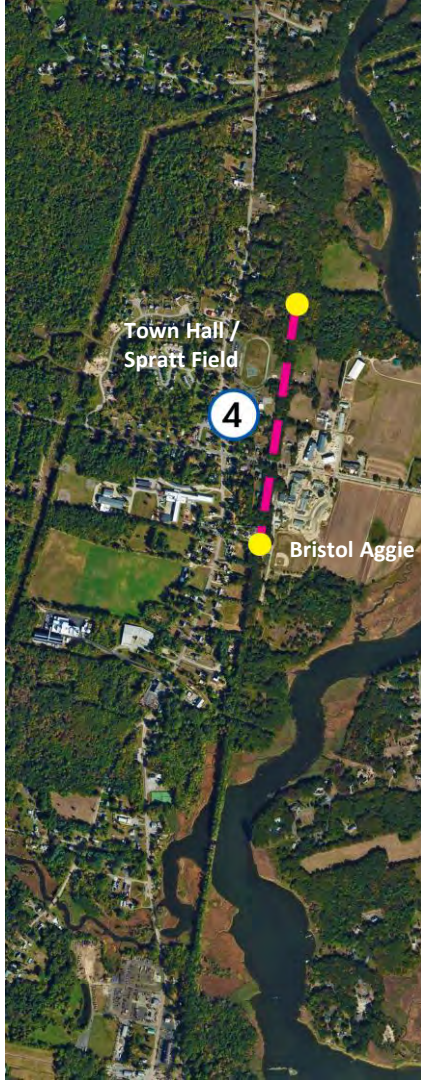
Views of Taunton River



Access to Taunton River



4



Railroad Bed at Center Street



Center Street Crossing @ Bristol Aggie



Connection to Spratt Field



Footpath Along Rail Bed



5



Trees in Railroad Bed



Views of Wetland Areas



Forested Areas



Low-lying Stone Walls



6



Similar Shared-Use Path Projects

- Mattapoissett Rail Trail/ Phoenix Bike Trail (Fairhaven, Mattapoissett)
- Al Lima Quequechan River Rail Trail (Fall River)
- Southern New England Trunkline Trail (Franklin to Douglas)
- Upper Charles Trail (Milford to Holliston)
- Cape Cod Rail Trail (Cape Cod)
- Blackstone River Greenway (Blackstone)

Find a trail near you!

Shared-Use Path Benefits



Health

Increases physical activity,
improves mental health and
reduces health care costs



Access & Equity

Increases opportunities for users of all
ages, abilities and ethnicities to walk,
bike or roll to essential destinations



Environment

Reduces single-occupancy car
trips and prevents harmful
pollutants released into the air



Safety

Lowens crash rates on nearby
roadways and deters crime by
creating lively, inhabited spaces



Additional Information

- Recording and tonight's slide deck will be available at:
 - www.mass.gov/dcr/past-public-meetings
- If you have comments on this project:
 - *Online DCR Public Comments:* www.mass.gov/dcr/public-comment
 - *Online survey on project website:* <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/taunton-river-trail-at-sweets-knoll-state-park>
 - *Deadline: Tuesday, April 12, 2022*

Please note: the contents of comments submitted to DCR, including your name, town and zip code, will be posted on DCR's website. Additional contact information provided, notably email address, will only be used for outreach on future updates to the subject project or property.

- If you wish to subscribe to a DCR general information or project-related listserv: contact DCR's Office of Community Relations via email at mass.parks@mass.gov



Questions and Comments