



HOW WILL THE RAIL TRAIL IMPACT OUR SENSITIVE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT?

➤ BACKGROUND

- Reedy Meadow is one of the most heavily protected wildlife sanctuaries in Massachusetts.
- This status ensures the proposed new access to the meadow will not come at the expense to the flora and fauna living in it.
- All relevant state and federal agencies involved this project are required to provide approval during the final design and permitting stage.
- An initial state-level review during the preliminary design stage concluded that the environmental impact of proposed rail trail will be lower than established acceptable thresholds.

➤ ASSESSING RAIL TRAIL IMPACT: TWO KEY PHASES

- Construction Phase:**
 - ✓ To be scheduled to avoid nesting or other seasonal sensitivities.
 - ✓ The approach minimizes adverse impact to local wildlife during vulnerable times of the year.
- On-going Use Phase:**
 - ✓ Noise: wildlife already accustomed to current noise levels - from existing area highways, local roads, jet plane traffic, etc.
 - ✓ Noise: once construction phase completed, noise from rail trail users would be low-level and minimal.
 - ✓ Physical presence: wildlife already accustomed to presence of the existing abandoned rail bed.
 - ✓ Physical presence: adjustments required by the wildlife - minimal once construction completed.

➤ ASSESSING THE PHYSICAL IMPACT ON REEDY MEADOW

- Overall design (at preliminary design phase)**
 - ✓ Significant environmental impact mitigation features built into design in consideration of sensitive nature of Reedy Meadow.
 - ✓ Determined to be within acceptable Federal and State environmental protection guidelines.
- Planned boardwalk construction - pilings**
 - ✓ Footprint of boardwalk (including pilings) considered minimal impact by interested federal and state agencies.
 - ✓ Displaced soil from piling construction to be safely hauled away from construction site.
- Planned boardwalk construction - rail bed elevation over water**
 - ✓ To be elevated so as not to displace possible flood waters.
 - ✓ No significant impact on the existing flood zone storage.