

<b>Open-Ended Results of 2013 Belmont Community Path Questionnaire</b>		
The 2013 Community Path Questionnaire helped to gather information about a potential Community Path for Belmont. Submissions to this Questionnaire were accepted both electronically and in paper version. This document specifically looks at the Questionnaire responses for the two open-ended questions in the survey. These open-ended questions were:		
· “Do you have specific suggestions for what the Community Path Advisory Committee should focus on?” (Question #8)		
· “Do you have any other general comments or concerns regarding a community path in Belmont?” (Question #9)		
Approximately 700 of the total 1500 survey participants provided responses to one or both of these open-ended questions. 100% of these responses were analyzed for common themes and suggestions. These common themes and suggestions are listed in the first column below. The analysis then looked for how often these specific topics appeared within the actual responses received. To provide an accurate sampling of the data, this portion of the analysis was performed on a random sampling of 75% of the responses. The results of this analysis are provided below. The percents in the second column reflect the fraction of responses that mention each particular topic. The third column is the actual number of times the topic appeared.		
<b>1. Where</b>		
<b>Destinations to include (do not code if part of route)</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>526</b>
Watertown	0.6%	3
Waverly	1.9%	10
Arlington Center	1.1%	6
Shaw's Market	0.2%	1
Belmont Town Centers (also choose #3 if Waverly mentioned)	3.2%	17
Belmont schools, parks, and playing fields	2.7%	14
Belmont MBTA stations	1.5%	8
Belmont Town Resources (library, pool, skating rink)	1.3%	7
Existing paths (non-specific only)	10.1%	53
Future Mass Central Rail Trail, Western Greenway	1.0%	5
Rock Meadow	1.0%	5
Harvard Square, Porter Square, Cambridge	0.6%	3
Davis Square	0.4%	2
Charles River Reservation	0.2%	1
Alewife	1.7%	9
Freshpond, including shopping center	1.0%	5
Beaverbrook Reservation	0.4%	2
<b>Route segments to include (Use these first)</b>		
Winnbrook to alewife	0.2%	1
Winnbrook to high school	1.7%	9
Belmont Hill to alewife, Belmont (Center) to Belmont Hill or Audubon Habitat	0.8%	4
Channing Road to Alewife	2.1%	11
Hill's Crossing to Alewife	0.4%	2
MM Path (Alewife) to Charles River Path (P. Dudley) thru Camb, Watertown, Waltham	0.8%	4
Belmont (Center) to Brighton St	1.1%	6
Belmont (Center) to Alewife (don't need 10, 16, or 26)	9.5%	50
Belmont (Center) to Waltham and points west, (incl Beaverbrook, Waverly, Shaw's)	2.7%	14
Belmont (Center) to Minuteman Path	3.4%	18
Beaver Brook Reservation to Grove St. playground or Cushing Square	0.2%	1
Royal Road (off road)	1.0%	5
MacLean side of Pleasant Street (off road)	0.4%	2

Concord Ave	3.2%	17
Pleasant Street	0.6%	3
Lake Street	0.2%	1
High School Pond Path	0.4%	2
Trapelo Rd	0.8%	4
<b>Problem streets (e.g., heavy traffic, to be avoided if possible)</b>		
<b>Brighton St</b>	0.6%	3
Trapelo Rd	1.0%	5
blank		
Leonard St	0.2%	1
Concord Ave	1.3%	7
Grove St	0.2%	1
Channing Rd (driveways)	0.2%	1
Marsh St	0.2%	1
Winter St	0.2%	1
<b>Problem points</b>		
Access to path at Belmont Center	2.7%	14
Crossing Brighton St	1.1%	6
Route 2 overpass between Belmont and Arlington	0.2%	1
<b>Learn from existing paths (specific things)</b>		
Concord Ave path raised onto sidewalk (well done)	1.1%	6
<b>Minuteman Lake Street intersection (bad), MM Mass Ave (bad)</b>	0.6%	3
Concord Ave path raised onto sidewalk (bad) crashes	0.2%	1
Examine problems/failures of other paths (For root problems use 70 only)	0.4%	2
<b>Desired acquisitions</b>		
Short-cuts through cemetery , golf course, country club	0.2%	1
Abandoned train tracks Fresh Pond to Watertown Greenway	0.2%	1
Restore public access to Fernald from Rock Meadow	0.2%	1
<b>Wish list for route segments</b>		
Off-road	12.0%	63
Some uphill for exercise	0.2%	1
Enough access points	2.1%	11
Avoid sharp turns and switchbacks, avoid hills	1.0%	5
Minimize intersections (unspecified), driveways, traffic lights (avoid unspecified busy streets)	2.5%	13
Safe/efficient street crossings where unavoidable (time lights-no wait)	2.7%	14
Paved/smooth, maintain root-free, learn from other paths, fix potholes, root guards	4.6%	24
Widen and mark shoulders (on-road segments)	0.6%	3
Add missing sidewalks (on-road segments), all sidewalk improvements	1.7%	9
Durable (Long-lasting, high quality)	1.0%	5
Accessible (include elderly, strollers, wheelchair accessible, blind)	3.2%	17
Expert design	0.4%	2
Multi-use friendly (bike pedestrians, skaters) 3+ activities, mixed/broad use	4.6%	24
<b>Provide railroad crossing</b>		
to high school	4.2%	22
<b>Concern about locating path near live train tracks</b>		
<b>General concern about live tracks (other than 83-90)</b>	3.8%	20
Crossing accidents	0.6%	3
Barriers	0.8%	4
Deafening train noise	0.8%	4
Sketchy areas (personal safety) specific to tracks	0.6%	3
Difficult for police/fire to access (in general, do not have to mention tracks)	0.8%	4
<b>2. Users: Potential conflicts to mitigate</b>		
Car drivers vs. bikers, walker, etc. (drivers target of complaint, causing fear)	7.6%	40

Bike riders vs. walkers, children cars etc (bikes target of complaint)( fast commuter lanes)	3.6%	19
Walkers vs others (blocking path, not using sidewalks) (walkers target of complaint)	0.8%	4
Dog walkers vs other path users (other than 97 or 98)	0.2%	1
Sanitation	0.4%	2
Off-leash interference (e.g child safety)	0.2%	1
Skaters vs others (skaters target of complaint)	0.6%	3
<b>3. Path Features</b>		
<b>Beauty</b>		
<b>Mentions "beauty"</b>	2.3%	12
Trees, shrubs, flowers	1.5%	8
Edible landscape (help-yourself public garden and fruit trees, as in Northampton, MA)	0.2%	1
<b>Amenities</b>		
Parking near path: For	0.4%	2
Parking near path: Against	0.2%	1
Benches	1.3%	7
Signs with courtesy regulations, nature, historical (educational), directions to businesses	1.5%	8
Bike racks	0.8%	4
Exercise stations	0.4%	2
Picnic tables	0.2%	1
Water fountains	0.2%	1
Dog bag dispenser	0.2%	1
Access to restrooms	0.2%	1
Play areas for children	0.4%	2
Bike rentals	0.4%	2
Posts for visual separation from cars (for sidewalk path)	0.2%	1
Trash & recycling bins	0.2%	1
<b>Safety</b>		
Mentions word "safety," "safe" or "dangerous" (all mentions) "security" personal safety	24.9%	131
Wide path	4.4%	23
Painted center line, or any mention of "bike lanes" "cycletracks"	3.6%	19
Lighting (including solar)	3.6%	19
Solar powered lighting	0.2%	1
Emergency Call box	1.3%	7
Surveillance cameras	0.4%	2
Police (or volunteer) patrol requested (for cost concern use 144)	1.0%	5
Safety in numbers (want trail to be populated)	0.2%	1
Speed limit of 20 mph	0.2%	1
Reflective markers	0.2%	1
<b>Maintenance Desired</b>		
Timely snow removal	2.3%	12
Snow compacted with roller for skiing & biking	0.2%	1
<b>Cost</b>		
Mentions "cost" (all mentions)	8.9%	47
<b>Keep it simple and/or low cost (can do more later)</b>	2.1%	11
Mentions "maintenance costs" (incl cost of trash pick up and police detail)	3.0%	16
<b>Mentions "low-cost" options, says path will be "low-cost" (relative to benefit)</b>	1.5%	8
<b>4. Attitude toward path</b>		
<b>Advantages</b>		
Economic benefits (access to business, or property values) (include I want to eat/shop etc)	10.1%	53
Enhanced quality of life and a better town ("asset" "benefit") (fewer cars)	20.3%	107
Benefits families & children (all mentions) (for "strollers" use code 74)	10.5%	55
Commuters (mentions commute or work, not just "Alewife")	7.8%	41
Dog Walkers (enthusiastic, no concerns)	0.8%	4

Joggers	2.7%	14
Cross country skiers	0.4%	2
<b>Additional Concerns (beyond live-tracks issues)</b>		
Abutters (privacy, shielding, need consensus, not imposing will)	9.1%	48
House values go down	0.4%	2
Crime ("crime" & robberies only). (For personal safety use 89 or 122)	2.5%	13
Unwanted activities (use for loitering, any vague misgivings)	1.0%	5
Trash (for concern about trash collection costs, use 144)	0.6%	3
Injury	0.2%	1
Liability	0.4%	2
Drainage issues (impervious surfaces)	0.8%	4
Mentions fiscal crunch or competing priorities, or limited need	4.2%	22
Personally wouldn't use it	0.6%	3
Loss of trees	0.8%	4
Barrier prevents wildlife from crossing tracks (bad for wildlife)	0.2%	1
<b>Pro Path:</b>		
Cites advantages (use if and only if an Advantage (148-154) is checked}	34.0%	179
Frustrated with naysayers, complainers/gives counter-arguments	8.2%	43
Don't scrimp (want high quality)	1.0%	5
Mentions success or use of other paths (includ Brighton St to Alewife)	14.1%	74
Slogans (Get it done, thank you, do it now, high time, great idea, !!!, CAPS), upbeat only	35.7%	188
<b>Anti Path:</b>		
Against path (mentions Channing Road or "behind my home" explicitly). Others use 184	1.3%	7
Lawsuit possibility (self-identify)	0.2%	1
Against path (not identified as Channing Rd.) Strong concerns eg cost, crime, rail, abutters	7.2%	38
<b>Mixed Reaction (was scored both Pro and Anti Path)</b>	1.1%	6
<b>Negative reaction to survey and committee</b>		
Survey is biased	0.4%	2
Committee is not qualified	0.2%	1
Q6 is not well-designed	0.2%	1
<b>Wants More Info</b>		
Asks what are the route options? Requests clearer map	1.3%	7
<b>Wants to Help</b>		
Volunteers to help with bike path	1.3%	7
Suggests a presentation to Belmont Town Meeting	0.2%	1
Suggests a bus tour along Minuteman Path on a weekend to convince abutters	0.2%	1
<b>Pro Path Composite</b>	<b>64.1%</b>	<b>337</b>
<b>Anti Path Composite</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Number of participants</b>		<b>526</b>
<b>Average number of codes per participant</b>		<b>3.8</b>