

Mountain Division Rail Corridor Use Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes 3/17/22

1. Roll Call

Paul Schumacher, Nate Howard, Nate Moulton, Theresa Egan, David Kinsman, Dan Hester, Jack Sutton, Zach Mosher, Dwight Warren, Paul Hunt, Carolann Ouellette, Ian Moon and Lori Driscoll from HNTB attended as presenters. Rachel Bouvier also attended as a presenter.

2. Presentation of Draft Report and Economic Analysis (3:35-4:20)

Ian presented and Lori Driscoll the draft report. A copy of the presentation is available at: <https://www.maine.gov/mdot/ofps/ruac/mdrcc/meetings/>. A copy of the report is available at: <https://www.maine.gov/mdot/ofps/ruac/mdrcc/>

The report explored 3 options for the corridor: Rail rehabilitation, Rail rehabilitation with the construction of an offset trail, and Rail-to-Trail conversion.

Rachel Bouvier discussed economic impacts of 6 alternatives. The Economic Analysis can be found in Part 6 and Part 7 of the draft report.

3. Funding for Rail Investments

The item was a moved to the next meeting

4. Discussion of the Crown of New England passenger proposal

The item was a moved to the next meeting

5. Next Steps/Discussion

The next council meeting was scheduled for 3/24/22 from 4 to 5.

6. Public Comment

Paul Drinan – Why would a higher-class (high speed) train not work on this corridor?

Answer: the cost to get up to that level of service would be prohibitive.

How many train stations would be required to have viable passenger service on this line?

Kristine Kenney – Was salvage value considered? Answer: Yes, the salvage value was included with each option.

Freight line would require sidings to load cars.

Were costs included for gates and signal. Answer: Yes.

Trail crossings may require lowering of speed limits.