

**From:** [Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov](mailto:Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov)  
**To:** [Howard, Nathan](#)  
**Subject:** Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 11:39:15 AM

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The following message was submitted from your MaineDOT website contact form .

Date: Tuesday, 23-Aug-2022 11:19:01 EDT  
Name: Patty Barber  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone: 207-625-4755  
Email: rugbyvet88@yahoo.com

Topic:

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Comments:

To the Berlin Subdivision RUA Council,

As you take in all the information pertaining to the Berlin Subdivision Rail line, in reality your decision boils down to two options 1) do you keep the tracks in place- for trail beside rail and future train travel or 2) do you pull up the tracks for trail 'until' rail. All other information is supplemental to these choices.

And as you make that choice, you must decide which option benefits the most people in your district and the State of Maine as a whole.

Tearing up the tracks for a walking and biking trail will bring benefits- it will increase the health and happiness of many people. But only to able bodied and able minded people. Yes the trail will be built so wheelchairs and push walkers can access it, but in reality the vast majority of users will be those physically, mentally and emotionally healthy.

And don't let the 'interim nature' lull you into complacency, for I could find only one example in the country where tracks were replaced back for trains once they were pulled up for a trail. Some people may say "that's because no one wants the trains back" but of course it's much more complicated than that. Removing the tracks is in reality forever removing the possibility of future train travel.

Leaving the tracks in place, however, will not only benefit trail users, but a huge swath of constituents. Access to trains would bring life altering or life saving benefits to those who are unable to drive. To those who can't afford a car. To rural populations who now don't have access to mass transit. Medical, therapy, employment, other essential travel, as well as leisure could be accessible to all people 365 days a year in all seasons and weather.

Therefore, I implore the council members to decide to keep the train tracks in place, for the benefit and health of all Maine people, not just the able bodied few.

Thank you for your consideration,

Patty Barber Hiram Maine

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If required, please respond as soon as possible.

**From:** [Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov](mailto:Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov)  
**To:** [Howard, Nathan](#)  
**Subject:** Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Saturday, August 6, 2022 12:17:29 PM

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The following message was submitted from your MaineDOT website contact form .

Date: Saturday, 06-Aug-2022 11:59:18 EDT  
Name: Edward sewall  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone: 2075041579  
Email: edscort@hotmail.com

Topic:

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Comments:

Just some input from an avid Outdoors person. I do not believe it's in the best interest of the state to not allow motorized use of this Rail Trail. Allowing motorized vehicles on on this rail trail could bring a lot of money to the towns it passes through. There are economic studies that have been done proving this to be the case. Maine nickname is vacationland People do snowmobile and ATV on their vacations they also spend lots of money on food gas and vacation rentals. Please do not restrict motorized vehicles from this rail trail keep it a true multi-use Trail!

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If required, please respond as soon as possible.

**From:** [Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov](mailto:Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov)  
**To:** [Howard, Nathan](#)  
**Subject:** Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Friday, August 5, 2022 11:01:57 AM

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The following message was submitted from your MaineDOT website contact form .

Date: Friday, 05-Aug-2022 10:57:12 EDT  
Name: Peter Robbins  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone: 2076323636  
Email: peter.e.robbins@gmail.com

Topic:

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Comments:

I live in Falmouth, work in Portland, and have family and friends all over southern Maine. Turning unused rail corridors into pedestrian and cyclist trails would be an amazing resource for residents and visitors to get outside, get some exercise, enjoy nature, and/or commute to work away from traffic and without the use of a motor vehicle. It is a win-win for our community and I strongly support it. Thank you.

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If required, please respond as soon as possible.

**From:** [Howard, Nathan](#)  
**To:** ["Mike Byron"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 31, 2022 8:14:00 AM

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The State Railroad Preservation Act does not define preservation. However, the Act directs MaineDOT "to hold and to manage for future railroad uses". <https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/23/title23ch615sec0.html>

Nate

Nathan Howard  
Director, Rail Transportation  
MaineDOT, Office of Freight and Passenger Services  
(207) 624-3042

-----Original Message-----

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov <Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov>  
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 11:28 AM  
To: Howard, Nathan <Nathan.Howard@maine.gov>  
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The following message was submitted from your MaineDOT website contact form .

Date: Thursday, 25-Aug-2022 11:13:37 EDT  
Name: MIKE BYRON  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone: 207-622-9934  
Email: ironmike928@aol.com

Topic:

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Comments:

LD1133 STATES THAT NON-RAIL USE OF AN INACTIVE RAIL CORRIDOR MUST BE INTERIM & PRESERVED FOR FUTURE RAIL USE. WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF "PRESERVED?"

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If required, please respond as soon as possible.