

**From:** [Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov](mailto:Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov)  
**To:** [Howard, Nathan](#)  
**Subject:** Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 5:10:44 PM

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

Date: Wednesday, 01-Jun-2022 17:07:25 EDT  
Name: Keith Bubblo  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone: 2078314974  
Email: keithb1210@yahoo.com

Topic:

-----

Comments:

I support the development of the rail trail through North Yarmouth.

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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:** Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 4:00:41 PM

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

Date: Wednesday, 01-Jun-2022 15:52:01 EDT  
Name: Scott Spaulding  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone:  
Email: scottspaulding8@gmail.com

Topic:

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Comments:

I live in New Gloucester and have been riding my bike on Maine roads for many years. I feel that road cycling is becoming increasingly dangerous with more traffic, speeders, distracted drivers, and bigger, wider vehicles. This long distance trail would be a safer way for cyclists and pedestrians to get around and it is something that I would utilize frequently. The connectivity between rural areas and Portland and Auburn would be an invaluable asset encouraging many more people to recreate outdoors and commute by bike or on foot.

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If required, please respond as soon as possible.

**From:** [Howard, Nathan](#)  
**To:** [tebbe@swm.legal](mailto:tebbe@swm.legal)  
**Subject:** RE: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 15, 2022 8:06:00 AM

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The rail corridor is preserved for future rail use under the State Rail Preservation Act. The Advisory Council has not made any recommendations at this point.

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: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 3:04 PM  
To: Howard, Nathan <Nathan.Howard@maine.gov>  
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments

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

Date: Tuesday, 14-Jun-2022 14:57:40 EDT  
Name: Jackie  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone: 3147200220  
Email: [tebbe@swm.legal](mailto:tebbe@swm.legal)

Topic:

-----  
Comments:

I am conducting research for a private law firm. I noticed the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council has been discussing possibly moving forward with a trail concept on the railroad corridor. Since this railroad right of way is under Surface Transportation Board jurisdiction, are you planning on moving forward with the railbanking process after the abandonment proceedings?

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If required, please respond as soon as possible.

**From:** [William Shane](#)  
**To:** [Howard, Nathan](#); [Moulton, Nathan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [Cumberland ME] Portland to Auburn Rail Line Evaluation (Sent by Peter Griffin, peterjgriffin@comcast.net)  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 22, 2022 3:28:25 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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FYI



**William R. Shane P.E.**

Town Manager

Town of Cumberland

207 829 2205

207 829 4264 direct

207 232 5258 cell

207 829 2224 fax

[www.cumberlandmaine.com](http://www.cumberlandmaine.com)

290 Tuttle Road, Cumberland, Maine 04021



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**From:** Contact form at Cumberland ME <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 22, 2022 1:25 PM

**To:** William Shane <wshane@cumberlandmaine.com>

**Subject:** [Cumberland ME] Portland to Auburn Rail Line Evaluation (Sent by Peter Griffin, peterjgriffin@comcast.net)

**WARNING: This is an external email that originated outside of our email system. DO NOT CLICK links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that the content is safe!**

Hello wshane,

Peter Griffin ([peterjgriffin@comcast.net](mailto:peterjgriffin@comcast.net)) has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.cumberlandmaine.com/user/65/contact>) at Cumberland ME.

If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at <https://www.cumberlandmaine.com/user/65/edit>.

Message:

Dear Mr.Shane:

I read with great interest the article in the Portland Press Herald about the multi-town evaluation for

uses of the Portland to Auburn Rail line.

I live in Windham,NH and have as President of the former NH Railroad Revitalization Association,NHRRRA)

have been involved in rail line preservation and restoration in the region for almost twenty five years.

I am currently Chairman of regional planning commission in NH.

I know from my experience in NH once you give up a rail line no matter how well the agreement is written you will never reclaim it for active rail use.

In NH towns have spent hundreds of thousands of dollar in their conversion to and maintenance of a rail trail it then becomes a part of the fabric of the community.

I agree it should be a combination of maintaining the track in place with a bike trail next to it. Another aspect to consider is how is the land zoned in each of communities through which the line runs.

Should it be zoned commercial? In doing so is having an adjacent rail line an incentive in attracting business and building the tax base? Is there the opportunity for passenger rail?

Thank you for considering my comments<

Peter Griffin,  
603-898-2940

**From:** [Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov](mailto:Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov)  
**To:** [Howard, Nathan](#)  
**Subject:** Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 22, 2022 11:40:12 AM

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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: Wednesday, 22-Jun-2022 11:38:23 EDT  
Name: Sean Curran  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone: 2078080571  
Email: srcurran@gmail.com

Topic:

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Comments:

I want to voice my opinion in favor of the proposed St. Lawrence & Atlantic rail-to-trail network.

I love cycling and want it to be safe, fun and accessible to more people – including kids & adults that [reasonably] aren't comfortable riding on roads. As a resident of Middle Rd in Falmouth this is specifically interesting to me as I would surely use it multiple times a week.

I am an avid cyclist & have been for my whole adult life. I use my bikes not just for recreation – but to visit friends, run errands, or go out to eat in Portland. But I am more than aware that this is not a universal experience and many don't feel comfortable. In fact, my wife doesn't feel comfortable riding on fast roads with traffic & we are expecting our first child which has me nervous thinking about letting them ride on a road such as Middle when they get older. A close-by rail-to-trail would alleviate all these concerns.

Beyond my immediate household, I am sure that there would be a sufficient demand and usage of a rail-to-trail. I see plenty of cyclists on Middle Road (and 88) – plenty are lycra-clad, but plenty are kids riding to school or friend's houses, and more recently many are older adults on e-assist bikes. Additionally, a friend who recently moved to Freeport was asking where he should take his 7-year old son for riding bikes & I was only able to recommend the river trail in Brunswick & the Eastern Trail in Scarborough. A rail-to-trail so close to Portland would almost surely become a destination for folks in the southern Maine region.

Thanks for taking the time to read my thoughts & I will be happy to communicate more in the future.

All the best,  
Sean Curran

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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:** Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, June 9, 2022 8:58:38 AM

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

Date: Thursday, 09-Jun-2022 08:34:06 EDT  
Name: Whitney King-Buker  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone:  
Email: wkingbuker98@yahoo.com

Topic:

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Comments:

To environmentally and economically sustain and bolster our State extending passenger rail on the existing sections in Central and Western Maine is logical, practical and proactive.

Neighboring States such as CT, RI and MA, as well as Europe, have already shown success in rail and road platforms for decades.

What is/are the reason(s) to not do so?

You will bring in and connect tourism where it truly is lacking.

Medical facilities and colleges will also benefit.

There are so many reasons that show passenger rail can successfully thrive and sustain in harmony with our highways.

Make a difference.

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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:** Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 7, 2022 3:07:58 PM

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

Date: Tuesday, 07-Jun-2022 15:00:50 EDT  
Name: Stacy Smith  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone: 2077122382  
Email: stacylsmith2@gmail.com

Topic:

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Comments:

Please support a rail trail corridor. I have driven all across the country this past year and seen so many communities positively impacted by access to open space, recreation and exercise and transportation opportunities. Maine is ideal for this; indeed, I can't quite imagine our state not moving forward this a rail trail network, particularly connecting Portland to Auburn regions.

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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:** Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, June 5, 2022 7:02:18 PM

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

Date: Sunday, 05-Jun-2022 18:57:54 EDT  
Name: Ed Cunningham  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone:  
Email: [cunninghamed57@gmail.com](mailto:cunninghamed57@gmail.com)

Topic:

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Comments:

I support the rail trail. The rail corridor is already used by walkers and there are no trains running on it.

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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:** Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Friday, June 3, 2022 12:06:28 PM

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

Date: Friday, 03-Jun-2022 11:35:17 EDT  
Name: Alvin Karl Ahlers  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone: 12078293159  
Email: aahlers@maine.rr.com

Topic:

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Comments:

I am not in favor of converting this rail line (St. Lawrence & Atlantic) for a trail. There is a need for alternate transportation from Auburn to Portland other than by motor vehicle. This route offers an excellent access to Portland once the bridge and trestle are restored over the bay in Portland. A commuter train would be able to get people to the Old Port area for access to the business district, the major Portland retail area and Casco Bay Ferries without having to travel by motor vehicle and finding parking for that vehicle. Fewer motor vehicles will mean less traffic and less air pollution from those vehicles. This route currently has a large parking lot in Yarmouth that could accommodate a station to service nearby towns such as Cumberland, North Yarmouth and Yarmouth. This route also goes well beyond Auburn and could in the future service communities in western Maine. Once the usage of this land is changed, it will be very difficult to get it back in to a rail transportation route (not in my back yard). We need more ways to get from one location to another to access jobs, business and retail services and wider roads will not be a good solution. We don't necessarily need more trails for those who may be physically able to use them. Please don't give away this rail corridor.

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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:** Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Friday, June 3, 2022 10:56:28 AM

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

Date: Friday, 03-Jun-2022 10:51:04 EDT  
Name: Peter Robbins  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone: 2076323636  
Email: peter.e.robbins@gmail.com

Topic:

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Comments:

I support the Casco Bay Trail. I live in Falmouth, work in Portland, and have friends and family all over Cumberland County. Having a dedicated trail away from auto traffic connecting more towns in southern Maine will make it safer, easier, and more enjoyable to recreate, exercise, and commute by bicycle and xc skiing.

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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:** Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, June 2, 2022 6:11:12 PM

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

Date: Thursday, 02-Jun-2022 18:05:46 EDT  
Name: Sharon Pray  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone: 2078317241  
Email: emmawoof@gmail.com

Topic:

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Comments:

Being an avid bike rider, former runner and now walker this is so important to keep people safe by being off major roads while encouraging fitness, better health and enjoying being in a natural environment.  
Thank you for your consideration in this very important endeavor.

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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:** Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, June 2, 2022 3:41:06 PM

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

Date: Thursday, 02-Jun-2022 15:37:34 EDT  
Name: Dale Burnell  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone: 2076712391  
Email: [aplusdrs@maine.rr.com](mailto:aplusdrs@maine.rr.com)

Topic:

-----

Comments:

I am very much in favor of this project!

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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:** Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, June 2, 2022 7:35:59 AM

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

Date: Thursday, 02-Jun-2022 07:13:17 EDT  
Name: Tom Miller  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone:  
Email: tamiller15@gmail.com

Topic:

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Comments:

As a resident of Yarmouth, parent of 3 school-aged children, and someone who commutes to Portland and Scarborough daily, it's difficult to express how excited I am for the prospect of a traffic-separated trail connecting Portland to Auburn. One of the reasons we chose to move to Yarmouth after returning to the region was the number of traffic-separated trails connecting the town that allow us to enjoy biking to the grocery store, school, soccer, little league, etc. I strongly support a trail-until-rail option that would enhance the options we already have in Yarmouth and extend for additional commuting options. I do occasionally bike commute to Portland (although not as frequently as I would like) and have bike commuted in different cities throughout my life (including Portland, Boston, Salt Lake City); when I try to convert others to that option explaining that it's the most impactful activity I do for my mental health, one of the biggest barriers is fear of cars on roads with variable shoulders. For me it's all about removing barriers to chip away at active transportation and recreation and a trail corridor would do that. I've also had the opportunity to sit on councils addressing trail development, and my understanding from the research I've been exposed to is that trail development always adds value to communities that invest. While I also am a big proponent of rail my impression from following other short distance projects is they don't add the same value, in part because it's much harder to get people to use them and I don't think those barriers to use are changing as much as barriers to active transportation. Happy to discuss that opinion more, but my strong support is for trail until rail. Thank you for the difficult committee work you're all doing to move this forward. -Tom Miller, Yarmouth, ME

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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:** Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 22, 2022 5:40:11 AM

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

Date: Wednesday, 22-Jun-2022 05:33:55 EDT  
Name: William  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone: Follett  
Email: bfollett207@gmail.com

Topic:

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Comments:

I support continued development of a connected trail network.  
Having used similar trails both here in North American and the EU, these are great assets for our communities. Rail trails foster economic development and provide a safe alternate means of transportation for local residents to and visitors alike. Please continue the development of these trails!

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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:** Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 3:25:41 PM

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

Date: Wednesday, 01-Jun-2022 14:49:47 EDT  
Name: Cyndy Adams  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone: 2073839800  
Email: cyndyadams25@gmail.com

Topic:

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Comments:

I am writing my thoughts as a property owner who abuts the trail directly for 400 feet. We moved here 41 years ago and built our own home on what we thought was a private 4 acre lot with a train track as our westerly border. My thoughts are how will this rail trail impact our lot/ privacy. What about any liability if people or dogs come onto our property. Will port-a-potties be available for trail breaks?  
I am also concerned about the cost/ rise in our taxes.

-----  
If required, please respond as soon as possible.



**From:** [Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov](mailto:Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov)  
**To:** [Howard, Nathan](#)  
**Subject:** Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 11:10:38 AM

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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: Wednesday, 01-Jun-2022 11:08:24 EDT  
Name: Liz Trice  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone: 2077760921  
Email: liztrice@gmail.com

Topic:

-----  
Comments:

Hi! I support rail trails, and other forms of trails that allow people to use active transportation year round to move throughout the state. I also encourage MaineDOT to think about removing redundant cloverleafs like at Exit 5 on 295, and to reduce the impact of auto travel, keeping roads small, not doing the gorham bypass, and investing more money in transit and the types of land use regulations that make transit and walking more practical. Thank you!

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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:** Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 10:10:36 AM

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

Date: Wednesday, 01-Jun-2022 09:58:02 EDT  
Name: Daniel Ostrye  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone: 2074157884  
Email: [dostrye@gmail.com](mailto:dostrye@gmail.com)

Topic:

-----  
Comments:

I would like to state my wholehearted support for converting the Portland to Auburn rail corridor to a rail trail. As former chair of the Yarmouth Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee I have worked with the town to develop a rail along trail pathway within the Yarmouth Village and believe that conversion of the line to a rail trail is the highest and best use of this state-owned asset in the near term. I have heard promises of imminent passenger rail development since I became involved in 2011 and continue to hear that it is just around the corner from advocates of passenger rail. It is time to admit that the demand is too low and the cost too high and is likely to remain so for decades. It is my sincere hope that you will recommend conversion to a rail trail until such time as passenger or freight rail demand warrants recommissioning the corridor for trains.

Thank you  
Dan Ostrye

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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:** Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 9:25:36 AM

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

Date: Wednesday, 01-Jun-2022 09:14:12 EDT  
Name: Emma Scudder  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone: 6032195190  
Email: [scudder.emma@gmail.com](mailto:scudder.emma@gmail.com)

Topic:

-----  
Comments:

Hello,

I am a Portland (Libbytown) resident, and I regularly commute by bike or walking for work, recreation, errands, and social life. I highly support the efforts of the Casco Bay Trail Alliance to create a network of rail trails from Portland to Auburn. This type of long-term vision for active transportation in the state is exactly what we need, especially in the face of climate change. With this network in place, our state can be a leader in active transportation and the fight against climate change. Personally, I will be more likely to leave the car at home and travel regionally for even basic things, like meeting up with someone for dinner in Yarmouth or going to a concert in Brunswick. I dream of living in a place where my children can safely bike to school or to a friends house, and having the Casco Bay Trail network would be a hugely important shift in making safe transportation and recreation accessible to Mainers of all ages and abilities.

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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:** Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Monday, June 13, 2022 9:50:15 AM

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

Date: Monday, 13-Jun-2022 09:42:44 EDT  
Name: Phillip Kirchner  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone:  
Email: [pkirchn1@maine.rr.com](mailto:pkirchn1@maine.rr.com)

Topic:

-----  
Comments:

I would fully support this initiative to create more safe bikable trails. I am a principally a road biker, member of the Casco Bay Bike Club, and log probably 2000 Miles + a year around the Yarmouth-Portland area. For years I commuted from Yarmouth to Portland during good weather. Biking is a great travel alternative, healthy and environmentally friendly. I would definitely make great use of the proposed Casco Bay Trail Loop

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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:** Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Saturday, June 11, 2022 4:04:30 PM

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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: Saturday, 11-Jun-2022 15:40:26 EDT  
Name: Andrew Walton  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone: 2074158221  
Email: andrew.walton72@yahoo.com

Topic:

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Comments:

Dear Rail Use Advisory Council Members,

My name is Andrew Walton, I'm from Steep Falls, Maine. I have watched both of the meetings for this council and already have some thoughts to how things are going.

The council should have a professional moderator. The current chair takes positions that a moderator would not, he's not remaining impartial. Has the chair had any training to moderate this process and what makes him qualified? The council should appoint a new moderator by vote, by the council members immediately.

Time limits need to be kept to, this duty falls on the moderator. Another reason why a professional is needed.

Bullying and disrespectful behavior should never be allowed. If this behavior is exhibited the council member should be muted for the remainder of the meeting and a council vote should be made to allow/not allow the council member to return for future meetings.

No councilor should receive any financial gain from the end result of this process. Doing so is a conflict of interest and any board, committee, or council I've seen would make the person recuse him/herself. In this case be recused for the entirety of the process.

In closing, there needs to be rules to this process that are then followed and moderated by a professional. If the result isn't deemed fair doubt could come as to if the process was handled properly. Having the process over again to reach a fair result is not in the best interest of the MDOT's time. Getting it right the first time is the best thing to do.

Thank you for your time.

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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:** Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Friday, June 10, 2022 5:58:57 AM

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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: Friday, 10-Jun-2022 05:51:46 EDT  
Name: John Koons  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone: 2074414919  
Email: [jdkoons@gwi.net](mailto:jdkoons@gwi.net)

Topic:

-----

Comments:

Ought to be encouraging passenger rail, not closing out future options.

-----

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

**From:** [Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov](mailto:Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov)  
**To:** [Howard, Nathan](#)  
**Subject:** Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, June 9, 2022 3:53:41 PM

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

Date: Thursday, 09-Jun-2022 15:49:05 EDT  
Name: Paul Weiss  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone: 2077560776  
Email: weissp@me.com

Topic:

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Comments:

I wanted to express my deepest opinion on the use of our public railways. I have worked in the transportation and energy and environmental sector for many years. Having written several plans on restoration of passenger rail service to the former SLR line, I find it important that we keep this line and all other rail lines in our state for rail use only.

Climate change is up us and we have about 15 years to complete decarbonization of our transportation sector. Without this railway, we will not be able to do this in Maine. This state owned railway, which is separated from the freight line, is the perfect opportunity to convert to a intercity urban electrified railway. It can take millions of car trips off our overcrowded roadways and thus dramatically reduce pollution, fuel use and decarbonize. It can also add millions to the economy of the region by allowing commuters to have great access to green transportation between Maine largest metro areas.

Please do not allow, special interest groups to ride rough shot over our public transportation sectors. As a cyclist, I understand the allure, but it is really bad public policy and has been seen as a disaster for both our economy and environment in our own state and across the country.

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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:** Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, June 9, 2022 3:28:41 PM

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

Date: Thursday, 09-Jun-2022 15:25:21 EDT  
Name: Shirley Storey Storey-King  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone:  
Email: [sstorey-king@cumberlandmaine.com](mailto:sstorey-king@cumberlandmaine.com)

Topic:

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Comments:

I just reviewed the 94 pages of public response to the May meeting which confirms for me what I read in the paper, that this corridor would be the most traveled corridor in Maine. I'm thankful for the manager from North Yarmouth's concern for abutters' concerns. This process has, so far, disregarded all of those concerns.

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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:** Rail Use Advisory Council Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 22, 2022 11:45:12 AM

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

Date: Wednesday, 22-Jun-2022 11:38:23 EDT  
Name: Sean Curran  
Organization(if applicable):  
Phone: 2078080571  
Email: srcurran@gmail.com

Topic:

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Comments:

I want to voice my opinion in favor of the proposed St. Lawrence & Atlantic rail-to-trail network.

I love cycling and want it to be safe, fun and accessible to more people – including kids & adults that [reasonably] aren't comfortable riding on roads. As a resident of Middle Rd in Falmouth this is specifically interesting to me as I would surely use it multiple times a week.

I am an avid cyclist & have been for my whole adult life. I use my bikes not just for recreation – but to visit friends, run errands, or go out to eat in Portland. But I am more than aware that this is not a universal experience and many don't feel comfortable. In fact, my wife doesn't feel comfortable riding on fast roads with traffic & we are expecting our first child which has me nervous thinking about letting them ride on a road such as Middle when they get older. A close-by rail-to-trail would alleviate all these concerns.

Beyond my immediate household, I am sure that there would be a sufficient demand and usage of a rail-to-trail. I see plenty of cyclists on Middle Road (and 88) – plenty are lycra-clad, but plenty are kids riding to school or friend's houses, and more recently many are older adults on e-assist bikes. Additionally, a friend who recently moved to Freeport was asking where he should take his 7-year old son for riding bikes & I was only able to recommend the river trail in Brunswick & the Eastern Trail in Scarborough. A rail-to-trail so close to Portland would almost surely become a destination for folks in the southern Maine region.

Thanks for taking the time to read my thoughts & I will be happy to communicate more in the future.

All the best,  
Sean Curran

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If required, please respond as soon as possible.