

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 3:08:29 PM

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, 27-May-2022 15:03:17 EDT
Name: Teresa D Price
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207846099
Email: TPrice@PriceStructural.com

Topic:

Comments:

I strongly support a rail trail between Portland and Auburn. It would be so wonderful to have a safe place to ride bikes, walk, and run. I live close to North Road, and it is a very dangerous place to run. I really think this rail trail would be a great addition to our community, encouraging people to get out and exercise more.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 3:13:30 PM

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, 27-May-2022 15:04:25 EDT
Name: Rob Wood
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-829-5592
Email: robwood717@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I fully support a non- mechanized rail trail through North Yarmouth. It would encourage outdoor recreation.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 3:13:30 PM

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

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 15:09:54 EDT
Name: Colin VETTIER
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 9736528033
Email: colin.vettier@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Hello,

I leave in Portland (without a car) and I absolutely support a rail trail between Portland and Auburn. I can't wait to be able to visit new area of our beautiful states, with much carbon emission.

Kindly,

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 3:18:31 PM

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, 27-May-2022 15:13:21 EDT
Name: Joel Antolini
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 9087232901
Email: joel.antolini67@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Yarmouth and very much support a detailed bike arterial between Maine's biggest cities. It would be great for our region for environmental, health and tourism reasons. Please make it a reality!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
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The following message was submitted from your MaineDOT website contact form .

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 15:13:21 EDT
Name: Chris Kuhn
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2074502053
Email: jckuhn@icloud.com

Topic:

Comments:

Iâ€™d love to be able to ride safely to Portland from my home in Yarmouth. Roads are pretty bad, drivers worse. I think Rail with Trail from Auburn would be an outstanding improvement for cyclists and drivers- who always seem irritated that anyone besides a car is on the road.
Thank you

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 3:18:32 PM

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

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 15:13:21 EDT
Name: Jay Phillips
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: jphilli2@Bates.edu

Topic:

Comments:

I support a rail trail between Portland and Auburn as part of the Maine Active Transportation Arterials report. Please vote yes to this important initiative.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
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The following message was submitted from your MaineDOT website contact form .

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 15:09:19 EDT
Name: Sean Kerwin
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2075420154
Email: cairdhubain@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I would like to encourage you to support the development of the Casco Bay Trail Loop in general and the Portland to Auburn trail in particular. My wife and I live in North Yarmouth and our property directly abuts this line. Given that it is not being used for rail, it makes good sense to put the right of way to productive use. In my experience, multi-use path's are a great amenity for the livability and desirability of a community, both in terms of those who choose to visit and explore the community via the trail, and as a recreational and transportation option for those who live within it. Thank you.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
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The following message was submitted from your MaineDOT website contact form .

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 15:18:12 EDT
Name: Colin B Durrant
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: colindurrant@comcast.net

Topic:

Comments:

As a resident of Yarmouth I strongly support the construction of a rail trail between Portland and Auburn. I have spoken with several neighbors and fellow residents, including one abutter, who all overwhelmingly support the idea as well. I hope construction of the rail trail can be expedited! Thank you.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 3:28:30 PM

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

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 15:13:21 EDT
Name: Bill Dunn
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2078479342
Email: wdunn@sunsetpoint.biz

Topic:

Comments:

Please do what you can to support the construction of the Casco Bay Trail Loop as described in the Maine Active Transportation Arterials report. As a member of the Board of the Royal River Conservation Trust (RRCT) and one of the Yarmouth volunteers building the West Side Trail (WST), the Casco Bay Trail Loop will be a great addition to the Royal River watershed.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

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To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
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The following message was submitted from your MaineDOT website contact form .

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 15:21:23 EDT
Name: Annie Graham
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2077128253
Email: apgraham1@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I enthusiastically support the proposed rail trail. As a neighbor who is close to the proposed trail, I think it is the right thing to promote more safe bicycling and walking. I am also a former town select woman and state legislator. I would be happy to share my thoughts in person. Thank you!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

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To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
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The following message was submitted from your MaineDOT website contact form .

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 15:25:03 EDT
Name: Susan Prescott
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: tspresco@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I am a longtime resident of Yarmouth and I would love to have the rail trail come through our town. This would be such a tremendous asset for everyone to safely bike to other communities.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
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Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
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The following message was submitted from your MaineDOT website contact form .

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 15:25:03 EDT
Name: Stephen Hayes
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2076508467
Email: hayesstephen58@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I am truly excited about the prospect of the Portland to Auburn Rail/Trail Corridor. I live in Falmouth and enjoy biking. the ability to ride off the road and away from traffic will be a great change and will provide opportunity for recreation and non-car based commuting that will enhance the quality of life for all of us in the area. thanks and I hope this trail becomes reality soon! Maine will be a richer richer place with this corridor and with the entire network that is envisioned. thanks.

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From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
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The following message was submitted from your MaineDOT website contact form .

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 15:41:25 EDT
Name: Margaret Dodge
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: mdodge1@rochester.rr.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Yarmouth and strongly support a Rail Trail through my town.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 3:48:30 PM

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

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 15:42:12 EDT
Name: William Meakin
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-319-2659
Email: meakinfam@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Our family enthusiastically supports a rail trail connecting Portland & Auburn - we live in North Yarmouth and our children are looking for longer bike rides near us.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
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The following message was submitted from your MaineDOT website contact form .

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 15:14:25 EDT
Name: Dan Melnick
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-956-7850
Email: danmelnick@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Hello,

I am a resident of Cumberland and a strong advocate of a rail trail between Portland and Auburn. I think this would be used for commuting, recreation, and be a huge value add for all of the communities it runs through.

Thank you!

Dan

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

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Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
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The following message was submitted from your MaineDOT website contact form .

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 15:42:12 EDT
Name: Judith burtman
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: jburtman50@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Yes to rail trail

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
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The following message was submitted from your MaineDOT website contact form .

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 15:42:12 EDT
Name: Robert LeMieux
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 1207 847 0368
Email: ralx1938@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

As a Yarmouth Resident I wish
to say that I'm in support of a rail trail in Yarmouth.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

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

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 15:42:12 EDT
Name: Rick Smart
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: rick.smart.me@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I am very interested in seeing the rail line from Portland to Auburn developed into a multi use bike path. I believe this is the best use of the line. I have lived in other states where this has been done and it really gets people out and moving. It also creates many economic benefits and opportunities.

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

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 15:19:14 EDT
Name: Pamela J Fischer
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2079263919
Email: pamela.fischer33@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

A rail trail between Portland and Auburn would provide a safe and convenient way for many people to commute and recreate and it's time that Maine takes action to support development of this resource. It has been proven all over the country that long distance trails stimulate economies and provide vital links to communities for people of all ages and abilities. Trail systems encourage healthy outdoor activity and help cut fossil fuel emissions by providing a car-free means of travel. I support the vision of The Casco Bay Trail.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 3:58:31 PM

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

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 15:56:19 EDT
Name: Ronald W Graham
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2078462249
Email: rgraham1@maine.rr.com

Topic:

Comments:

I completely support the Rail Trail.
I have lived near the RR tracks for 25 years.
I believe a Rail Trail use of the track would give the most public benefit.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
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The following message was submitted from your MaineDOT website contact form .

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 15:54:23 EDT
Name: Robert Haile
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207 632 6305
Email: rob.haile.jr@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live on North Rd. in North Yarmouth. The rail line in question is directly across the street from my home. I wholeheartedly support converting this line to a rail trail.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
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The following message was submitted from your MaineDOT website contact form .

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 15:42:12 EDT
Name: Ben Wentling
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2076321827
Email: wentlink@hotmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Our household strongly supports the construction of trails on the rail bed. Connecting towns and allowing non motorized pathways will benefit all.

Ben Leah Clara and Amelia convey support for the Cumberland section and the concept as a whole.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
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The following message was submitted from your MaineDOT website contact form .

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 15:55:39 EDT
Name: Marielle Mallar
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 6172834060
Email: mjpult@yahoo.com

Topic:

Comments:

I would love and completely support a rail trail In auburn and new gloucester. I live in new gloucester but right on the auburn line near Danville junction. I would fully support and help out in any way possible. Thanks
Marielle and Scott mallar

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 4:03:31 PM

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

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 15:56:43 EDT
Name: Jason Barschdorf
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: j_barschdorf@hotmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Yarmouth and support a rail trail connecting Portland and Auburn through my town.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

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To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
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The following message was submitted from your MaineDOT website contact form .

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 15:57:18 EDT
Name: Evelyn Landry
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2072108082
Email: landry.evie@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I love in Yarmouth and support the rail use corridor

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

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To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
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The following message was submitted from your MaineDOT website contact form .

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 16:08:45 EDT
Name: James Vicenzi
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2078073544
Email: jimvicenzi@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

This is to let you know that as a longtime Mainer, business owner and cyclist and I am very much in favor of the Casco Bay Trail along the rail corridor. Is exactly the kind of thing that is great for both residents that want to cycle without concern for traffic and for visitors who come to Maine to experience active pursuits in the outdoors. Please do everything possible to make it happen.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

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To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
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The following message was submitted from your MaineDOT website contact form .

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 16:12:27 EDT
Name: Roger Vogt
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: rwvogt@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Hello. Anytime we can get bikers off the streets and roads is a good thing for both bikers and motorists. Repurposed rail beds is a great way to do that. I'm a biker and I will use this new trail, someday, I hope. Thank you.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

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

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 16:20:40 EDT
Name: Sherwin Parkhurst
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2072328065
Email: sherwin.parkhurst@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

My name is Sherwin Parkhurst and my family and I are in the process of building a home at 39 Riverfront Drive slated to be finished in the next week. We are re-locating to Yarmouth from Newfields, NH which has a fantastic rail trail called the Rockingham Recreational Rail Trail that goes 25+ miles to Manchester.

When we purchased the land in Riverfront I was aware of the hope that the railroad at the end of the neighborhood in Yarmouth may one day be utilized as a rail trail. This would be a dream come true for me, my wife, and our two young kids. I am an avid competitive runner and my local NH rail trail is one of my favorite places to run, walk, and enjoy time with my family. There is nothing better than having a safe place to run, walk, bike, and explore in a community.

I sincerely hope you support the movement to make the Casco Bay Trail become a reality. The thought of being able to raise my 5 year old son and 2 year old daughter with the opportunity to enjoy a local rail trail brings me immense joy and community pride. I would be willing to become actively involved in this project as it is something I am incredibly passionate about becoming a reality.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,
Sherwin and Kristen Parkhurst
39 Riverfront Drive

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

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 16:08:45 EDT
Name: Laura Cannon
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-542-7059
Email: igocoastal@yahoo.com

Topic:

Comments:

I am an abutting landowner and I'd love to see this rail trail happen! I'm a walker, hiker, dog owner, and bike rider. This would be a great asset to my town of North Yarmouth and surrounding communities, providing opportunities for exercise, recreation, fresh air, community connection, engagement with neighbors and nature, and more. Multi-use trails are wonderful! Thank you for your work to inform this process and make it happen!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

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

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 16:37:17 EDT
Name: Peter Hall
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2074200431
Email: petehall9@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I am writing to wholeheartedly endorse the Casco Bay Trail Corridor that has been proposed. As a lifetime bicycle tourist, jogger and hiker I have no doubt it will increase the quality of life of countless Mainers for generations.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

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

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 16:20:40 EDT
Name: Mark Fuller
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: Oldleather49@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Auburn and often go to the Portland/Yarmouth/New Gloucester area for bicycling. A trail from Portland to Auburn would be brilliant, and a wonderful way to connect the communities in between. Although there may be a minor direct financial benefit, the greatest impact lies in the connections made between people, as well as the expanded recreational opportunities that draw and retain people in the region and from away. I truly hope this effort is successful!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 5:03:34 PM

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

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 17:00:55 EDT
Name: Kristen sciacca
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2076164382
Email: kristensciacca@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I try to ride my bike to work from Falmouth every day I can. Totally support this project.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
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The following message was submitted from your MaineDOT website contact form .

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 17:04:02 EDT
Name: Jen Horton
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2074153577
Email: 207horton@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Hi! I definitely support a rail trail connecting Portland & Auburn. 100%

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 5:18:32 PM

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

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 17:11:30 EDT
Name: Jeff Candura
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: jcandura@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in North Yarmouth, one of the communities that the Casco Bay Trail Loop rail trail will travel through. I strongly support this vision for connecting our communities with mixed use paths. It will be beneficial to economic growth, traffic reduction, and the health of our community. We are eager to see this project and the larger vision move forward.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 5:43:32 PM

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, 27-May-2022 17:39:55 EDT
Name: melina roberts
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2073186626
Email: melina.roberts@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in yarmouth and support the rail trail going through my community.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 6:13:34 PM

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, 27-May-2022 18:06:58 EDT
Name: Laurie Gilman
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2076532008
Email: laurie.gilman@me.com

Topic:

Comments:

Hello,

I support the Rail Trail Corridor through North Yarmouth. I live on the North Rd and will have easy access to the trail. I think it only makes sense to take this valuable unused property and make it a great resource for local walkers & bikers.

Thank you.

Laurie Gilman

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 6:38:33 PM

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, 27-May-2022 18:32:05 EDT
Name: Deborah Lawless
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207 831 2643
Email: dlawless6@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in N Yarmouth and would like to see an expanded rail trail system. I am older and donot enjoy riding on the roads with cars whizzing past.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 6:43:32 PM

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, 27-May-2022 16:20:40 EDT
Name: Paul Faulstich
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-841-2810
Email: psf@waltzingcat.com

Topic:

Comments:

Our family is super excited about a rail trail between Portland and Auburn! How would we use it?
- bicycle w kids. We live going to the Eastern Trail in Scarborough but it means loading the bikes on the car and driving.
* rollerblading - our daughter in on the HS nordic ski team. Getting distance on rollerblades during the warm months is hard. We currently skate on Sligo Road, in fear of cars! Can't wait to get some serious distance on the rail trail!
- bike to Portland - how cool will it be to bike to events in Portland!
- bike to food - food trucks and other businesses will undoubtedly pop up along the route. We'll be delighted to be able to grab some food or ice cream while out on a ride

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 6:43:33 PM

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, 27-May-2022 18:39:18 EDT
Name: Alex Millspaugh
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207 232 4418
Email: gam9265@yahoo.com

Topic:

Comments:

I support these bike links between cities.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 6:58:33 PM

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, 27-May-2022 18:56:02 EDT
Name: Jane Morris
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: jgmorris15@icloud.com

Topic:

Comments:

I support rails to trails from Portland to Auburn.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 7:03:33 PM

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

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 18:59:02 EDT
Name: Jerome gamache
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207 650 4877
Email: jgamache@atrlaw.pro

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Cumberland and would bike to work on the rail trial if it were built

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 7:13:33 PM

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, 27-May-2022 19:10:51 EDT
Name: Michael Geoghan
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-807-6998
Email: mikegeoghan@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Using railway beds no longer in use for recreational activities is an excellent idea. Looking forward to when this all comes together.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 7:18:33 PM

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, 27-May-2022 19:14:28 EDT
Name: Tyler Clements
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: clementstyler@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Portland's East End and support the Casco Bay Trail. Having lived in Boston and ridden the Minuteman trail there many times, I know what an incredible asset it can be for a community. Please make this happen! Thanks,
Tyler Clements

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 8:48:35 PM

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, 27-May-2022 20:44:09 EDT
Name: Amy Haile
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2072323867
Email: amyhaile@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I am so excited about the potential of having a rail trail in North Yarmouth! It is a great way for everyone, especially families, to recreate safely, a viable commuting alternative, and an overall fabulous use of an unused part of land. Please move this forward!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 9:48:35 PM

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

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 21:43:05 EDT
Name: Stephen
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: stbush@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Yarmouth and regularly bike with my family in the area. We would love to have a rail trail connecting our community with other towns so we could safely bike further without worrying about our kids biking in the road with cars.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 11:18:36 PM

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

Date: Friday, 27-May-2022 23:16:36 EDT
Name: Nicholas
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: npaulu@icloud.com

Topic:

Comments:

YES! I am in support of a railtrail between Portland and Auburn. I live in Yarmouth and am avid trail lover and need more trails to bike, hike, ski, walk and get around Maine

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Saturday, May 28, 2022 7:13:45 AM

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, 28-May-2022 07:09:44 EDT
Name: Erik Langenbach
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: erik@thelangenbachs.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Yarmouth and am in favor of converting the old rail lines to bike/walking paths! Can't wait!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Saturday, May 28, 2022 7:13:45 AM

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, 28-May-2022 06:55:28 EDT
Name: Ed Gervais
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: ehgervais3@casconpump.com

Topic:

Comments:

RE: Rail trail between Portland and Auburn. While rail service would be a welcome alternative to auto transport if people would use it, it doesn't seem likely that such a service would have much demand or fits with the people's transportation preferences/needs. Therefore, I support the concept of a rail trail. I have seen first hand how the bicycle has transformed the community of Carrabassett Valley with even the modest Narrow Gage trail -people of all ages use that trail for a healthy "get outside" activity that provides a great opportunity for community engagement.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Saturday, May 28, 2022 7:18:44 AM

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, 28-May-2022 07:12:52 EDT
Name: Ian MacDonald
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-329-0917
Email: imacd99@duck.com

Topic:

Comments:

Very excited about a regionally-connected active transportation network!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Saturday, May 28, 2022 8:33:45 AM

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, 28-May-2022 08:27:57 EDT
Name: Stacey Caulk
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: staceycaulk@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in North Yarmouth and would eagerly support a trail through my community!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Saturday, May 28, 2022 9:08:46 AM

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, 28-May-2022 09:07:28 EDT
Name: Nancy Martin
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 9175147495
Email: nancykleahy@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Yarmouth and really want to see the rail trail become a reality!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Saturday, May 28, 2022 10:08:50 AM

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, 28-May-2022 10:05:57 EDT
Name: John daggett
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2074598751
Email: johndaggettjr@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Please support!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Saturday, May 28, 2022 12:08:46 PM

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, 28-May-2022 12:04:01 EDT
Name: Ann Swardlick
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2076534146
Email: aswardlick@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I am a Yarmouth resident who has commuted to work in Portland on my bike in the past. A rail use trail would make this commute much safer and encourage longer bike rides up to Auburn. I full support the Portland to Auburn trail, would use it, and would love to have it run through our community of Yarmouth.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Saturday, May 28, 2022 12:18:48 PM

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, 28-May-2022 12:14:46 EDT
Name: Betsy Cyr
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 617-869-1179
Email: emb915@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I strongly support the rail trail in my community. I live in North Yarmouth right off North Road. We already use the railroad for walking, but having a dedicated path to walk, jog, and/or bike would be a huge asset to our community.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Saturday, May 28, 2022 12:53:48 PM

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, 28-May-2022 12:46:43 EDT
Name: Michael Quinn
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-233-2471
Email: quinnm@spectrummg.com

Topic:

Comments:

We need a rail trail for commuter and casual bikers. This is a draw for the community and a positive impact on the environment

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Saturday, May 28, 2022 4:38:52 PM

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, 28-May-2022 16:32:00 EDT
Name: Steve Specker
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2078479325
Email: steve@specker.com

Topic:

Comments:

Iâ€™m an avid cyclist and hiker residing in Yarmouth. I strongly support a rail trail through our community. Please take action to make this happen. Thanks.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Saturday, May 28, 2022 6:28:52 PM

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, 28-May-2022 18:27:52 EDT
Name: Mike Ursiny
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: mike6866@yahoo.com

Topic:

Comments:

Live in Yarmouth - would support a rail trail, thanks!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Sunday, May 29, 2022 2:34:00 AM

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: Sunday, 29-May-2022 02:30:25 EDT
Name: Kristen Farnham
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2074497344
Email: kpfernham@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Hello - I am a resident if Falmouth and support the Casco Bay trail. As a biker and walker, I look forward to the improved opportunities for fitness and wellness, off of the main roads. Thank you!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Sunday, May 29, 2022 6:44:00 AM

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: Sunday, 29-May-2022 06:38:29 EDT
Name: Margaret Pisini
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2076505670
Email: peggypisini@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I support these connecting bike paths. I live in Cumberland

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Sunday, May 29, 2022 7:04:00 AM

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: Sunday, 29-May-2022 06:58:41 EDT
Name: Todd Patstone
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: patstone@hotmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Hi -

I live in Yarmouth and am writing to express my support for the Portland to Auburn rail trail. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to provide safe biking connectivity to these cities. I fully support your efforts to develop this corridor for generations of Mainers (and visitors) to come!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Sunday, May 29, 2022 9:04:03 AM

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: Sunday, 29-May-2022 08:42:27 EDT
Name: Doug Leland
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-522-7620
Email: doug@dougleland.com

Topic:

Comments:

Dear Advisory Council Members,

I strongly support conversion of inactive rail lines to alternative transportation trails. I live in Freeport and I'm on the Board of the Casco Bay Trail Alliance.

The rail line you are considering does not pass through Freeport, yet conversion of this line to a recreational and commuting trail for non-motorized transportation holds great significance for Freeport's future growth and economic development. Freeport just concluded an eighteen month strategic planning process. Trails are an important element of our future. With support from MDoT, we are well into planning, design, and construction of a town-wide trail network. The East Coast Greenway and Casco Bay Trail are the backbone of this network, and the rail section you are considering is the backbone of the proposed Casco Bay Trail.

Maine roads are not safe for pedestrians and cyclists. The Casco Bay Trail offers a safe alternative for residents and visitors to our state. It will not be possible absent conversion of the inactive rail line you are considering to an actively used, four season trail.

Your thorough and thoughtful evaluation of trail use is greatly appreciated ... even by those in towns that do not have the rail line within its boundaries.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Sunday, May 29, 2022 9:34:02 AM

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: Sunday, 29-May-2022 09:29:00 EDT
Name: Chris Baumann
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-391-0290
Email: jc.baumann50@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Please support the Auburn to Portland Ike trail. This is great for young families and older Mainers to get out, exercise, enjoy the beauty of Maine, and to have a safer place to ride instead of busy roads with vehicular traffic. Thank you for your support!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Sunday, May 29, 2022 8:54:15 PM

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: Sunday, 29-May-2022 20:49:50 EDT
Name: Martha Leggat
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2077123308
Email: mleggat@maine.rr.com

Topic:

Comments:

I'm writing as a resident of North Yarmouth in favor of developing an interconnected trail system on rails currently out of use. While a strong supporter of trains, I don't see a trail precluding continuing to improve our rail transport. And the social, economic, environmental and mental health benefits of an easily accessible trail cannot be understated. The research is there - trails not only improve property values, they greatly improve the quality of life for those who use them, running, biking and walking in safety and solitude. Thanks for your consideration and for the hard work you're investing to come to a positive resolution for all.

Sincerely,

Martha Leggat
263 Mountfort Road
North Yarmouth, ME 04097

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Sunday, May 29, 2022 11:14:17 PM

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: Sunday, 29-May-2022 23:12:09 EDT
Name: Jacquyn A Young
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2078370794
Email: jamberyoung@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Cumberland, and am so excited about the prospect of a rail trail connecting Portland to Auburn. I fully support the vision of the Casco Bay Trail, and hope to see it come to fruition soon!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Monday, May 30, 2022 5:34:31 AM

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: Monday, 30-May-2022 05:23:13 EDT
Name: Ian Acker
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: ianacker@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Hi my name is Ian,

I live in North Yarmouth, about 300' from the corridor, and would love nothing more than to see the corridor used as a trail. My wife and I run regularly and it would be fantastic for us to have a safer place than the North Road to run—it would also make for a relatively easy bike commute for both of us to our jobs in Portland, and I'm sure we're not the only ones.

It's a bit sad seeing the tracks and corridor in such disuse and disrepair. I strongly believe a trail would be the best use. The North Rd runs parallel to the line and is already very popular and busy with runners, bikers, and walkers—much of it with 45mph speed limits and limited shoulders. I can only imagine how many more people would be out with them if only the options were safer.

Thank you for doing this, the process is important

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Monday, May 30, 2022 6:19:32 AM

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: Monday, 30-May-2022 06:13:31 EDT
Name: Lisa Kellndorfer
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 6039137566
Email: lkellndorfer@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Hello! I live on North Rd in North Yarmouth and I am in full support of a rail trail from Portland to Auburn. I think it would be great for the community and would be used by so many people, myself included! Please make this a reality!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Monday, May 30, 2022 7:59:32 AM

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: Monday, 30-May-2022 07:55:28 EDT
Name: Laurie Winslow
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: lauriewin@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

We are so excited to have this rail system implemented. Our current bike route goes from Falmouth through Portland, Cumberland, and back to Falmouth but it involves busy roads. With more distracted drivers we are more concerned about our safety than ever. I am contacting you to encourage you to go forward with this rail trail. Iâ€™m sure it would get even more people out on their bikes and walking outside. Thank you for your consideration.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Monday, May 30, 2022 9:04:37 AM

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: Monday, 30-May-2022 08:57:11 EDT
Name: Wendy Simmons
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: wend_simmons@yahoo.com

Topic:

Comments:

I am a direct abutter to the railway in North Yarmouth and fully support the proposal of a trail. I love to ride my bike but have had too many close calls on North Road to be comfortable. This would be a great addition to all the communities involved.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Monday, May 30, 2022 9:14:37 AM

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

Date: Monday, 30-May-2022 09:06:35 EDT
Name: Mark Bradeen
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2079394335
Email: mjbradeen14@GMAIL.COM

Topic:

Comments:

I support the rail trail. It is a safer way to exercise and enjoy the outdoors than the roads and leverages the unused rail system. I love to bike, so I would certainly use it.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Monday, May 30, 2022 9:19:37 AM

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

Date: Monday, 30-May-2022 09:13:09 EDT
Name: Karl Cyr
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: karlcyr@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

My family and I live in North Yarmouth on Pine Ridge Rd less than 1/2 mile from the rail corridor. We absolutely love our town and community. However, perhaps the biggest negative to where we live is the lack of access to sidewalks and wide shouldered roads for jogging, walking and biking. We are tremendous supporters of the rail trail concept. I believe this is a worthy investment in this area's future.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Monday, May 30, 2022 9:59:39 AM

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

Date: Monday, 30-May-2022 09:54:17 EDT
Name: Donna Levi
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2076152130
Email: levi_donna@yahoo.com

Topic:

Comments:

I support a rail trail between Portland and Auburn. I live in Cumberland and would welcome a rail trail to connect communities nearby and far! It would help people be healthier and it supports the local economy by having a safe and environmentally friendly way to access businesses. Thank you!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Monday, May 30, 2022 11:44:38 AM

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

Date: Monday, 30-May-2022 11:34:57 EDT
Name: Matthew D. Teare
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2078372418
Email: teare.mattd@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I completely support immediately turning this defunct, disconnected line into a trail so that it can go from serving no purpose to a major multi-community amenity. It can go from zero users to hundreds of thousands very quickly at very modest cost by removing the track and replacing with a trail -- using the current track bed and bridges. This is a no brainer. Let's get it done.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Monday, May 30, 2022 3:49:41 PM

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

Date: Monday, 30-May-2022 15:44:54 EDT
Name: Alix Hopkins
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: awhopkins@gwi.net

Topic:

Comments:

As a longtime trails advocate and former staff for several major southern and western Maine trail initiatives, I highly recommend this project. You know all the reasons! This is a timely and meaningful effort. May it do all that is hoped for and more...

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Monday, May 30, 2022 8:39:46 PM

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

Date: Monday, 30-May-2022 20:30:36 EDT
Name: Doug Welch
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: dwelch@mita.org

Topic:

Comments:

I am writing in support of the Casco Bay Trail Loop and the link between Portland and Auburn. Rail trails nationwide demonstrate the powerful economic impact of alternative commutes and recreation that rail trails offer. It would be a great investment in Portland, Auburn, and every town in between. I hope this project goes through!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Monday, May 30, 2022 10:14:46 PM

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

Date: Monday, 30-May-2022 22:13:23 EDT
Name: Cory
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2074099369
Email: langenbach.c@northeastern.edu

Topic:

Comments:

Iâ€™m a resident and Yarmouth and am for building trails

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 8:20:03 AM

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

Date: Tuesday, 31-May-2022 08:13:55 EDT
Name: Melissa LaCasse
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2077765926
Email: lacasse.melissa@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Please proceed with the cacao bay trail - this would be a wonderful connector for many communities currently without safe bike routes

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 8:35:04 AM

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

Date: Tuesday, 31-May-2022 08:29:20 EDT
Name: David McLain
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2074506968
Email: david@davidmclain.com

Topic:

Comments:

I give this my unequivocal support. It's one of the most exciting opportunities I have seen for Maine in recent years and would improve the quality of life and economic opportunities for the area.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 8:45:05 AM

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

Date: Tuesday, 31-May-2022 08:38:58 EDT
Name: Michael Tremblay
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 5084510208
Email: mtrem225@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I'm writing in support for a rail trail between Portland and Auburn. Trails can serve as critical commuting and recreational facilities, and promote emission-free transportation and healthy living.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 8:50:04 AM

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: Tuesday, 31-May-2022 08:38:58 EDT
Name: Henry Bliss
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2076507381
Email: hbliss318@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

As long as all abutter's concerns are addressed, this is a wonderful idea!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 10:10:06 AM

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: Tuesday, 31-May-2022 09:54:36 EDT
Name: Ed Libby
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2078466380
Email: ed_libby@msn.com

Topic:

Comments:

I have lived in Cumberland and Yarmouth for over 25 years. Both towns have been active in developing trails and open spaces that promote a healthy outdoor lifestyle. This was especially important during the past few years dealing with the pandemic. But trails that connect people and towns, homes and businesses that are truly alternative transportation are increasingly important as we address climate change. It is not just about recreation, but about getting us out of our polluting automobiles. That is why the rail trail between Auburn and Portland is so needed at this time. This would be a huge financial asset to the towns along the trail, allowing alternative, cheap transportation between where folks work, shop, recreate, and live. I have visited other areas with well developed trail systems and they are fantastic. People use them much more than ever anticipated. Tourists come to enjoy them. Businesses along the trail get a boost. I have walked the trail from Yarmouth to Portland and believe this would be a great economic driver, especially now that we have the Roux Institute anchoring the southern terminus. Please make this happen without further ado. Thank you.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 11:15:03 AM

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

Date: Tuesday, 31-May-2022 11:12:21 EDT
Name: Ted Hall
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2076505334
Email: tedhall5334@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Yarmouth and would like to let you know that I strongly support converting the unused rail lines to recreational purposes, especially for bicycle travel. Giving people better access to safe bicycle travel will improve health and traffic. Thanks for considering this.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 11:45:03 AM

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: Tuesday, 31-May-2022 10:42:21 EDT
Name: Derek M. Strout
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: derekmstrout@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Hello Advisory Council,

I would like to offer my letter of support for the Casco Bay Trail as a transformative use of the dormant line between Portland and Auburn. Originally from Bar Harbor, I have lived in Portland for eight years and appreciate every bit of park and trail infrastructure the city and state invest in. My wife and I have a two-year-old son and one on the way, and we cherish the ability to use local and regional trails for recreation, stress-relief, adventure, education and for getting to local destinations like the Portland Children's Museum safely and enjoyably.

The Casco Bay Trail, as a critical element of Maine's active transportation network, offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve the lives of residents and visitors alike through each of the communities along the route. Though we live in Portland, I will just say that we have friends that live adjacent to the route in Yarmouth who could not be more excited about the trail passing right by their property.

The health benefits alone of trails has been well documented, as has the economic impacts, including that of similar projects like the Eastern Trail, which has been found to inject over \$44 million annually to the region, in the form of sales and taxable earnings.

While there are often questions about the legality and safety of new rail-trails being proposed or built, I would like to just suggest that many of these concerns can be addressed and alleviated by looking at the successes and techniques from any of the over 2,000 rail-trails already being used by millions across the country. While the Casco Bay Trail is a unique project in many ways, the process of improving rights-of-way like this is not new, and countless studies have shown that many of the fears surrounding privacy and safety simply do not reflect the reality of how trails are used. Again, we could look at success stories around the country, or even New England, but projects right here in the state show how safe and valuable these trails can be, with the Belfast Rail Trail and Mountain Division Trails as just two other great examples.

We also hear the argument that trails like this will prevent trains from ever running these routes in the future. As you know, the railbanking legislation states that rail-trail conversions are only an interim use of the corridor, and that this particular Rail Use Advisory Council process is not meant to decide on a permanent use, but the one that makes the most sense given all current factors. This process provides for a return to trains in the future if that is determined as the best use of the ROW in the future. This trail would simply make the best use of the corridor in the interim, allowing the state and trail communities to benefit in countless ways until then.

I sincerely thank you for your work on the council and considering the enormous benefits offered by the Casco Bay Trail, one that I truly hope my family and many others will be able to ride in the coming years.

Derek M. Strout
Rosemont, Portland

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 11:50:03 AM

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: Tuesday, 31-May-2022 11:08:50 EDT
Name: Tony Donovan
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2073296732
Email: melikesrail@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Memo

To: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council
William R. Shane P.E., Chair
Town Manager Town of Cumberland

CC: Nathan Howard, Director, Rail Transportation
MaineDOT, Office of Freight and Passenger Services
Maine Department of Transportation 33 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04330

From: Maine Rail Transit Coalition
Anthony Donovan, Managing Director

Date: May 31, 2022

RE: Portland to Auburn RUAC Meeting #2 Meeting Agenda – 5/31/22
Chair and Council Members

The Maine Rail Transit Coalition (MRTC) position on this Corridor Council is that the Maine-owned railroads, all 400+ miles can, and must be used for trains, including passenger train service. In our view, the Casco Bay Trails proposal to make exclusive use any part of the railroad corridor for non-rail uses is not in the best interests of the public as a whole, and in fact violates the original rationale for State acquisition of these critical transportation infrastructure assets.

In the next few months, the MRTC expects an opportunity to provide a presentation to this Council. We look forward to providing more specifics on a plan to use the St. Lawrence & Atlantic (SLR) line for passenger train service, with additional background on the decades of work MRTC – along with many rail advocates statewide and in the Legislature – making progress toward the goal of sustainable, equitable and environmentally critical alternative transportation systems providing mobility.

For today’s discussion, MRTC wants to focus on MP 0.0 and a few important facts that have otherwise been ignored or described in a manner that needs to be clarified.

Critical to today’s discussion is the \$500,000 2019 Lewiston/Auburn Passenger Rail Service Plan, conducted by the same consulting firm selected by MeDOT for this as this Council, VHB. The MRTC team and its consultants were responsible for legislation which established the funding for the L/A plan, and we participated to the extent allowed in all aspects of the work.

1. In our opinion the VHB study was flawed and incomplete. The consultants ended their work with a list of recommended “Next Steps,” but the report was not submitted to the Legislature, or towns that partially funded the report for acceptance. There was no opportunity for public comment on the conclusion of the work. Yet Maine DOT is drawing conclusions concerning the proper use of the report, as is Casco Bay Trails, in their municipal

resolutions which led to the establishment of this Council. Please consider the following:

- Although the VHB analysis indicated the SLR into Portland OceanGate route is a viable alternative, equal to and in some cases more favorable to other routes, there are numerous references in the report, including under “Next Steps”, that this alternative be eliminated.
 - o The report clearly states that “this project is not to provide recommendations”. Yet, in recommending as a next step, “Eliminate Options that require and Ocean Gateway Stations”, it appears the Study Committee is doing just that.
 - o According to members of the report’s Project Committee, they were NOT given an opportunity to review the report, or to vote on recommendations prior to public release, although the report states that “... Based on the comprehensive evaluation and the Committee’s involvement in the development of this project, the Project Committee makes the following recommendation for this project.”

Our conclusion is that any assumptions made that the route into Portland OceanGate should be eliminated are based on incomplete and misleading information, including, (VHB quotes in Italics)

- In 1984, the rail swing bridge and trestle at Back Cove in Portland was significantly damaged by fire. The bridge was subsequently abandoned along with approximately 1.5 miles of track located in the Eastern Promenade.
 - o This railroad corridor has not been abandoned; abandonment of any railroad requires an extensive public process. The state has, however, already abandoned two (critical) railroads serving Portland. One is the 1998 abandonment of the Maine Central RR route along Commercial Street. The other was the 2010 abandonment of the Union Branch through Portland for conversion to a recreational trail. On the SLR, neither the trestle bridge into Portland nor the approximately 1.5 miles of track have been abandoned. The Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad (MNGR) operates on the 1.5 miles under FRA regulations as an active railroad, subject to the applicable rules and regulations.
 - The bridge, as stated in the VHB report as “...would need to be reconstructed at a significant cost”,
 - o This bridge has been evaluated for reconstruction at a cost in at least two reports, including the VHB study. The estimated cost of reconstruction is less than that of the recently constructed Martin’s Point road bridge just up the same river (\$27 million), and about the same cost as the recently celebrated I-295 bridge replacement over Veranda Street (\$21 million.) “Significant” does not mean prohibitive, in our view.
 - “The tracks south of Back Cove are currently used by the Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad and Museum for scenic excursion trips through the Eastern Promenade park and recreation area. There is also a multi-use path between the tracks and the Atlantic Ocean.”
 - o True, but the state lease for both these uses specifies that the return of Standard Gauge rail service takes precedent over this current use. No one seriously is considering removing the Eastern Prom Trail. In fact, the MRTC considers this 1.5 mile section of the railroad corridor an ideal place to design and build a world-class rail-with-trail segment.
- Additional points:
- MNGR was allowed to operate on this route for the expressed purpose of maintaining an Active Use under FRA regulations, and therefore protecting it from Abandonment.
 - The railroad corridor is not part of the Eastern Promenade. Throughout the history of this park, which is on the National Historic Register, railroad owners have not allowed encroachment into the corridor. This is stated in the City of Portland’s Eastern Prom Master Plan.
- “The narrow gauge (i.e., the distance between the rails) is not consistent with the equipment used by modern railroads.”
 - o The MNGR tracks operate over standard gauge railroad ties. The corridor width definitely allows standard gauge service, as previously existed. A field investigation of this section of the corridor might have prevented this inaccuracy.
 - “Implementation of a new passenger rail line may require closures or consolidation of grade crossings (vehicular, pedestrian/bike, or both) and possible encroachment onto the trail in areas where right of way may be constrained.”
 - o Every permitted crossing of the railroad tracks has been subject to the condition that they are temporary. The abutting developers are aware of this, as is the City of Portland. As previously stated, standard gauge rail has precedence.

- “Constructing an additional track in parallel to the proposed passenger service would require land acquisition and possibly result in Section 4F permitting implications due to being located within designated parkland.”
 - o As already stated, this is not parkland.

- “at Ocean Gateway the construction of a station with double track would likely require some elimination or modification of parking (both on-street and changes to the tail alignment running through the area.”
 - o Considering the costs of this professional consulting, we find terms such as “would likely require”, troubling. These are the untested assumptions, however, that account for the VHB/MeDOT recommendations to exclude this route since it was not studied.
 - o Observations:
 - How does one know double-track will be required?
 - The service would require a platform, but why not use the existing Portland Oceangate terminal as a station?
 - Providing passenger train service to this congested, bustling downtown area will reduce the number of cars and parking, thus relieving congestion – not creating it. Cars have also been identified as the primary contributors to Climate Change. In our opinion, subsidized on-street parking should no longer be public policy. Nor is this a reason to not consider this part of the corridor.

Service into Portland at India Street was evaluated in the 2011 Portland North study, many of whose conclusions are still relevant. This study has been the basis of the MRTC public and private initiatives to establish passenger train service to Portland. In 2019, the city, and regional MPO, PACTS, and NNEPRA conducted a study for bringing passenger train service to downtown Portland from the west. The \$50,000 study, conducted by VHB, indicated ridership of over 500,000 annually and, according to the study, would reduce congestion and provide economic vitality.

Now, In the evaluation of the state-owned St. Lawrence & Atlantic RR connecting the commuter towns north of Portland directly to the downtown over existing tracks, the Maine Department of Transportation and its consultants appear to be drawing strikingly different, and largely unsupported, conclusions.

1. The VHB study provided pictures of every significant feature on both the freight mainline corridor and the SLR, except for the last segment of railway corridor into Portland.
 - “Field visits were performed on both rail corridors to assess the existing condition of the track and related infrastructure. The inspection did not include any track south of Mile Post 2.66 (including the tracks that led to the former B&M Baked Beans factory, the Back Cove bridge, or the Narrow-Gauge Railroad).”
 - Appendix B: Photos from Rail Field Visits St. Lawrence and Atlantic Rail Line Photos (beginning at) MP 4.5 – Presumpscot Bridge.

2. Senator Ben Chipman of Portland introduced legislation to the flesh out the incomplete Lewiston-Auburn report for consideration in the 130th Legislative Session. LD 991, ‘Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Complete a Feasibility Analysis To Initiate a Commuter and Passenger Train Service between Portland and the Lewiston and Auburn Area’, in which the MeDOT position was “ought not to pass,”. The MeDOT amended version required that the bill be limited to an economic analysis, and that the study not include the SLR segment into downtown Portland.

MRTC believes that not by including the entire corridor in the study, Maine DOT gives the appearance of favoring trail use over rail, perhaps because of a lack of interest in maintaining and leveraging these critical transportation assets.

The Corridor Council law 1133 states: “Upon petition by one or more governmental entities that represent communities along a state-owned rail corridor in which the department controls the right of-way requesting the department to review a non-rail recreational or nonrecreational transportation use of that rail corridor,…”

It does not say a “partial” review. It specifies the corridor, which means the whole corridor.

The Maine Rail Transit Coalition will submit a detailed presentation of our extensive background work, including an engineer’s report that substantiates current condition of the tracks and the potential for its use to address impacts of transportation on climate, as well as the ability to meet the goals of federal Infrastructure funding for a clean

energy future.

MRTC strongly recommends that this council's deliberations include all of the SLR corridor up to mile post 0.0. We are available for questions or additional information at any time.

Sincerely
Anthony Donovan, Director
Maine Rail Transit Coalition

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 12:10:09 PM

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

Date: Tuesday, 31-May-2022 12:05:25 EDT
Name: Alex Pine
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 3103570404
Email: c.alexpine@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Lewiston and would love to have an off-street option for cycling to Portland. I strongly support a trail or rail with trail option for this corridor.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 12:50:06 PM

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

Date: Tuesday, 31-May-2022 12:48:39 EDT
Name: Stacey Cramp
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: (207) 712-5564
Email: stacey@staceycramp.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in North Yarmouth and welcome a rail trail to support community health and reduce vehicle use. Thank you!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 1:40:07 PM

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

Date: Tuesday, 31-May-2022 13:25:20 EDT
Name: Ian R MacLellan
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 9785058024
Email: imaclellanbusiness@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Hello, I live and work in Portland. I commute daily by bicycle and on foot and also primarily use my bike to access recreation and run errands. I am also a volunteer pilot for the Portland Wheelers, a non-profit that gives adaptive bike rides at assisted living facilities in the Greater Portland area.

I believe that the Casco Bay Trail will provide safer alternatives for more people to travel without the use of cars. Our statewide transportation planning should be primarily focused on the Mainers who can't drive like children headed to school and the elderly who want to be able to spend time outside on approachable and safe trails. This will lead to a higher quality of life and a safer system that all Mainers will benefit from as they travel to school, work, run errands, and enjoy the outdoors.

I will personally be more likely to leave my car at home and travel by bike to work in Brunswick, Freeport, and Yarmouth if the Casco Bay Trail is built and believe this will have a positive impact on connecting communities and boosting the local economy. I am much more likely to shop at more local businesses and connect with locals if I bike somewhere than if I'm driving along the highway.

I fully support the proposed Casco Bay Trail and think the rail trail concept is a very effective use of the land in this case.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 6:50:14 PM

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

Date: Tuesday, 31-May-2022 18:32:06 EDT
Name: John Tanner
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: jtanner@maine.rr.com

Topic:

Comments:

I am a proponent for the rail trail to help alleviate commuter traffic and to give cyclist their own dedicated space to commute on the proposed routes.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 7:15:13 PM

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: Tuesday, 31-May-2022 19:08:13 EDT
Name: Henry Blanchette
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 5089657634
Email: henry.blanchette@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I think this trail would be an incredible asset to the communities it reaches, promoting movement, recreation, business, and local community.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 3:03:29 PM

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, 27-May-2022 14:52:34 EDT
Name: Annabelle Cambier
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 6614789118
Email: cambiers@msn.com

Topic:

Comments:

I support the Casco Bay Trail group's efforts.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: [Paul Weiss](#)
To: [wshane](#)
Cc: [Howard, Nathan](#); [Anthony Donovan](#); [Moulton, Nathan](#)
Subject: Railway usage
Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 10:40:39 AM

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Hello Bill,

I wanted to express my deepest opinion on the use of our public railways. As you may know 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.

Thank you for listening,

Paul Weiss
Cumberland ME