

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 4:36:42 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: Wednesday, 30-Nov-2022 16:31:45 EST
Name: Marjie Longshore
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: marjie.longshore@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I support bike / pedestrian infrastructure in the greater Portland area. Trails make for a healthier and stronger community!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 11:46:33 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: Wednesday, 30-Nov-2022 11:28:25 EST
Name: Mark Fochesato
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: mark.fochesato@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

My name is Mark Fochesato and I live in Brunswick, Maine. I very much support the creation of the Portland to Auburn rail trail recreational project.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 11:06:32 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: Wednesday, 30-Nov-2022 11:05:04 EST
Name: Alex Rose
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2073195499
Email: arose10@outlook.com

Topic:

Comments:

I would like to see snowmobile use on this trail system like they have in many other areas.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 10:21:34 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: Wednesday, 30-Nov-2022 10:18:32 EST
Name: Sarah Rodriguez
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 630-802-7290
Email: rodriguez9381@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I support this project. I hope the trail comes to be. I believe it will spark more investment in Maine and work towards a less vehicle-reliant society.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 10:16:23 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, 29-Nov-2022 22:10:40 EST
Name: Henry Blanchette
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 5089657634
Email: henry.blanchette@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in the east deering neighborhood of portland. I just wanted to leave a comment of my support for the propose casco bay trail. I think it would be a wonderful use of public land that is otherwise derelict. It would provide additional outdoor recreation space, and improve connectivity in the greater portland area. thank you very much for your consideration

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 9:31:21 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, 29-Nov-2022 21:21:27 EST
Name: Hadley Horch
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-217-3239
Email: hhorch@bowdoin.edu

Topic:

Comments:

I'm strongly in favor of the Casco Bay Trail and would use it routinely to bike from Brunswick to Bowdoinham and back. Please approve it!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 7:46:18 PM

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

Date: Tuesday, 29-Nov-2022 19:39:54 EST
Name: Theresa Stevens
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: (207) 415-2435
Email: theresaredmondstevens@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I enjoy cycling and support the rails to trails corridor from Portland to Auburn (Casco Bay Trail) . This would provide a much needed Trail to safely enjoy biking, jogging and walking .

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 7:41:22 PM

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

Date: Tuesday, 29-Nov-2022 19:33:35 EST
Name: Theresa Stevens
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: (207) 415-2435
Email: theresaredmondstevens@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I support the Casco Bay Trail . I am an avid cyclist and also enjoy walking and jogging and support the corridor as a rail trail . This will encourage more people and families to enjoy the great outdoors in Maine in a much needed safe and supportive environment.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 5:06:18 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, 29-Nov-2022 17:00:21 EST
Name: Nananda Col
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2072729829
Email: nanfcol@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Georgetown and am an avid cyclist. I strongly support the use of this corridor as a rail trail. Having these trails available to cyclists benefits the community in so many ways. Many of the roads are too dangerous for cyclists, and the health benefits from promoting cycling is clear. We often do group cycling events which also benefits the local economy when we stop to eat, drink, or shop.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications@royalriverconservation.org
To: Alain@RRC.org
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail (via Advisory Council Comments)
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 2:15:13 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, 29 Nov 2022 15:05:08 EST
Name: Royal River Conservation Trust
Organization: (if applicable)
Phone: 207.714.6111
Email: Alain@RRC.org

Topic:

Comments:

We are approaching a watershed moment, with support to opportunities for active outdoor recreation in Royal River watershed communities. Our civic and legislative leaders will have the opportunity in the next weeks and months to cast votes for trails connecting Yarmouth to Blueberry, North Yarmouth to Casco Bay, Portland to Pineland, and Auburn to local farms and farmers' markets. We have the opportunity to connect scenes of neighborhoods to forests and wild lands we have conserved in recent years, inviting folks to visit our treasures by foot and by bike, rather than by car.

One of the most beautiful stretches of the Royal in in Auburn, where small rapids towering 8yards define the Royal's descent from Sabbathday Lake. That stretch of river has clean water and lush forested shorelines but public access – the river's banks are defined by an entirely un-used rail line owned by the State of Maine. In Yarmouth and North Yarmouth that same un-used rail asset – if converted to a trail – would immediately connect existing trails to each other, linking or tripling the opportunities for exploration, exercise, or respite in these locations alone.

It's time to get Maine's un-used rail assets to work for active outdoor recreation.

This new trail will fundamentally transform access to the outdoors for people in our communities, providing accessible experiences for folks not ready or able for more primitive trails. Folks with training wheels, folks with baby carriages, folks with wheelchairs, and folks exploring Maine's wilds for the first time will benefit from easy flat access on the edge of the river, on the edge of the woods. Kids will learn to fish off its bridges, and gear into vast conserved marshes from its gravel bars or shorelines.

The Board of Directors of the Royal River Conservation Trust urges strong support of "Trail Unleash Rail" proposals for both the proposed 17-mile Royal River Greenbelt (Yarmouth to Auburn) and the larger Casco Bay Trail (Portland to Yarmouth). The two trails would put to use existing all-but abandoned rail lines owned by the State of Maine Department of Transportation, known as the Berlin Subdivision of the Saint Lawrence & Atlantic rail line (formerly Grand Trunk).

RRC's support comes at an early stage in the process. We note that these early phases of planning and study have been preliminary and thus limited. Our early support emphasizes a few necessary next steps:

AIM FOR UNANIMITY FROM MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS: First, we as RRCT pledge to work with Maine DOT, Casco Bay Trail Alliance, and others to secure the affirmative support of all municipalities the trail will serve. We note that -- to date -- these pivotal towns have not weighed in. The project will be stronger when it reaches the Legislature if we first secure active support from the City of Portland, the City of Auburn, and the Town of New Gloucester. We are energized by early signals of support from North Yarmouth, Yarmouth, Portland, Cumberland, and Falmouth.

DOWNTOWN-TO-DOWNTOWN: Second, we as RRCCT believe strongly that the proposed trail should reach both downtown Auburn and also all neighborhoods of Portland. We reject any proposal that benefits affluent areas and the Old Port but does not simultaneously connect to in-town neighborhoods. The all-but abandoned rail line can anchor the trail, but additional mileage beyond the rail corridor is necessary especially in Auburn. Maine DOT to date has limited its analysis to one rail bed – MaineDOT should move forward with knowledge beyond the simple confines of one asset.

Thanks,

Alain

Subscribe to our email newsletter:
Alain@RRC.org, Executive Director
RRCCT (P.O. Box 90) 52 North Road | Yarmouth, ME 04096
<https://getty-images.com/royalriverconservation.org/>
or info@rrct.org or www.rrct.org or <https://www.rrct.org>
| Alain@RRC.org | (207) 215-8313 (cell)

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 12:16:14 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, 29-Nov-2022 12:11:15 EST
Name: Amy Schrag
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: amy.schrag@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

My name is Amy Schrag. I live in Portland. I strongly support the use of this corridor as a rail trail.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 12:01:11 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: Monday, 28-Nov-2022 18:31:39 EST
Name: mark snow
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2078466991
Email: weathertide1965@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I strongly support the development of the unused Portland to Auburn rail corridor into a non-motorized trail. I believe it would be a tremendous asset to all the communities it would pass through and provide an important link between two major population centers with positive social, environmental and economic ramifications, as residents and visitors would be able to travel between these places for commuting and recreational purposes and as tourists, creating a broader sense of community. While I support passenger rail connection between Lewiston Auburn and Portland, I believe these should not be mutually exclusive goals: the currently used rail corridor between these places should be prioritized for rail service expansion and the unused corridor should be dedicated to healthy, safe, non-polluting, non-motorized travel. I believe this is an important, even historic, opportunity. I strongly urge you to support the development of a trail that will provide regional benefit and demonstrate commitment to a sustainable, health-giving, community-building transportation system. Thank you.

Mark Snow
Yarmouth, Maine

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 8:56:03 AM

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

Date: Tuesday, 29-Nov-2022 08:52:44 EST
Name: Becky Marvil
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-650-7332
Email: bmarvil@maine.rr.com

Topic:

Comments:

I love the idea of converting existing unused rail lines to trails! It has been done in so many locations around the US and worldwide, opening up wilderness as well as commuting connections. It's time we do it locally. Please move forward on this project!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 8:21:00 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: Tuesday, 29-Nov-2022 08:17:31 EST
Name: Brian Lanoie
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: brian_letitsnow@yahoo.com

Topic:

Comments:

I ma writing to you today in strong support of "Trail Until Rail" proposals for both the proposed 17-mile Royal River Greenbelt (Yarmouth to Auburn) and the larger Casco Bay Trail (Portland to Yarmouth).

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 7:50:59 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, 29-Nov-2022 07:38:05 EST
Name: Elaine Becker
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 4019654711
Email: erbecker12@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

It is very exciting!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 7:45:58 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, 29-Nov-2022 07:37:32 EST
Name: Ian Michaud
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: ian@liquidriot.com

Topic:

Comments:

I fully support the Casco Bay Trail project. It would be fantastic to have a safe way to ride bikes, walk and jog between Portland and Auburn. I currently live in Yarmouth and work in Portland. I occasionally commute via bike and never feel truly safe sharing the roads with all the vehicles. The rail trail would offer a direct route for such a commute, without the worry of speeding traffic and distracted drivers.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 7:10:59 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, 29-Nov-2022 07:04:27 EST
Name: Kristina McElhinney
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 8023638911
Email: kelaskov@hotmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I support the proposal to develop this new trail, which would improve Mainers access to the outdoors, which could bring joy to those who use the path and improve health and well-being for our population.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 6:45:58 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, 29-Nov-2022 06:40:03 EST
Name: Jill Sady
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2073181371
Email: jillsady@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Writing in support of the Auburn to Portland rail trail!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Monday, November 28, 2022 11:05:34 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, 28-Nov-2022 10:41:00 EST
Name: Kimry Corrette
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2072331272
Email: itacud@charter.net

Topic:

Comments:

I would like to share strong support for the 72 mile bike/ped off-road trail loop. I believe that connectivity is and will become far imperative, as we address climate issues and make changes to the way we use this land. Alternative forms of transportation to and from 'hubs' of commerce and economy will also ease the growing congestion on our existing roads and highways. Lastly, I reiterate how essential it is to enable the people of this region safe and alternative passages and means for travel. Simply put, if you build it, they will use it! Thank you for all that you do.
-Kimry

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Saturday, November 26, 2022 6:14:47 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, 26-Nov-2022 06:10:15 EST
Name: Ann Cormier
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2077511868
Email: acormier@maine.rr.com

Topic:

Comments:

Building a bike trail would be great!!!! Please know the public would use it and need it!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 3:28:45 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: Wednesday, 23-Nov-2022 15:23:37 EST
Name: Steven Johnson
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 846-2401
Email: sjohnson@yarmouth.me.us

Topic:

Comments:

I fully support use of the corridor for bicycle and pedestrian activity.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 11:53:39 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: Wednesday, 23-Nov-2022 11:38:20 EST
Name: Jack Duffin
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 6035486993
Email: jduffin651@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Hello there, to whomever may read this. Please take the time to, I believe it's important and you might, too.

I am Jack Duffin, a resident of New Hampshire but avid supporter and utilizer of Amtrak's Downeaster. I'm a marketing major with a minor in psychology, but to tell you the truth my passion has always been with history. Recently, my historical fascination has been with this subject called the Beeching Cuts.

To give you the rundown, back in the '60s this man named Richard Beeching was tasked with cutting down on Britain's railroad spending. He did this in a myriad of ways, but the most common strategy was simple: rip up railroad lines, even those in active service, and replace them with bus service or trails. This cut off thousands of Britons to rail service within walking distance of their homes. To that, he believed that they would drive to the next station over, hop on the train there, and continue on their merry way. So after the cuts, Britons would get in their cars, drive to these stations...

And kept driving. Because of course they would. Somehow, nobody saw the flaw in the logic: why would you get in your car, drive to the next station, get out of your car, get in a train, then repeat the process in reverse when you come back home? You're already in the car, it makes more sense to just drive the rest of the way. Removing the easily accessible rail caused this story to play over thousands of times.

When I read the meeting minutes on this page, I see the argument of a parallel corridor that could support the passenger rail as opposed to this one. There's a lot to unpack here (possible conflicts with CSX, Portland's current station being far out of walking distance from downtown, removing the option of freight on this line) but I personally think of those along the corridor who would be told "just drive to the nearest station". I then swear I can hear Sir Beeching himself cackling like a madman from beyond the grave.

I love trails. My town has two. They're beautiful assets. Wherever you can make rails and trails combined work, please do. From the rest of us in New England who want a solid transportation system that can bolster the region, this is not a demand; this is a plea. History shouldn't repeat itself.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 5:58:25 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, 22-Nov-2022 17:52:32 EST
Name: David York
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: severian1967@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Please make this happen ASAP! Maine desperately needs more safe bicycle paths.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 1:33:24 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, 22-Nov-2022 13:32:17 EST
Name: Wes Davis
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2079076694
Email: davis05@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

This would be an amazing asset to the community!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 7:53:21 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, 22-Nov-2022 07:28:45 EST
Name: Andrew Walton
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-415-8221
Email: andrew.walton72@yahoo.com

Topic:

Comments:

Thank you to the MDOT, VHB, and the council for working hard on the council process. I believe the last two meetings that were held in person went far better than on zoom and much more was accomplished.

You've all heard the majority of the public wants a trail, I would like to add to this.

I would choose rail with trail instead if the following existed. Population density, there isn't enough to make passenger rail alone work. There wasn't an active parallel line already in existence. Spending the money to get the SLA line going again and maintaining it doesn't make sense when there is already a line that can do both freight and passenger rail. If there was a rail company and businesses willing to buy and use this line for freight, they just won't make the investment when the other factors are not attractive. Bus service along this route connecting LA and Portland makes more sense to me, and far cheaper and flexible for the users.

Having a trail until rail is the best option and would benefit the region far faster than a rail could.

I strongly recommend a trail until rail.

Thank you for your time.
Andrew Walton

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Monday, November 21, 2022 9:08:14 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: Monday, 21-Nov-2022 20:57:38 EST
Name: Carl
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: King
Email: cking78@maine.rr.com

Topic:

Comments:

I have lived near the proposed railroad bed in both Falmouth on Middle Rd and now in Portland on Veranda St. I would use this trail to walk and ride my bike 2-3x week at least. I currently have to drive to access the Eastern trail in Scarborough or the Greenbelt in SoPo. This would be an incredible addition to the trail systems north of Portland! I hope this happens !!!!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Monday, November 21, 2022 2:58:10 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: Monday, 21-Nov-2022 14:49:57 EST
Name: Kellan
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 303-653-1537
Email: kmsimp1@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Build it! Build it soon! Divert funds from the massive pot of road construction for something that will actually improve quality of life.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Monday, November 21, 2022 2:03:11 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: Monday, 21-Nov-2022 14:00:40 EST
Name: Linda morris
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 6713711
Email: lindamorris251@yahoo.com

Topic:

Comments:

I would love to walk that trail !!!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Monday, November 21, 2022 10:38:04 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: Monday, 21-Nov-2022 10:32:52 EST
Name: Mark Battle
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2077297130
Email: mbattle@bowdoin.edu

Topic:

Comments:

As a regular cyclist, I strongly encourage the council to recommend creation of a multi-use recreational path on the Portland-Auburn corridor.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Sunday, November 20, 2022 1:52:51 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, 20-Nov-2022 13:41:56 EST
Name: Mary Henderson
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2072128805
Email: maryhenderson55@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

It would be spectacular to turn the rail line going through Topsham near the Androscoggin into a proper trail. I walk it frequently now. The woods and River are beautiful, but there is glass, trash and homeless encampments. There could be some nice side trails into the woods and along the river too. Allow dogs please (require pick up).

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Saturday, November 19, 2022 12:47:35 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: Saturday, 19-Nov-2022 11:43:53 EST
Name: Patricia Barber
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-625-4755
Email: rugbyvet88@yahoo.com

Topic:

Comments:

To the Council members. Here are the written notes for the public comments I gave at the Nov 15th RUAC meeting.

Patty Barber. I live in Hiram, near Fryeburg. Hiram is actually a stop on the Mountain Division Rail Line. At one point, I had great hopes that I would be able to take a train from my small town into Portland. As a matter of fact, I could have taken a train from Hiram right to this very meeting, on tracks that are here today in contention. But instead I forever have to drive. And I hate driving.

You see, the first Rail Trail Council, the Mountain Division one, voted to tear up the tracks and put in a walking path after aggressive lobbying by the trail people. Well, they forever eliminated MY right to transportation options. Which for me do NOT include long distance running, or long distance biking.

And from my observation, the members of the Mountain Division Council were unsure about what they were being asked to do, much like many of you here today. They felt they needed to make a difficult choice- either rail OR trail, and many struggled with that choice. They were never informed that 'no decision' was a valid decision. But you on this council have that choice. As discussed in the August 25th RUAC meeting, when Bill Shane asked about having to reach a consensus, Nate Howard answered "This is not a consensus driven process". And Nate Moulton clarified "I want to fall back on Nate's comment. We don't need to get to a consensus for this recommendation. Let's get to an endpoint in 9 months if we can, and if we can't we don't".

I also feel that the public comments to the Mountain Division Council were misrepresented. In Maine DOT's Advisory Council Summary and Recommendation for the Mountain Division dated May 2022, they state "A public hearing was held on March 31st 2022 in which over 150 individuals submitted written public comments for consideration. Generally the trail use option had the most support from those who submitted comments. However the majority of the commenters who supported trail use did not distinguish whether they supported trail until rail (option 2) or rail with trail (option 3). " This is a HUGE distinction. It is the difference between leaving train options intact, or pulling up the tracks. Yet Maine DOT led parties to assume all trail opinions meant the Trail Until Rail, or Interim Trail.

Let me discuss abit about this "Interim" nature, or "Trail Until Rail". Whoever coined these terms were very clever. It gives cover to those who might feel guilty about tearing up the tracks. And we all know the process of removing a trail that's in place to restore train tracks is much more complicated than the trail people would have you believe. If they want to use the statement "Trail Until Rail", then the cost estimate of this "Interim Trail" needs to include the cost of returning the tracks into use. If this figure is not included, then it's just "Trail", tearing up the tracks for a "Trail". Full stop.

And I'd like to make one more point. I feel that these Rail Use Advisory Council meetings are an inappropriate

venue for the detailed and in depth analysis that you have been tasked with. That the Legislative Mandate that you are following is fundamentally flawed. To ask the council members to make such a complicated decision, one that will have far reaching and long term impacts on the entire State of Maine's transportation policy, is just wrong. That you have been asked to reach a decision that represents the majority of the taxpayers in your jurisdiction in just 9 meetings, well that's quite the ask. But here you all are, and you need to come to a conclusion.

Well, I would ask a few favors of you.

- 1) That when you read or listen to public comments that might support a trail, that you do not automatically assume that they also wish to tear up the tracks. It stands to reason that many of those people would prefer the Trail Beside Rail option.
- 2) That you consider ALL of your taxpayers' needs, including those who may not have the courage or ability to speak up.
- 3) And that 'No Decision' can be a decision.

Thank you for the ability to speak.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 6:00:57 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, 15-Nov-2022 17:39:31 EST
Name: Garrick Hoffman
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-939-6304
Email: garrick.c.hoffman@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Hello! I live in Auburn and I support the creation of the Casco Bay Trail from Portland to Auburn for a multitude of reasons.

First, some basic facts:

- Trail corridors allow more people to choose biking or walking for transportation.
- Safe places to walk and bike are good for public health
- Towns along trail networks will see economic and community benefits.

And more personally: I am an avid cyclist who this year alone has biked nearly 900 miles - almost all in Maine.

When I first heard about the 24-mile trail between Portland and Auburn, I was elated because for more than a year, I've been yearning for a trail like this. In September 2021 I biked the 50-mile "Grand Loop" in Jackson, Wyoming. It was hands-down the best bike ride I've ever been on: 50 miles of mostly flat, off-road trail riding. I never felt unsafe because nearly all of it was off-road and paved. Since then, I've wished Maine would have something similar. Although in southern Maine we lack the epic mountains like the Tetons in Jackson, the Casco Bay Trail is exactly what this state needs, including the 24-mile trail from Portland to Auburn.

I urge you to support the Casco Bay Trail for the health, safety & joy of the people of Maine, and beyond.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Sunday, November 13, 2022 9:50:29 PM

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

Date: Sunday, 13-Nov-2022 21:46:10 EST

Name: John

Organization(if applicable):

Phone: 2077976297

Email: Johnreed6296@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

This trail should be open for snowmobilers in the winter. It would make it a more year round trail.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Saturday, November 12, 2022 3:14:55 PM

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

Date: Saturday, 12-Nov-2022 15:04:24 EST
Name: Deborah Dawson
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2078411278
Email: contact@debdawsonphotography.com

Topic:

Comments:

I support building a trail from Portland to Auburn. Multi-use trails would benefit all communities along the way.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, November 11, 2022 1:59:35 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, 11-Nov-2022 13:56:40 EST
Name: Christopher Bond
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2076719979
Email: bond.christopher.a@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I strongly encourage the Maine DOT to make every effort to redeploy underutilized rail resources in support of public access trails.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Thursday, November 10, 2022 9:14:19 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: Thursday, 10-Nov-2022 21:08:25 EST
Name: Emma Bond
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-619-3662
Email: emma.e.bond@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I strongly support approving this corridor as a trail-until-rail. I live in the East Deering neighborhood in Portland and the corridor goes right through our community--connecting us the local elementary school, a nearby dog park, and the coast. If approved as a trail, it would offer so many possibilities to encourage walking and biking and outdoor activity. The planned addition of the Roux Institute at the former B&M factory would also link the trail-until-rail to other active transportation options. Encouraging active transportation is the best option for this state-owned corridor.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Thursday, November 10, 2022 6:24:14 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: Thursday, 10-Nov-2022 18:22:00 EST
Name: Peter Aten
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207 558-1810
Email: peter.aten@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Portland and support the creation of the Casco Bay Trail from Portland to Auburn because

- * trail corridors allow more people to choose biking or walking for transportation
- * safe places to walk and bike are good for public health
- * towns along trail networks will see economic and community benefits
- * the Casco Bay Trail is vital to creating a robust connected trail system in Maine. It would be the extension north from the Eastern Trail, and a connector to other trails within the envisioned network

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 1:23:13 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, 08-Nov-2022 13:19:17 EST
Name: Zach M
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: zacharymichaelmueller@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Trail until rail! I support this!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Sunday, November 6, 2022 6:42:24 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, 06-Nov-2022 18:37:40 EST
Name: Colin Vettier
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: colin.vettier@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Portland and support the creation of the Casco Bay Trail from Portland to Auburn because:

- * trail corridors allow more people to choose biking or walking for transportation.
- * safe places to walk and bike are good for public health
- * towns along trail networks will see economic and community benefits

the Casco Bay Trail is vital to creating a robust connected trail system in Maine. It would be the extension north from the Eastern Trail, and a connector to other trails within the envisioned network

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Sunday, November 6, 2022 12:27:18 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, 06-Nov-2022 12:07:37 EST
Name: Lydia Howes
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: howesl@roadrunner.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Auburn and support the creation of the Casco Bay Trail from Portland to Auburn.

On-road biking is becoming more dangerous each year, making the availability of off-road trails increasingly important for safe riding. There currently are extremely few gravel or paved biking trails in greater Lewiston-Auburn, and they are very short, so I often drive 45 minutes or more away from Auburn to use good trails, such as the Eastern Trail in Portland or the Mountain Division Trail in Windham.

Additionally, from an economic standpoint, the availability and accessibility of recreational assets is an important factor in an area's economic development.

If there were a trail between Auburn and Portland, I would definitely make good use of it.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, November 4, 2022 1:26:37 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, 04-Nov-2022 13:21:34 EDT
Name: Zachary Cox
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2076593205
Email: zacharyrcox@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

My family and our neighbors would love to see this proposal come to fruition! The health and environmental benefits are obvious, but mostly we just want to have something cool for the community to do. Having a trail that can connect us directly to two of more populated areas without having to worry about getting hit by a car would be a major win for New Gloucester!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, November 4, 2022 12:51:28 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: Friday, 04-Nov-2022 00:46:39 EDT
Name: Eliza
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2073709131
Email: eliza.cress@comcast.net

Topic:

Comments:

I support 24-mile off-road trail between Portland and Auburn, known as the Casco Bay Trail because:

Trail corridors allow more people to choose biking or walking for transportation
safe places to walk and bike are good for public health. Towns along trail networks will see economic and community benefits
the Casco Bay Trail is vital to creating a robust connected trail system in Maine. It would be the extension north from the Eastern Trail, and a connector to other trails within the envisioned network.

Thank you!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 8:51:23 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: Thursday, 03-Nov-2022 20:49:36 EDT
Name: Abby Wolfe
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 6104685461
Email: abigail.m.wolfe@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Portland and support the creation of the Casco Bay Trail from Portland to Auburn because

trail corridors allow more people to choose biking or walking for transportation
safe places to walk and bike are good for public health
towns along trail networks will see economic and community benefits
the Casco Bay Trail is vital to creating a robust connected trail system in Maine. It would be the extension north from the Eastern Trail, and a connector to other trails within the envisioned network

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 5:51:21 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: Thursday, 03-Nov-2022 17:39:20 EDT
Name: Lacey Lee
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: ldlee00@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Dear Council,

I live in Portland and support the creation of the Casco Bay Trail from Portland to Auburn because safe trail corridors allow more people to choose biking or walking for transportation. They provide safe places to walk and bike that are good for public health, safely away from cars and air pollutants.

Additionally towns along trail networks will see economic and community benefits.

The Casco Bay Trail is vital to creating a robust connected trail system in Maine. It would be the extension north from the Eastern Trail, and a connector to other trails within the envisioned network. Maine truly needs more dedicated cycling paths. This project would pave the way to success for cycling and walkways, and would help create a positive trend toward active transport.

Thank you.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 4:16:18 PM

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

Date: Thursday, 03-Nov-2022 16:09:58 EDT
Name: Corey Templeton
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-776-1818
Email: coreytempleton@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:
Hello!

I live and work in Portland and support the creation of the Casco Bay Trail from Portland to Auburn. I am a fan of active transportation and believe the creation of more off-road paths of this nature will create safer spaces and encourage more pedestrians and cyclists to choose active transportation instead of single-occupancy car trips. Look forward to using the path myself someday.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 3:21:16 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: Thursday, 03-Nov-2022 15:16:29 EDT
Name: Jay Knowlton
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: jay.s.knowlton@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Portland and support the creation of the Casco Bay Trail from Portland to Auburn because:

- 1) trail corridors allow more people to choose biking or walking for transportation
- 2) safe places to walk and bike are good for public health
towns along trail networks will see economic and community benefits
- 3)the Casco Bay Trail is vital to creating a robust connected trail system in Maine. It would be the extension north from the Eastern Trail, and a connector to other trails within the envisioned network

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 2:36:15 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: Thursday, 03-Nov-2022 14:26:52 EDT
Name: Amanda Langley
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2077491358
Email: allangley1007@yahoo.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in South Portland and support the creation of the Casco Bay Trail from Portland to Auburn because safe access to recreation makes for healthier communities. My background is public health, and I know the health benefits that come from being outdoors and having safe places to bike, walk and roll. Please consider moving this forward and reach out with any questions!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 12:26:16 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: Thursday, 03-Nov-2022 11:56:16 EDT
Name: BRIAN MCNIFF
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: purcha@mcniffight.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Portland and I strongly support the creation of the Casco Bay Trail from Portland to Auburn. Walking and biking in and around the Portland area is not always easy or safe due to competition with cars, limited paths and poor pedestrian-accommodating designs. As an active man in my 60s I do both of these activities extensively in all weather for my peace of mind, my health and for the joy of experiencing the beautiful natural environment we live in here along the coast. Trail corridors allow more people to choose biking or walking for these same reasons as well as basic transportation for shopping or commuting.

Additionally, there are economic and community benefits as demonstrated by the extensive Eastern Trail network that the Casco Bay Trail would connect to. I urge the Maine DOT and the rail use advisory council to allow this exciting set of trails to be completed.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 11:26:13 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: Thursday, 03-Nov-2022 11:18:50 EDT
Name: Jenny Johnson
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2077505542
Email: jcyjohnson@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I used to be an avid road cyclist averaging 100 miles a week in the summer. I used to ride solo and in groups. With the legalizing of marijuana and the increase of people texting and driving I have stopped riding solo. Every ride I take I smell pot at least once from a passing car and see people texting constantly while driving. I no longer feel safe to ride in the road and would love the improvements of trail systems to get back to what I love.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 10:46:11 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: Thursday, 03-Nov-2022 10:37:46 EDT
Name: Matthew Anderson
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2079391607
Email: manderson@rsu10.org

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Portland and I fully endorse the creation of a rail trail from Portland to Auburn. As more and more people seem to be taking up cycling, there are more and more chances of accidents out on the road. Rail trails are a safe way to cover some miles away from traffic. Please make this happen!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 10:36:12 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: Thursday, 03-Nov-2022 10:16:45 EDT
Name: Steve Fielding
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: 9999slf@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I support the development of this trail to expand cycling and pedestrian infrastructure. The transition to electrical vehicles is important but not the solution. It takes lots of fossil fuels to produce them, and mining the metals for batteries will further degrade the environment; these metals will become a commodity with geo-political problems similar to oil. The more people walking/cycling will create a healthier population leading to lower healthcare costs. Finally, fewer cars means less urban congestion and fewer deaths and injuries. We also need more public transportation infrastructure. Think 19th transportation, except with modern technology.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 9:26:13 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: Thursday, 03-Nov-2022 09:18:40 EDT
Name: Ted Hall
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-650-5334
Email: tedhall5334@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Yarmouth and support the creation of the Casco Bay Trail from Portland to Auburn because trail corridors allow more people to choose biking or walking for transportation. We need safe places to walk and bike both for public health and public safety.

All of the towns currently along trail networks have seen economic and community benefits. There is no reason to believe that the towns on the Casco Bay Trail would not receive these benefits as well. The Casco Bay Trail is a really important step in creating a robust connected trail system in Maine. It would be the extension north from the Eastern Trail, and a connector to other trails within the envisioned network. I urge you to approve this trail. Thank you very much for your consideration.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@Maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 8:31:15 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: Thursday, 03-Nov-2022 08:17:21 EDT
Name: Amy Landry
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2073182817
Email: amylandry1@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Portland and fully support the Casco Bay Trail project! I know so many people that would ride their bikes more if they had safe off road places to do them. I've been driven off the road by countless drivers over the years. Many of them distracted and a few intentionally trying to make me crash.

Trails like this are a safe place for new riders, families, and experienced riders alike to get out in nature and move their bodies. They open up the possibility of commuting between cities. They are a tourist attraction. I know many gravel and off road riders that head to Mass and NH's trails to ride that may come here.

Please support this project and future projects to connect and grow our off road cycling options in Maine.

Thank you,
Amy

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@Maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 8:31:11 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: Thursday, 03-Nov-2022 08:25:43 EDT
Name: Bob Houston
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2078470007
Email: bobhouston1111@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Yarmouth and support the creation of the Casco Bay Trail from Portland to Auburn because

- trail corridors allow more people to choose biking or walking for transportation
 - safe places to walk and bike are good for public health
 - towns along trail networks will see economic and community benefits
 - the Casco Bay Trail is vital to creating a robust connected trail system in Maine. It would be the extension north from the Eastern Trail, and a connector to other trails within the envisioned network.
- Thank you for all you do to make biking a safe and viable transportation option in the Greater Portland Area.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 9:01:03 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: Wednesday, 02-Nov-2022 20:55:23 EDT
Name: Sean Mahoney
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 12076710845
Email: Sean51864@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Falmouth and strongly support the creation of the Casco Bay Trail from Portland to Auburn because

- trail corridors allow more people to choose biking or walking for transportation
- towns along trail networks will see economic and community benefits; and
- the Casco Bay Trail is vital to creating a robust connected trail system in Maine. It would be the extension north from the Eastern Trail, and a connector to other trails within the envisioned network

This kind of investment in bicycle transportation is an excellent use of public funds and I urge you to approve it. thank you.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 8:51:02 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: Wednesday, 02-Nov-2022 20:44:02 EDT
Name: Andrew Favreau
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2073588223
Email: andrew.favreau@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

My family in Yarmouth support the creation of the Casco Bay Trail from Portland to Auburn for safe, off road non-motorized recreation and alternative transportation to improve public health and happiness.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 8:26:00 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: Wednesday, 02-Nov-2022 20:22:20 EDT
Name: Julie Plummer
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: jpdragonfly67@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I support the creation of the Casco Bay Trail between Auburn and Portland bc being outdoors and active is important to my physical and mental health. Having a safe place to ride with friends without motorized traffic and distracted drivers would be wonderful.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 8:01:01 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: Wednesday, 02-Nov-2022 19:52:57 EDT
Name: Chris Kuhn
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2074502053
Email: jckuhn@icloud.com

Topic:

Comments:

The death this week of a 38 year old cyclist who was killed on his bike in Windham on Roosevelt trail is yet another illustration of the problem. We need safe places to bike. We donâ€™t need a second under utilized train barreling through the middle of town. Please come to Yarmouth and see for yourselves the number of kids on bikes. See where these tracks go and ask yourself honestly what is the best use of this abandoned rail line.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 7:25:58 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: Wednesday, 02-Nov-2022 19:13:54 EDT
Name: Lisa Almeder
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2078469011
Email: lalmeder@mac.com

Topic:

Comments:

To the Rail Use Advisory Council. Thank you for working on this huge opportunity. Pls know I speak for many in Yarmouth who are keen commuters, bikers, walkers and explorers who want more ways to get around and esp trails to exercise, commute and be outdoors away from dangers of traffic. Corridors for biking and walking are excellent for health, local economies, community spirit. What's more this corridor is specifically and strategically tactically located to extend the Eastern Trail. Thank you all for thinking big and go for the vision of the 74 mile off-road loop to connect vital towns for people.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 6:56:00 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: Wednesday, 02-Nov-2022 18:51:06 EDT
Name: Dave Holman
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2075175700
Email: dave@holmanhomes.com

Topic:

Comments:

I strongly support a multi-use bike trail from Portland-Auburn. Please make this happen.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 6:36:01 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: Wednesday, 02-Nov-2022 18:29:38 EDT
Name: Lindsay Sirois
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2075762598
Email: lindsaysirois@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Portland and grew up in Auburn. I regularly visit Auburn as family still resides there. I support the creation of the Casco Bay Trail from Portland to Auburn because I'd love the off-road option to travel between the two. In addition, this trail corridor would allow more people to choose biking or walking for transportation. This trail would provide safe places to walk and bike, both of which are good for public health. I think towns along trail networks will see economic and community benefits as their communities become desirable destinations due to their access and connections to such a trail. Finally, the Casco Bay Trail is vital to creating a robust connected trail system in Maine. It would be the extension north from the Eastern Trail, and a connector to other trails within the envisioned network.

It is important to me that the future of this corridor includes an active transportation trail, regardless of whether it goes with or without a rail option.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 5:51:00 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: Wednesday, 02-Nov-2022 17:37:08 EDT
Name: Linda Healey
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2072052855
Email: healey.l@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Yarmouth and support the creation of the Casco Bay Trail from Portland to Auburn because

trail corridors allow more people to choose biking or walking for transportation
safe places to walk and bike are good for public health
towns along trail networks will see economic and community benefits
the Casco Bay Trail is vital to creating a robust connected trail system in Maine. It would be the extension north from the Eastern Trail, and a connector to other trails within the envisioned network
I hope the council will approve this use of the rail line.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 5:50:58 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: Wednesday, 02-Nov-2022 17:45:14 EDT
Name: Betsey Harding
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-829-2862
Email: betseyh44@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Safe biking is all the more important with more cars on the road, more bikers hit and killed.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 5:41:00 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: Wednesday, 02-Nov-2022 17:30:26 EDT
Name: Steven Linnell
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2077763341
Email: linnellsteve@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Portland and support the creation of the Casco Bay Trail from Portland to Auburn because:

- trail corridors allow more people to choose biking or walking for transportation
- safe places to walk and bike are good for public health
- many people are reluctant to ride on the roads for fear of being hit
- towns along trail networks will see economic and community benefits.

I favor a bike trail that would also leave open the possibility of rail redevelopment when that time comes.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 5:41:00 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: Wednesday, 02-Nov-2022 17:35:14 EDT
Name: Andrew F Coburn
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2078317830
Email: andyc49@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Yarmouth and support the creation of the Casco Bay Trail from Portland to Auburn because

trail corridors allow more people to choose biking or walking for transportation
safe places to walk and bike are good for public health
towns along trail networks will see economic and community benefits
the Casco Bay Trail is vital to creating a robust connected trail system in Maine. It would be the extension north from the Eastern Trail, and a connector to other trails within the envisioned network

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 5:05:59 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: Wednesday, 02-Nov-2022 17:02:56 EDT
Name: Ainsley Judge
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 401-575-7568
Email: ainsley.judge@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

More trails are better for alternative transit, public health, and creating a network of shared multi-use trails!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 1:35:52 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: Wednesday, 02-Nov-2022 13:29:20 EDT
Name: Chloe Hoffman
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 3154160926
Email: chloejenay@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Portland and support the creation of the Casco Bay Trail from Portland to Auburn because trail corridors allow more people to choose biking or walking for transportation.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 11:30:51 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: Wednesday, 02-Nov-2022 11:23:39 EDT
Name: Susan Murr
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2072569223
Email: susanmurr@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

The Casco Bay Trail would be an important addition to outdoor activities in the Portland area and I strongly urge the advisory council to approve it.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Monday, October 31, 2022 10:24:58 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, 31-Oct-2022 10:21:18 EDT
Name: Leslie
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: Tuttle
Email: leslietut@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I enthusiastically support the rail trail!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 6:31:41 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: Wednesday, 30-Nov-2022 17:34:17 EST
Name: Eric Sofen
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: esofen@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I'm writing to express support for using the Portland-Auburn corridor for a bike/ped trail. This is a fantastic opportunity to build out a network of interconnected trails that can provide both commuter and recreational corridors.

Eric Sofen
Freeport, ME

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: [Moulton, Nathan](#)
To: [Carl Wilcox](#); [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: RE: CSX line in New Gloucester trains routinely stopping on mainline
Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 9:36:46 AM

Thanks Carl, you are correct there will need to be upgrades throughout the CSX system as freight traffic grows and any passenger trains are added. I would note that we/they recognize this issue and there is a large capital project scheduled to begin next year for upgrades between Yarmouth and Waterville that includes lengthening that siding.

Best regards,

Nate

From: Carl Wilcox <cwilcox.maine@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 9:27 AM
To: Moulton, Nathan <Nathan.Moulton@maine.gov>; Howard, Nathan <Nathan.Howard@maine.gov>
Subject: CSX line in New Gloucester trains routinely stopping on mainline

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.

Dear Mr Moulton and Mr. Howard,

From yesterday's meeting it appears there has been little to no discussion with CSX concerning the use of their tracks for potential commuter rail between Portland and Lewiston-Auburn. I want to bring the following to your attention.

I have recently observed going to meetings at the New Gloucester seat of government, that nearly every evening a CSX southbound train is parked north of the Route 231 CSX crossing extending north towards Danville Junction. These trains are present before 7:00 pm and present when I return from the meetings an hour or more than two hours later. I have no idea how long the southbound trains sit on the mainline but at least until 9:00 pm.

I personally found it strange that the trains would park at this location on the mainline with no means for another train to pass when just south of Route 231 a 1.4 mile rail siding begins for that expressed purpose.

It has been explained to me by locals, though not affiliated with CSX or the prior owner, that the southbound train length exceeds the 1.4 mile siding length and can not utilize the siding. The southbound trains wait on the main line until a northbound train that is shorter than 1.4 miles arrives and pulls onto the siding. That allows the southbound train to proceed. I do not know how long this practice has been occurring. I'm aware that due to locomotive technology improvements the length of trains has increased and in places in the US reported to exceed 3-miles in length.

Use of the CSX tracks for commuter rail will require this management practice to cease and presumably CSX will require MDOT to lengthen the existing 1.4 mile siding to allow longer southbound trains to pull over to allow passage of commuter trains in either direction.

Sincerely,

Carl Wilcox

From: [Contact form at Town of North Yarmouth ME](#)
To: [Diane Barnes](#)
Subject: [Town of North Yarmouth ME] Rail Corridor Use (Sent by Alvin Ahlers, aahlers@maine.rr.com)
Date: Monday, September 5, 2022 11:56:48 AM

Hello dbarnes,

Alvin Ahlers (aahlers@maine.rr.com) has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.northyarmouth.org/user/4641/contact>) at Town of North Yarmouth ME.

If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at <https://www.northyarmouth.org/user/4641/edit>.

Message:

Last week, there was an article in the Portland Press Herald indicating that there is some interest in keeping the old St. Lawrence & Atlantic rail corridor for continued use for passenger rail traffic. I would support that initiative. I know that the Casco Bay Trail Alliance would like that corridor to be turned into a bike/walking trail which I believe is not a good idea. A bike/walking trail has limited usage, primarily during the late spring, summer and early fall seasons and only for a limited number of people. I believe rail passenger service will be needed in the future as a result of higher motor vehicle usage on existing roads. We may already be there. As a member of the Rail Corridor Use Advisory Council, I would hope you would support the continued use of this rail line as a rail passenger rail line. We really do need to develop more and better ways to travel in this area. Rail Passenger service could be a good solution. Thanks for reading my message. Al Ahlers