

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 7:47:33 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, 22-Feb-2023 07:41:43 EST
Name: Jeremy
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: jeremyclaywell@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I will use this trail to take my kids for walks and my dog

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 7:42:31 AM

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

Date: Wednesday, 22-Feb-2023 07:40:02 EST
Name: Tristian
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2075303743
Email: tklemanski132@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Live in Gardiner.

Community would love this. I personally would benefit as I enjoy longboarding the trails and walking my dog.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Sunday, February 19, 2023 9:46:37 AM

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

Date: Sunday, 19-Feb-2023 09:36:18 EST
Name: Zach Wanberg
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 5089227601
Email: zach.wanberg@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I think a rail trail connecting Brunswick to Gardiner, vice versa, is a great idea on many fronts. It would pave the way (no pun intended) for greener and healthier transportation between areas. It would be a smart idea on the commerce side, allowing patrons from both general locations to spend money and discover new businesses. Also, it would give people another excuse to travel between the two places just for the sake of adventuring. Biking and walking are among two of the healthiest forms of exercise. It would provide an opportunity to experience more of beautiful Maine, simultaneously boosting quality of life. I look forward to hearing in-depth discussions from the MaineDOT on this matter.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Saturday, February 18, 2023 12:51:21 PM

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

Date: Saturday, 18-Feb-2023 12:45:38 EST
Name: Sarah Tinker
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: sarahjtinker@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

We are landowners and our property abuts the MMT corridor. We would LOVE to have the tracks turned into a trail, and would provide access to the trail through our land for our neighbors. It would be so great to have a safe way to walk or bike to downtown Bowdoinham since our roads are so narrow and fast. It would build community and help keep everyone healthy by walking more! We would especially love it for our children.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Friday, February 17, 2023 5:16:04 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, 17-Feb-2023 17:08:27 EST
Name: Julie Isbill
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-729-4760
Email: isbilljk@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Thank you for considering a trail until rail on the rail line between Topsham and Gardiner. I would use it! As would so many others for exercise, outdoor time with friends and family, and commuting for work and errands. The Merrymeeting Trail would increase quality of life and healthy/happy living in and among the towns it would connect.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Friday, February 17, 2023 1:06:00 PM

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

Date: Friday, 17-Feb-2023 12:59:08 EST
Name: Sheila Grant
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2078766206
Email: writersgrant@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I support the expansion of the rail trail from Gardiner to Brunswick. I walk the trail along the Gardiner waterfront daily during spring, summer and fall, either with my dog or my camera. More miles of trail, even if just mowed rather than paved, would be a wonderful physical and mental health asset for so many people in the region!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Friday, February 17, 2023 10:05:54 AM

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

Date: Friday, 17-Feb-2023 09:59:33 EST
Name: Bobbie
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: bobbie@creativeportland.com

Topic:

Comments:

I use the rail trail all the time in the summer to commute to Augusta. I would love it if it went all the way to Brunswick and I could ride my bike and support all the businesses along the way as I explore. Iâ€™m very excited to see how Richmond and Gardiner improve with this new attraction.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Friday, February 17, 2023 8:00:56 AM

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

Date: Friday, 17-Feb-2023 07:48:26 EST
Name: Terry Arford
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: tarford@roadrunner.com

Topic:

Comments:

I would like to encourage you expand the rail trail system through Richmond . It would be close to the Richmond schools and span the downtown. My property would border the trail and I think it would be awesome!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Thursday, February 16, 2023 11:30:34 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: Thursday, 16-Feb-2023 11:19:33 EST
Name: Steve Casey
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2077491942
Email: pubdepot@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I think it would be an amazing opportunity for the public, the link between Gardiner and Brunswick has some beautiful, natural areas the people would seek out. Public access to water in this state is extremely scarce. This would really showcase the Kennebec river and Merrymeeting Bay.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 8:00:20 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, 15-Feb-2023 19:56:31 EST
Name: Urie
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 9046070431
Email: deshommesurie@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

With a addition of a trail in Gardner I believe it will greatly enhance the experience of living in Central Maine

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 8:00:19 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: Wednesday, 15-Feb-2023 19:58:01 EST
Name: John
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2078919205
Email: michaud.john.27@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Fucking do it bub. Seriously byways and my ways are best.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 2:25:15 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: Wednesday, 15-Feb-2023 13:23:23 EST
Name: Cameron Fisher
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: cameronefisher@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I would love to see the lower road rail trail from Gardiner to Brunswick! I am a resident of Richmond and myself and all those on my street are in favor of this. The rail trail will allow for older residents to be more active, the rail space here would not be on the kind of incline that the roads are on makes it difficult for those who aren't able to be as active. Just the other day coming back from the yard I saw someone biking from the Richmond bridge to town with a large tool across the handlebars. They were on the sidewalk and was knocked off his bike and down the ditch because he couldn't make it past the telephone pole with his tool! Now, this could still happen if we had a rail trail but it wouldn't be on the main road and he wouldn't have fallen down the ditch 10 feet. Richmond is a town where the rail trail would go right through it, and where there is not a whole lot for kids (middle-high school to do). This trail would also make it easy for them and the rest of us to be more active while getting out of the house.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Sunday, February 5, 2023 2:22:12 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, 05-Feb-2023 14:04:31 EST
Name: David Baecher
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: dbaecher2@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

In Bowdoinham specifically there is a shortage of safe, publicly-accessible recreation space. I believe the Merrymeeting Trail could encourage active life styles for local residents, while increasing the connection to nature and local businesses amongst those who pass through on the path. Personally, I would enjoy using the trail as alternative to commuting by car to Brunswick area as well as an easy place to walk and explore the river frontage with my young kids.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Friday, February 3, 2023 12:51:37 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, 03-Feb-2023 12:41:01 EST
Name: Tom Barter
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2077510574
Email: candtbarter@comcast.net

Topic:

Comments:

My wife & I have travelled to multiple states including Pennsylvania and Ohio to enjoy the converted rails to trails that make walking and especially biking so enjoyable. We have seen the positive impacts these trails have made on the multiple towns and communities through which they pass. We fully endorse the full conversion from rail to trail rather than the more complicated and winding versions that attempt to follow a railbed (i.e.-Augusta & Lisbon Falls). The Lower Road has the potential to be one of the best rail trails in New England, if converted due to the diverse landscape it follows and the destinations it would open for walkers and bikers. I am also a train fan and would not deny the benefits of trains for public travel, but this particular route, in my opinion, would never result in a profitable rail line and be best used for the trail system.
Thank you for your consideration.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:36:21 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, 02-Feb-2023 16:29:52 EST
Name: MaryAngela King-Horne
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: maryangelak3@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:
Capital to Coast is a great vision with huge benefits!

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Thursday, February 2, 2023 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, 02-Feb-2023 15:04:10 EST
Name: Pamela J Fischer
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2079263919
Email: pamela.fischer33@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in New Gloucester and travel to many areas by bike and to ride my bike. Increased traffic, and especially distracted driving and those who just drive too fast and irresponsibly, have made it harder and harder for me to enjoy cycling on Maine roadways. It seems inevitable that sooner or later, I will be the victim of a car crash. The best way for cyclists and pedestrians like myself to feel safe getting around is to create more long distance, off-road bike/ped trails. Rail Trail conversions like the proposed Lower Road project are sorely needed for safety, economic growth, and quality of life for people of all ages and abilities. I support the proposed Merrymeeting Trail.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Thursday, February 2, 2023 2:01:20 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, 02-Feb-2023 13:53:07 EST
Name: Ben Whatley
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2078440381
Email: btwhatley@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

As as owner of Whatley Farm, located near where the Merrymeeting Trail would cross Cathance Road in Topsham, we would love to see the trail developed for non-motorized recreation. We believe it would bring more business to our farmstand and add value to our neighborhood, which already has the Head of Tide park and Cathance River Trail. We also have farm employees who commute from Brunswick by bike, and they would use the trail to get to work.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Thursday, February 2, 2023 1:21:14 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, 02-Feb-2023 13:14:32 EST
Name: Kurt Luthy
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 8604493780
Email: kmluthy@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

We (me, my wife, and 2 daughters) live along the Merrymeeting rail corridor (our property on Browns Point Rd in Bowdoinham abuts it) and we would LOVE to see it turned into a rail trail. There are very few biking opportunities in the Bowdoinham area that are safe for kids because most of our roads have high speed limits and poor visibility. We would love to be able for our daughters to be able to go for bike rides and commute into town when there are events. When we do go biking, we often times go up to Hallowell and use their rail trail and then eat there and support their businesses. I think having bike access to our downtown would provide more traffic for our businesses to thrive off of.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 5:51:00 PM

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

Date: Wednesday, 01-Feb-2023 17:45:55 EST
Name: Poppy Arford
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2075221997
Email: poppy.arford@legislature.maine.gov

Topic:

Comments:

I would love to be placed on your meeting notice or interested person list. Big fan and supporter of rail trails and would love to see this one be developed! Thank you, Rep Poppy Arford District 101

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 8:47:29 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, 22-Feb-2023 08:44:50 EST
Name: James Mason Shives
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: masonshives@icloud.com

Topic:

Comments:

I would love this trail. I live in Bowdoinham and it would be great for the community.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: [patricia barber](#)
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Re: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Friday, February 3, 2023 10:56:57 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.

Thank you so much for this reply. It answers many of the questions I had about the rail line, the studies, and potential rail restoration options. Much appreciated, Patty Barber

On Friday, February 3, 2023 at 10:14:21 AM EST, Howard, Nathan <nathan.howard@maine.gov> wrote:

Ms. Barber --

VHB is qualified for a number of MaineDOT services including 106.10 - Passenger Rail Operations Development. The general definition includes: Development of passenger rail schedules, fare structure, business plans, etc. Passenger rail system design, feasibility studies, ridership projections, business plans, NEPA, new/small starts, etc.

VHB is currently engaged in number of light rail planning and engineering efforts including the MBTA South Coast Rail (SCR) project and Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA).

The RUAC study will provide infrastructure (track, signal etc.) costs for the potential restoration freight and passenger rail for the types of rail equipment that could run on this infrastructure. This could be any passenger equipment (DMU, full trainsets etc.) that meet FRA requirements for this infrastructure.

Light rail is not being considered as the service would run with heavy freight/passenger operations which require all equipment to meet FRA crash testing, track and crossing signaling etc. to run on the same tracks as freight service. Light rail equipment does not meet these requirements and the waiver process to for light rail to run on the CSX mainline along with mixing with AMTRAK, CSX and Midcoast Rail Service at Brunswick is extremely unlikely. All other RR's involved would need to support a waiver and run only when the light rail system is not running which they will not agree to. That is the reason we are not spending resources on investigating light rail. I would note that Budcars are not light rail and are approved for running with heavy freight as they can meet FRA regs for crashworthiness, glass, signaling etc. when properly equipped.

The study work envisioned by the RUAC legislation was very high level as there was no fiscal note attached to the legislation, which is what we have been providing to date. A bigger study would need much more funding and separate funding to be designated by the legislature beyond the current RUAC statute.

Nate

Nathan Howard
Director, Rail Transportation
MaineDOT, Planning
Division of Freight and Business Logistics
(207) 624-3042

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

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov <Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:19 PM

To: Howard, Nathan <Nathan.Howard@maine.gov>
Subject: Lower Road Public Comments

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

Date: Wednesday, 25-Jan-2023 13:57:04 EST
Name: Patricia Barber
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-625-4755
Email: rugbyvet88@yahoo.com

Topic:

Comments:

Regarding Other Rail Option Studies:

Nate, a few

follow-up questions to the questions Chairman Eddy (and myself in the public comment) asked today during the RUAC concerning other rail options studies. [This can also suffice as my public written comment for Lower Rd for Jan.] I had asked if any of MDOTs preapproved consultants listed are Light Rail qualified. Your answer was there is no specific Light Rail Category in the consultant qualifications (I assume there is only freight rail and passenger rail qualified? Is that correct?) Right now the only rail mandate VHB is using for the Lower Rd RUAC study is Passenger Rail, Heavy Track, Class 3 at 60 MPH. So would VHB or any other of your preapproved rail qualified consultants be willing to do an evaluation of other possible train options as part of the Lower Road assessment?

If not, how does the RUAC Council get unbiased information about the other possibilities available (or why not available) for this part of the corridor?

Looking at light rail, bud cars, pop-up metros for example. Track requirements, different equipment available, fuel types. Estimated costs.

I understand a speaker could be asked to present, but I feel like this needs a dedicated study that all council members would approve of.

Can the Council members widen the scope of the Consultant's work?

Thanks, Patty Barber

If no one assc with MDOT could do this study, how does one get an independent study accepted by the council? Do they all have to vote on including it? Do they get to choose the analyst from a list of options?

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: [Howard, Nathan](#)
To: [Benjamin Mowatt](#)
Cc: [Keith Mclellan](#)
Subject: RE: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Friday, February 3, 2023 1:24:00 PM
Attachments: [Maine Rail System.png](#)

I attached an updated map.

The next meeting of the Lower Road RUAC is 2.22.23. The details will be posted here: <https://www.maine.gov/mdot/ofps/ruac/lowerroad/meetings/>. The meeting is open to the public.

Nate

Nathan Howard
Director, Rail Transportation
MaineDOT, Planning
Division of Freight and Business Logistics
(207) 624-3042

From: Benjamin Mowatt <nebkram@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 3:34 PM
To: Howard, Nathan <Nathan.Howard@maine.gov>
Cc: Keith Mclellan <kmclellan1@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Lower Road Public Comments

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

Hello Mr. Howard,

Thank you for your response and the information.

I did see that this stretch of track, I believe called the Lower Road railroad corridor, is under a nine month study for its potential use. If you could let me know what the end date for this study is, I'd appreciate it. As it's such a long stretch of rail, could there be multiple uses for these tracks in different parts/towns? If we would like to join this conversation and see if it would be possible to get use of a part of these tracks, how would you recommend we join these talks?

Moving beyond this Lower Road section, are there any other tracks that the state would be interested in leasing out? Again, a rail bike service would leave the tracks fully intact for future use, is a completely green business, would generate income for the state, and would generate

additional tourist dollars for the surrounding communities. If there are any available tracks, please let me know.

Last question, I found the attached map from your website showing the tracks in Maine and their owners. Is this the latest map (if not, would you be able to send me the latest?) and are the owners correct?

Thank you very much Mr. Howard! If you have any questions for me, please, let me know.

Best,

Ben Mowatt

From: Howard, Nathan <Nathan.Howard@maine.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 3:06 PM

To: nebkr@gmail.com <nebkr@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: Lower Road Public Comments

Mr. Mowatt -

As the result of recent Legislation, many state-owned inactive corridors are the subject of Rail Use Advisory Councils. The purpose of these councils is to facilitate discussion, gather information, and provide advice to the commissioner regarding the future use of a rail corridor identified in the petition. These recommendations will include the benefits and costs of potential uses of the rail corridor, including rail and trail use, with the understanding that any non-rail use of the corridor is considered interim in nature.

Some of these rail lines may be converted into trails subject to approval by the Legislature.

I would suggest waiting for this process to complete before exploring use of these lines for rail bikes.

For more information on Rail Use Advisory Councils: <https://www.maine.gov/mdot/ofps/ruac/>

Nate

Nathan Howard
Director, Rail Transportation
MaineDOT, Planning
Division of Freight and Business Logistics
(207) 624-3042

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

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov <Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov>

Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 2:26 AM

To: Howard, Nathan <Nathan.Howard@maine.gov>

Subject: Lower Road Public Comments

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

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

Date: Sunday, 29-Jan-2023 02:19:47 EST

Name: Benjamin Mowatt

Organization(if applicable):

Phone: 6033124023

Email: nebkram@hotmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Dear Sir/Madame,

My partner and I are looking to lease railroad tracks for a rail bike tourist operation. The idea would be to preserve the rail for potential future train use, bring in funds to the state for leasing, as well as bring significant tourist dollars to the surrounding areas. This business would be a green, no-impact to the environment, business. If you can send me the contact information of someone I could speak with regarding this, I would appreciate it. Thank you. Ben Mowatt

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: [Howard, Nathan](#)
To: [Arford, Poppy](#)
Subject: RE: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Friday, February 3, 2023 10:42:00 AM

Will do. Thanks

Nate

Nathan Howard
Director, Rail Transportation
MaineDOT, Planning
Division of Freight and Business Logistics
(207) 624-3042

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

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov <Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 5:48 PM
To: Howard, Nathan <Nathan.Howard@maine.gov>
Subject: Lower Road Public Comments

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

Date: Wednesday, 01-Feb-2023 17:45:55 EST
Name: Poppy Arford
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2075221997
Email: poppy.arford@legislature.maine.gov

Topic:

Comments:

I would love to be placed on your meeting notice or interested person list. Big fan and supporter of rail trails and would love to see this one be developed! Thank you, Rep Poppy Arford District 101

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: [Howard, Nathan](#)
To: [patricia barber](#)
Subject: RE: Lower Road Public Comments
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2023 8:21:00 AM

If any type of trail (either RWT or TUR) moves forward through the Legislature, MaineDOT would develop an agreement and build a partnership with another entity to maintain trails that we own. Usually, those maintenance partners are the municipality, an interlocal agency of multiple municipalities, or in some cases a non-profit trail group or DACF (as is the case with the Downeast Sunrise Trail).

All these details would need to be worked out, if necessary.

From: patricia barber <rugbyvet88@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 3:29 PM
To: Howard, Nathan <Nathan.Howard@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Lower Road Public Comments

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Thanks Nate,

So to clarify, the ultimate responsibility for maintenance does lie with each municipality for a trail within its borders. If a municipality can form or find a trail group to partner with, then they can work out a collaborative maintenance agreement. The liability then must also lie with each municipality, is that correct?

Sincerely, Patty Barber

On Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 01:10:46 PM EST, Howard, Nathan <nathan.howard@maine.gov> wrote:

Rail Trails are maintained by the municipalities along the rail corridor under a cooperative agreement. The Kennebec River Rail Trail Board of Supervisors, Friends of the Kennebec River Rail Trail and the 4 municipalities work collaboratively to maintain the trail. MaineDOT is still responsible for the underlying railbed. We work collaboratively with these groups when there is a serious issue, like a washout, that impacts both the trail and the rail/underlying railbed.

Nate

Nathan Howard
Director, Rail Transportation
MaineDOT, Planning
Division of Freight and Business Logistics
(207) 624-3042

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

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov <Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 12:09 PM

To: Howard, Nathan <Nathan.Howard@maine.gov>

Subject: Lower Road Public Comments

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

Date: Monday, 06-Feb-2023 11:57:56 EST

Name: Patricia Barber

Organization(if applicable):

Phone: 207-625-4755

Email: rugbyvet88@yahoo.com

Topic:

Comments:

Public question for MDOT, regarding the Lower Road RUAC.

My question concerns the responsibilities to each Town along the Corridor if the tracks are removed and replaced with a trail.

Is each town responsible for:

1)Maintenance-clearing debris after storms, plowing of snow, resurfacing, grading, and fill?

Maintenance of fencing, road barriers, other infrastructure?

Bridges? -replanking? major infrastructure repair?

2) Public safety? Policing the area, rescue/ambulance services

3) Town liability? for any injuries from use of the trail? From trespass and/or theft from abutters resulting from trail access?

What, if any, responsibility does MDOT retain once the tracks are removed?

Thank you, Patty Barber

If required, please respond as soon as possible.