

LOWER ROAD RAIL USE ADVISORY COUNCIL (RUAC)

KICK-OFF MEETING

November 30, 2022: 10:30am-12pm



Oct 9, 2019 at 10:3
+44.031588,-69

LD 1133: RAIL USE ADVISORY COUNCIL

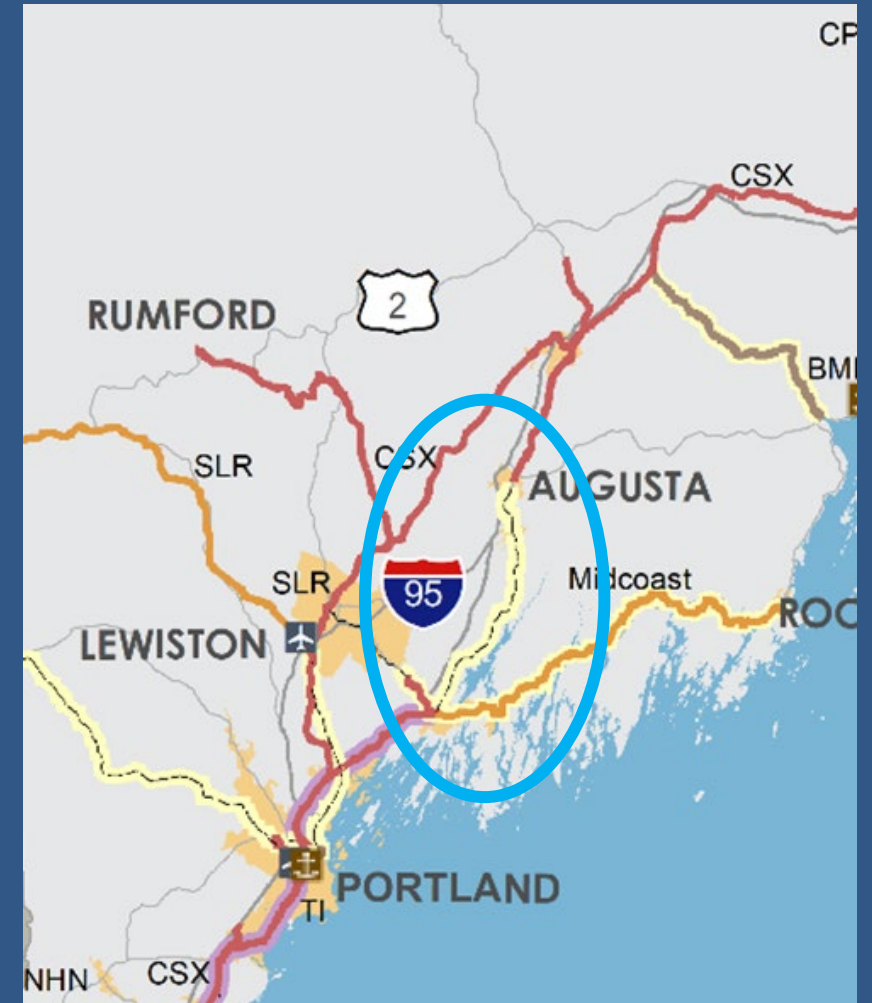
- LD 1133
 - Established Rail Corridor Use Advisory Council Process for review of *nonrail recreational or nonrecreational transportation use*
 - *The council shall review and make recommendations on the likelihood, benefits and costs of potential uses of the rail corridor, including, but not limited to, rail use, trail use or bikeways. Any nonrail use of a rail corridor must be considered by a council to be interim in nature, and all such rail corridors must be preserved for future rail use*
- How the Council Process works:
 - Within 9 months, Council submits findings and recommendation regarding use of the corridor to MaineDOT
 - May include majority and minority reports
 - Process will include 1 public meeting
 - If Commissioner concurs, MaineDOT shall seek legislative approval of the recommendation by submitting legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation prior to track removal or the other change for nonrail use.

STATE RAILROAD PRESERVATION ACT

- Railroads; lease or purchase of certain railroad lines by the Department of Transportation
 - The Department of Transportation may purchase or lease railroad lines or any part of a railroad line or any other property located in the State, owned or otherwise lawfully controlled by any railroad when, in the judgment of the department, the purchase or lease of those railroad lines or property is necessary to protect the public interest.
- Use of railroad line.
 - The department may lease the railroad line, or otherwise contract for operation of the railroad line, to a railroad operator, or it may hold and manage the railroad line for future transportation use.
- Dismantling of state-owned track or other nonrail use
 - The Department may not convert a state-owned rail corridor to a nonrail recreational or nonrecreational transportation use without following the rail corridor use advisory council process.
 - If the Commissioner of Transportation receives a recommendation of track removal or other change for nonrail use and the commissioner concurs with that recommendation, the commissioner shall seek legislative approval of the recommendation
 - Legislation submitted under this section must include language stating that any track removal or other change for nonrail use is considered interim in nature and that the rail corridor will be preserved for future rail use as provided under this chapter

CORRIDOR LOCATION UNDER REVIEW

- Lower Road
 - 34-mile section of the State-owned rail corridor known as the Lower Road from Rockland Junction in Brunswick (immediately east of the Federal Street at-grade crossing) to the east side of the railroad bridge over the Kennebec River in Augusta.
 - Midcoast Railservice operates 1st 0.8 miles
 - CSX owns and operates Augusta (w/o Kennebec) to Waterville
- Purchased by MaineDOT under the Rail Preservation Act in 1991



CORRIDOR USAGE OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

- Rail Use
 - Maintain/preserve existing corridor
 - Restoration of freight or passenger service
- Rail with Trail
 - 15' trail offset from rail or 10.5' with barrier (design exception required)
 - Continue to preserve rail for future use
 - Restoration of freight or passenger service
- Interim Trail (Trail until Rail)
 - Remove rail and convert to interim trail
 - Continue to preserve rail for future use
- Other considerations
 - Motorized vs non motorized uses
 - Maintenance responsibility

https://www.maine.gov/mdot/ofps/ruac/lowerroad/



OUR MISSION | To support economic opportunity and quality of life by responsibly providing our customers the safest and most reliable transportation system possible, given available resources.

207-624-3000 | [Jobs](#) | [News](#) | [Events](#) | [Home](#) | [Email](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

[Doing Business](#) ▾ [Government](#) ▾ [Residents](#) ▾ [Explore Maine](#) ▾ [About](#) ▾ **Jobs**

 **Office of Freight and Passenger Services**

[Rail Use Advisory Council Home](#)

[Lower Road Rail Use Advisory Council](#)

[Meetings and Minutes](#)

[Members](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Lower Road Rail Use Advisory Council

The Lower Road Rail Use Advisory Council was officially formed in November of 2022 by MaineDOT Commissioner Bruce Van Note as a result of [L.D. 1133, An Act To Amend the Transportation Laws](#). The Bill, passed by the State Legislature in 2021, established guidelines for the review of nonrail recreational or nonrecreational transportation use of state-owned inactive rail corridors by Rail Corridor Use Advisory Councils. Advisory Councils will review and make recommendations on the likelihood, economic benefits and costs of potential uses of the rail corridor, including, but not limited to, rail use, trail use or bikeways. Any non-rail use of a rail corridor must be considered by a council to be interim in nature, and all such rail corridors must be preserved for future rail use.

The Lower Road Rail Use Advisory Council will review the approximately 34-mile section of the State-owned rail corridor known as the Lower Road from Rockland Junction in Brunswick (immediately east of the Federal Street at-grade crossing) to the east side of the railroad bridge over the Kennebec River in Augusta.

Supporting Documents

- [Rail Corridor Use Advisory Council Request \(PDF\)](#)

