

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Saturday, July 30, 2022 6:59:45 AM

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

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

Date: Saturday, 30-Jul-2022 06:52:30 EDT
Name: Chris Martin
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2073226257
Email: cmartin@itec3.org

Topic:

Comments:

Would love to see communities along this trail connected for ATV and ebike use because of the length of this trail and potential connection to the many other great trails in Southern and central - Western 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: Thursday, July 28, 2022 6:44:18 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: Thursday, 28-Jul-2022 18:41:39 EDT
Name: matthew white
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-513-2735
Email: mwhite7245@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Make the rail to trail multi use for everything including atv and snowmobile. Would bring year round income to these towns and be greatly utilized and maintained by local clubs and volunteers. Doing anything else besides opening this up to everyone but motorized vehicles would be a huge upset and set back of this opportunity.

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, July 28, 2022 5:29:18 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: Thursday, 28-Jul-2022 17:26:23 EDT
Name: Mary Becker
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2072328366
Email: marybecker1@me.com

Topic:

Comments:

Our family of five is so in favor of having a rail trail connecting towns north of Portland. Appreciate your work on this effort!

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, July 28, 2022 2:29:13 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: Thursday, 28-Jul-2022 14:14:34 EDT
Name: Patrick Connolly
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2078312010
Email: patrickc@martinspoint.org

Topic:

Comments:

I am a Falmouth resident and a family doctor in Portland. I commute to work every day by bicycle parallel to the rail line.

There is a huge need for a safe means of active transport north of Portland. Too many roads have no sidewalks and minimal to nonexistent shoulders. My patients tell me that feel unsafe walking or biking on the local roads. A dedicated trail would be an excellent way to provide safe active transportation along with recreation.

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, July 28, 2022 2:19:15 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, 28-Jul-2022 14:14:34 EDT
Name: Kristen Knupp
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-899-0280
Email: kristen_knupp@me.com

Topic:

Comments:

I am a resident of Falmouth and I fully support the Casco Bay Trail. Imagine being able to ride 50 miles round trip on a car-free trail on a weekend, or being able to commute safely into Portland by bike. We should be able to do this and we can do this!! \$75 million seems like a small price to pay to have safe access by bicycle to The surrounding towns.

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, July 28, 2022 1:04:15 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, 28-Jul-2022 12:48:10 EDT
Name: Steven Palmer
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2075727151
Email: shpalm178ct@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

With increasing numbers of aggressive drivers, more distractions and more vehicles on the road it would seem a trail off the main roads would be a highly pleasant, satisfying, peaceful and so much safer alternative for a family or casual bicyclists.

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, July 28, 2022 1:04:15 PM

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

Date: Thursday, 28-Jul-2022 12:59:05 EDT
Name: michael g byron
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2076229934
Email: ironmike928@aol.com

Topic:

Comments:

I'M A DIRECTOR OF THE MAINE RAIL GROOUP

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, July 28, 2022 12:54:15 PM

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

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

Date: Thursday, 28-Jul-2022 12:48:10 EDT
Name: Mary A Federle
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2076998219
Email: federlem@rsu5.org

Topic:

Comments:

I am fully supportive of converting the old rails to trails for biking and walking. For the past two summers, I've travelled to Cape Cod to enjoy the wonderful rail trails they have there. Not only do I think these trails will be great for residents to travel/commute another way and to enjoy for recreation, but I also think it will be a draw for tourists. On the Cape, little businesses along the trail get a lot of bike traffic, which seems like a win for them!

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, July 28, 2022 12:14:14 PM

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

Date: Thursday, 28-Jul-2022 12:06:41 EDT
Name: Stephen D Morris
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 3392234464
Email: stevedavemorris@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I am a PhD economist with experience in academia, government, Wall Street, and tech, and have widely published in economics. There is to my reading zero evidence of any economic benefit of installing a rail line. Just take the Breeze and you'll see why. Nobody will use it. However there are tons of studies of how rail trails bring benefits. Go to Boston and ride the minuteman bike way and you'll see why. Everyone will.

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, July 28, 2022 12:09:15 PM

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

Date: Thursday, 28-Jul-2022 11:59:58 EDT
Name: Laura Bergeron
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-650-6009
Email: lauragbergeron@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I hope you will consider revitalizing the railroad system into the Casco Bay Rail trail. As a resident of Yarmouth, I strongly believe in creating more outdoor spaces and trails to encourage non-motorized outdoor activity. Yarmouth is a healthy and active community who would use these trails for running, biking, sports team training and walking. With more distracted drivers on the roads, let's reuse these trails for outdoor activities.

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, July 28, 2022 12:09:14 PM

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

Date: Thursday, 28-Jul-2022 11:59:05 EDT
Name: Bob Morse
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-712-0380
Email: morse.ski05@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I fully support the the Casco Bay Trail and the Rail Corridor Use Advisory Council in its progress in the "connect 2045" program.

As a longtime professional coach and PSIA certified ski instructor, what a great concept in encouraging people to get out and exercise!

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, July 28, 2022 11:49:14 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, 28-Jul-2022 11:39:04 EDT
Name: Tracy Teare
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-838-2245
Email: ttteare@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

This rail trail makes sense for so many reasons. I lived in Arlington, Mass. on a rail trail and saw firsthand how countless people used it every day for fitness, transportation, social engagement, and more. It drove property values. Helped support local business. Provided green transportation. You know all that. Please also consider that in Yarmouth area, there is already a train for people to take to Portland/Brunswick. The current trail has no way to cross into Portland - and it doesn't seem like we have the density to support light rail. We are not Seattle! Doesn't it make more sense to put it to immediate use with the much lighter economic lift of converting to trail? Thank you very much for considering.

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, July 28, 2022 10:14:10 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, 27-Jul-2022 18:59:55 EDT
Name: Ryan R Dicker
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2075571243
Email: Ryan@moosemaine.com

Topic:

Comments:

This trail should be open to atv and snowmobiling. There are plenty of trails that already cater to others that do not allow atv and snowmobiling.

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, July 28, 2022 8:24:08 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, 28-Jul-2022 08:16:38 EDT
Name: Pam Peters
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: pam@chace.net

Topic:

Comments:

I live on Riverfront Drive in Yarmouth, right next to the Riverfront Preserve. I would love to be able to walk into Yarmouth without having to cross Elm St to get to the sidewalk. Also, riding my bike into Portland would be wonderful.

I used to be on the Eastern Trail Alliance board and have supported land trusts and trails for quite a while. I enjoyed the Mountain Division Trail when I lived in Windham and was part of a group that walked the length of the trail from Fryeburg to Windham (before the extension into Westbrook).

I would add looking at access points for people to park and use the trail since most users do come from outside the corridor, so Riverfront Preserve has a parking are, Chandler Brook, Royal River Park (Elm St parking area), etc.

Thank you for your attention,

Pam

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, July 28, 2022 7:09:05 AM

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

Date: Thursday, 28-Jul-2022 06:56:11 EDT
Name: Kennon Petrini
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: +1 480 250 3604
Email: kennon@eforceweb.com

Topic:

Comments:

It's important that the proposed rail trail from Portland to Auburn be multi-use and include ATVs. Many of the economic benefits to Maine will be lost if this rail system cannot be added to the incredible growing powersport trail options available in Maine. If The rail is restricted to foot traffic and bicycles only a large part of the trail systems i Maine will be completely behind the times and the rest of the state. Don't go against the trend that we are seeing in Maine which is creating the greatest vacation state and outdoor state in America. By creating more trail systems that don't allow power sports it is absolutely a move in the wrong direction and a huge waste of money and resources. It will literally drive tourism to other parts of the state where people can have the freedom to enjoy nature in many different ways including riding an atv or snowmobile.

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, July 27, 2022 8:23:50 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, 27-Jul-2022 20:18:37 EDT
Name: Mark Hatch
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2078311087
Email: mark@hatchexcavation.com

Topic:

Comments:

Please make a multi use 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, July 27, 2022 7:18:48 PM

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

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

Date: Wednesday, 27-Jul-2022 19:13:04 EDT
Name: Paul Weiss
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2077560776
Email: weissp@me.com

Topic:

Comments:

As some know I have been racing with the club and cycling for over 5 decades including over 2000 races from local to national and world championships in the sports of Cyclocross, Mt Biking, Road Racing, and Track Racing. Bike touring, bike packing, and commuting on my bike, have also been my passion. I have worked for many years as an energy and transportation advocate for 3 national and local nonprofits and have been a technical consultant on the subject, including the Maine State Rail plan. I have studied, researched; and done many public talks and written many published articles on these issues over the years. That included drafting and successfully (passeing by our legislature and signed into law), several pieces of legislation on these issues. Having ridden my bikes all over the world, including many bike trails and former railways, has given me unique insight. Additionally having been a passenger, many times with my bike on many of the world's rail networks including most of the high-speed networks in Asia, Europe, and other parts of the world. It is with this background that I would like to express another opinion.

Climate catastrophe is upon us. Each passing day that we wait to make dramatic changes to how we "ædo" energy and transportation is a calamitous step for our children. Transportation is upwards of 40-50% of our state's carbon emissions and fuel use. Although they have been getting trimmed, like the branches on a tree each year. We still have several important rail lines left in our state, connecting our major cities. Several past governors (like John Baldacci) saw the importance of railway preservation by purchasing hundreds of miles of these railways. You, the taxpayer spent tens of millions on these purchases. For reuse as future railways, one of the smartest ideas of our past governors. I personally worked with Governor Baldacci on some of these purchases.

The former railway from Lewiston/Auburn, which continues to downtown Portland via what was called the St Lawrence and Atlantic line, is one of the most important connections in Maine. While there is a freight line owned by Pan AM railways almost parallel to parts of it (that gets a lot of use), this line is not being used at the moment. The Maine Rail Transit Coalition along with several other organizations for which I have worked; wrote and passed legislation to recreate this line into the passenger service between Maines's 2 largest cities. This project has been studied and is in the late phases of planning to potentially bring passenger rail service with up to 22 round trips per day between Maine's largest urban areas. The project could bring either fully electric or electric battery hybrid, self-powered train cars, carrying 40-60 passengers per car (including bikes) from downtown directly along Portlands waterfront into the current ferry terminal. Yes, this plan has been vetted with many state agencies, potential stations could include stops in Falmouth, Cumberland, Yarmouth, New Gloucester, Danville, Auburn, and Lewiston Downtown, behind the second largest hospital in Maine.

This service can be fast, nonpolluting; and alleviate thousands of passenger miles on our crumbling roadways. For it to be successful, it needs to be separated from the current freight line (which it is), and have several siding tracks, so that trains going in opposite directions can pass each other. This requires the full use of most of the

current right of way (land). This requirement along with setbacks and very steep side grades; makes use of this railway incompatible with trails.

I cannot reiterate the importance of this project. It alone; could be the largest reduction in CO2 emissions in our state. It will of course bring orders of magnitude more economic growth and prosperity to Maine's largest urban area than a trail. It could alleviate some of the labor shortages we currently have, by allowing economic growth and cheap transportation to hurting economic classes and a much wider area. Offshore wind and solar could power this entire railway, with clean, almost silent rail cars; bringing you and your bike to work or out to dinner in another city. The funny part is, we had a clean green inter-urban railway that was hydro-powered, and non-polluting, between these 2 urban areas every 30 or so minutes. It made the trip, faster than today's Maine Turnpike, over 100 years ago!

Railways are highly engineered to carry millions of pounds per square yard of roadbed, these railways are graded at only a few feet per mile and go through some of the most valuable lands in the state. They are irreplaceable for clean transportation. Using these railways for bike trails; would be like purchasing a Grand Piano and using it as a coffee table in your living room. Horrible public policy in the least, and locking us into an unsustainable asphalt future with more and more congestion, and pollution, for our highways, and roadways.

The cool hype in the USA now; is to look toward electric and autonomous vehicles. While that sounds really cool, in practicality it lacks a lot (I own an EV). While EVs should be used to get you to railways, from more rural places, we need to use public rail transit to connect our major cities including the integration of local buses. Self-driving cars sound good for Florida, but in Maine, their use in the snow is not even close to practical. Most of the modern world has embraced passenger rail, even other states are farther along. We need to do the same, we need to think big, think fast and be bold.

A practical example of a disastrous policy decision is the "Sunrise" trail in down-east Maine. We spent millions of dollars to protect and restore a railway, a misguided DOT commissioner got pressured by special interest groups to rip up the most vital backbone of transportation in the region and turn it into the world's most expensive snowmobile and ATV trail. One that is now eroded, sandy, dusty, and destroyed, while the population of those 2 counties suffers from hypertension diabetes, morbid obesity; and economic desertification.

While this is not the proposal in Southern Maine, it has direct correlations to our future. Please do not let this happen, we have this opportunity to revolutionize our transportation infrastructure, do not believe "Maine is too rural for rail". It's just not true, we had less than half our current population 100 years ago and had fully successful railways connecting all of our state! We need to make huge changes, and a knee-jerk bike path is not the answer. Smart transportation is. As cyclists, we should be thinking of real solutions. Ripping up our best chance at that possibility is a horrible idea. Ask our DOT to stop considering 150 million Turnpike extensions, and put that money towards this project! We need a green future, please consider this.

Best Regards and Respectfully submitted:

Former, PVC President
Paul Weiss
Cumberland, ME
weissp@me.com
207-756-0776

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, July 27, 2022 7:03:48 PM

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

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

Date: Wednesday, 27-Jul-2022 18:58:05 EDT
Name: Ronald Greco
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2077400200
Email: mvbc32@yahoo.com

Topic:

Comments:

Any trail should be multi use for all recreational users including motorcycles, bikes, snowmobiles and atv's.

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, July 27, 2022 5:08:46 PM

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

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

Date: Wednesday, 27-Jul-2022 17:05:58 EDT
Name: William Robinson
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: brobinsonus@yahoo.com

Topic:

Comments:

This trail should be open to ATV use.

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, July 27, 2022 4:03:42 PM

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

Date: Wednesday, 27-Jul-2022 15:51:23 EDT
Name: Mark Wigley
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: +1 207-592-3343
Email: eastportmark@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I sincerely hope the Advisory Council will recommend a multi-use designation for the P to A rail. The DEST is a wonderful trail shared by all. Hopefully you'll use it as an example of what could be a wonderful link between Portland and Auburn.

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, July 27, 2022 2:23:43 PM

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

Date: Wednesday, 27-Jul-2022 14:12:03 EDT
Name: Terry Sutton
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: tasutt@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Portland and ride my bike regularly out to Cumberland, Yarmouth, Pownal, etc. I believe that a rail trail (the Casco Bay trail) would be huge improvement for walkers/hikers/bikers. Getting off the busy roads filled with distracted and speeding drivers will make a significant impact on safety and enjoyment and encourage more outdoor recreation.

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, July 27, 2022 2:08:41 PM

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

Date: Wednesday, 27-Jul-2022 14:02:02 EDT
Name: Michael boyson
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2078310731
Email: maboyson@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I am strongly in support of a bike and pedestrian trail proposed as the Casco Bay Trail. It will pay dividends for many years to come

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, July 27, 2022 1:43:45 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, 27-Jul-2022 13:38:41 EDT
Name: dennis lee brackett
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2075282366
Email: dbrackett@rsu89.org

Topic:

Comments:
motorized trail brings more money in

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, July 27, 2022 1:43:42 PM

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

Date: Wednesday, 27-Jul-2022 13:40:27 EDT
Name: dennis l brackett
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: (207) 528-2366
Email: dbrackett@rsu89.org

Topic:

Comments:

all purpose trail motorized included

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, July 27, 2022 1:23:42 PM

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

Date: Wednesday, 27-Jul-2022 13:11:38 EDT
Name: Peter Flanagan
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207 627 5065
Email: amesburyfunguy@yahoo.com

Topic:

Comments:

I think this trail system should be multi use for motorized vehicles as well because it would generate revenue for the state through registrations for atvs, utvs, and snowmobiles. Thats a lot of money generated thanks to motorized use of trails

Walkers, bicycles, and horses pay nothing to use these trails and are just a burden more than they are helpful.

Atv clubs help repair trails and build bridges as well.

I think Horses shouldn't be allowed on the trails because they poop everywhere and owners don't clean up after them at all.

We deal with that in casco, the horse farm does rides on our trails and there is big giant horse poop everywhere!

Atvs are a great family activity that gets kids out of the house instead of glued to their phones.

Atv's would be a great asset to this trail system.

It would be foolish to not make this trail system multi use..

Thank you very much

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, July 27, 2022 1:18:44 PM

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

Date: Wednesday, 27-Jul-2022 13:12:22 EDT
Name: Wayne Robinson
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 1 207 598-5079
Email: Waynerobinson482@yahoo.com

Topic:

Comments:

I would love to see a multi use trail system just like the DEST.

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, July 27, 2022 12:43:42 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, 27-Jul-2022 12:28:53 EDT
Name: Tom Ancona
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 3093392724
Email: tancona@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I am a resident of Falmouth along Middle Road and would like to speak in favor of transitioning the Portland to Auburn railway bed to a multi-use trail. My commute is along this route, and I would love to be able to commute to work and travel with my young children via bicycle on this corridor. I lived for about a decade in Chicago and, even there with a harsher climate than coastal Maine, commuters and tourists used the Lake Shore Path year-round. While I also am in favor of exploring more rail traffic in the region, there is another corridor that is better suited for this and I am skeptical that we will have the density needed to make more commuter-based rail feasible in the next 2-3 decades.

A multi-use trail could be constructed almost immediately and would be a boon for all the communities along this corridor. It would promote bicycle commuting, promoting denser and less car-intensive housing that would help alleviate our current housing crisis. It would also provide safe, accessibility-friendly places for exercise that do not currently exist in many of these communities Lastly, it would be a boon for small, locally-owned businesses in all of these communities as more people explored towns near them via non-gas powered transit.

I urge the Advisory Council to wholeheartedly support this endeavor and recommend the transition of this corridor from disused rail to a much-traveled multi-use trail. 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, July 27, 2022 12:03:40 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, 27-Jul-2022 11:56:43 EDT
Name: RALPH R KARAM
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2077401728
Email: ralph.karam@live.com

Topic:

Comments:

Converting the retired rail to an all-access activity corridor would be a great re-use of this space.
Year round people could use this for biking, walking, x-c skiing or snowshoeing.

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, July 27, 2022 10:28:39 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, 27-Jul-2022 10:20:53 EDT
Name: Christopher Graviss
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-274-0710
Email: zgraviss@aol.com

Topic:

Comments:

Trails should include everyone. Including atv, motorcycles and utv. We all pay taxes to make these trails happen. Inclusive not exclusive.

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, July 27, 2022 9:38:42 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, 27-Jul-2022 09:34:17 EDT
Name: Chad Savage
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: chad.savage@va.gov

Topic:

Comments:

I fully support NON-Motorized multi use trail between Portland and Auburn. I believe it would open up the area to quality residential development along with the subsequent businesses that support neighborhoods.

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, July 27, 2022 9:38:40 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, 27-Jul-2022 09:28:43 EDT
Name: Julie Isbill
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: isbilljk@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Thank you for forming a Rail Use Advisory Council for a possible trail on the unused Portland to Auburn rail line. I am in full support of both rail and trail! Both contribute to an excellent quality of life and community well-being. It makes sense to create a trail on the corridor until rail someday becomes viable. In the meantime, thousands of people of all abilities, locals and visitors will be able to get outside for fresh air, exercise, camaraderie and a dose of nature. Plus active transportation to where people want to go! There is a growing demand for this kind of experience close to home. Thank you for studying the situation and considering the tremendous benefits of rail 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, July 27, 2022 9:18:39 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, 27-Jul-2022 09:04:20 EDT
Name: Dj Merrill
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: deej@deej.net

Topic:

Comments:

I am writing to express my support for a true multi-use trail which would include ATV and snowmobile use, as well as horse riding, bicycling, and walking/running.

Maine has multiple examples of successful multi-use trails (combined motorized and non-motorized use), and they provide significant economic benefit to the surrounding communities.

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, July 27, 2022 9:08:39 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, 27-Jul-2022 08:58:49 EDT
Name: Matt Abbott
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: matthewabbott87@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I highly recommend making the trail system a multi-use trail. A multi-use trail will allow the most amount of recreation to occur on the trail. Motorsports add approximately \$1.2 billion to the Maine economy annually. The motorsport community utilizes other multi-use trails around the state safely and respectfully in regards to other activities and I believe it would be the same on this trail. The motorsport community also makes it a point to stop at local businesses along the route to support local restaurants, ice cream parlors, gas stations, and more. This extra support can make a big difference to small businesses.

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, July 27, 2022 9:03:38 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, 27-Jul-2022 08:52:56 EDT
Name: Bill Sprague
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: (207) 346-0300
Email: bsprague46@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I really would like to see this a multi use trail where atv's and utv's can also access it. Working in the powersports business, atv use puts food on my family's table. With many trails being shut down due to development growth of new houses being built where trails used to be it gets harder to find places to ride. The atv community brings alot of money to the state with registrations, fuel, and also brings money to the local communities as atv'ers typically stop to eat at restaurants where accessible and also buy snacks and beverages. Please consider the economical impact atvs would have to both the state and local communities.

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, July 27, 2022 8:38:38 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, 27-Jul-2022 08:25:35 EDT
Name: Marna Miller
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: marnam@maine.rr.com

Topic:

Comments:

I am a Falmouth resident and I support the Casco Bay Trail vision. I enjoy biking for transportation and recreation, but our roads are getting increasingly congested. Adapting unused, state-owned rail corridors for public use by walkers, runners, and bicyclists of all ages and abilities makes sense. Many studies show the health benefits for individuals and the economic benefits for communities in near proximity to greenways like the proposed trail. I grew up in a small town in NH with a little-used railway running past my yard. Years after the railway was no longer in use, it was converted to a greenway. Now when I visit my parents I see so many people on what used to be an empty, unkempt, unsafe space. People are out on bikes, with strollers, in running shoes.... People even use the trail to bike to work. It's become a vibrant and attractive asset to the town, a wonderful alternative to all those back roads with insufficient shoulders but heavier and heavier traffic. Maine owns the corridor; let's let Mainers use 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, July 27, 2022 8:13:36 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, 27-Jul-2022 08:08:29 EDT
Name: sarah russell
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2078298093
Email: lavidarica@yahoo.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Cumberland and I fully support the rail to trail project. The trail would alleviate Portland's rising congestion by offering an alternative commute to the city, the trail would encourage community by offering a way for people to be active in the outdoors together and it would increase property values of the houses along the corridor as it has done in every other state and country when trails have replaced rails.

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, July 27, 2022 8:08:35 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, 27-Jul-2022 08:04:12 EDT
Name: Susan Hall
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2073291893
Email: shall1@maine.rr.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Falmouth and would very much like you support this trail. With all the traffic in southern Maine we need a SAFE place to get outdoors that is close to our homes.

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, July 27, 2022 7:53:36 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, 27-Jul-2022 07:50:33 EDT
Name: Bob Mentzinger
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2076502121
Email: bmentzinger@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Maine deserves rail transit between our state's two largest metropolitan areas. Inter-urban light rail is feasible, and will be a boon to both Portland, Auburn, and all the communities it will serve in between. In this day-and-age of the intersecting crises of climate catastrophe, chronic housing shortages, inflated gas prices, and more, rail transit can be a big piece in the puzzle towards creating more livable future for Maine. There are millions of dollars for States and Municipalities to invest in rail transit from the federal infrastructure bill that was passed. We are not opposed to trails, we just think it's short-sited to be removing existing rail line at this juncture.

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, July 27, 2022 7:53:35 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, 27-Jul-2022 07:50:33 EDT
Name: Rebecca Hemphill
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2078789351
Email: rhemphil@maine.rr.com

Topic:

Comments:

This is a great opportunity - so important for supporting safe bicycle riding, promoting clean transportation and improving wellness opportunities for our communities.

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, July 27, 2022 5:38:35 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, 27-Jul-2022 05:22:20 EDT
Name: Art Bell
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2074151217
Email: abell9086@aol.com

Topic:

Comments:

I am a strong advocate for converting abandoned rail lines into bike/pedestrian recreational trails, for the following reasons:

1. repurposing unused assets makes good economic sense; and bike/ped trails attract tourist \$'s;
2. bike/ped trails are good public health policy, inviting folks to exercise;
3. bike/ped trails are an addition to the areas "active" transportation infrastructure, allowing people to move around w/o using the automobile.

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, July 26, 2022 8:48:25 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, 26-Jul-2022 20:44:19 EDT
Name: Gretchen Greenberg
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 207-233-8750
Email: gretch1949@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Hello. I am so eager for an off road paved bike trail. I live in Portland and have traveled to various states and have enjoyed biking on off road trails. Maine is sorely lacking these opportunities that are safer for cyclists and pedestrians. I would really like to enjoy such an opportunity before I am too old to do so. 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: Tuesday, July 26, 2022 6:33:22 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, 26-Jul-2022 18:29:07 EDT
Name: Caty Werner
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2073185085
Email: cvonbrecht11@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

We live on Ryder Rd in Yarmouth with 2 active boys and one more baby on the way. We love spending time outside and would love the rail trail to be a space that our family can continue to explore our area in a safe way away from car traffic while being able to explore new communities with ease.

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, July 26, 2022 6:23:23 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, 26-Jul-2022 18:05:44 EDT
Name: Andrea de Leon
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2076716629
Email: andreajanedeleon22@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I am an older cyclist and walker in New Gloucester. Our roads are generally unsafe for both these activities, with increasing traffic and speeds on almost all roads. Concern about impaired drivers takes much of the joy out of exercising on local roads for me. Bikers and walkers should be separated from motorists whenever possible. A rail trail is far less costly than the road shoulders and bike lanes we need to make our community safe for cyclists. I would much prefer to deal with an occasional train (should officials opt for rail and trail) than the more frequent cars. I would also probably buy an e-bike for errands and short trips to patronize local merchants if I didnâ€™t have to deal with cars. 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: Tuesday, July 26, 2022 5:18:23 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, 26-Jul-2022 17:15:34 EDT
Name: Stacy Smith
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: stacylsmith2@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

I live in Falmouth and am a strong support of a public rail trail in Maine. I aspire to age in healthy ways and the trail would allow safe, accessible walking, hiking and biking for people of many ability levels, as well as support these green forms of 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: Tuesday, July 26, 2022 4:58:25 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, 26-Jul-2022 16:53:51 EDT
Name: Ed Libby
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2078466380
Email: ed_libby@msn.com

Topic:

Comments:

this is a no brainer. just look at how similar trails have transformed other areas. great for locals as recreation and alternative transportation, but great at attracting visitors and newcomers to our area that support a healthy lifestyle and vibrant economy. for a tiny fraction of the money we continue to pour into auto centric infrastructure that is economically and environmentally unsustainable. duh.

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, July 25, 2022 8:43:13 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: Monday, 25-Jul-2022 20:39:36 EDT
Name: Christina Cook
Organization(if applicable):
Phone: 2072420932
Email: christinaloucook@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

To the members of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council,

I am writing in support of maintaining and expanding the current rail infrastructure from Portland to Auburn.

Mainers like myself are still financially recovering from the COVID 19 pandemic and the country is on the precipice of recession. The Maine DOT has the opportunity to lead the country in innovating ways to increase opportunities for Mainers to access public transportation. Preserving and expanding on Maine's rail infrastructure is essential to creating new economic horizons for Maine.

Many in Maine's workforce already must contend with long commutes to access career opportunities to match the ever-increasing cost of living. I happen to have the opportunity to work remotely, however this will likely not always be the case. I support creating new passenger rail systems in Maine because I know in the future my own economic opportunities may rely on my ability to access affordable, reliable and safe transportation. I think that many Mainers would agree.

Additionally, Mainers often have to make the decision whether to travel to work in unsafe driving conditions or lose out on wages. If a passenger rail is easily accessible, it is likely that the state and local budgets would receive future relief due to reduced road maintenance due to volume of use as well as reduced emergency response needs.

Reimagining the Portland to Auburn line for commuter transport could be a pivotal opportunity to set a precedent in Maine not only for Maine's workforce but for many towns in Maine who depend on income from Maine's tourist industry. If the Maine DOT can successfully revitalize aging infrastructure to increase access and opportunities for Mainers in the Lewiston / Auburn area, it will set the stage to expand opportunities for a wealth of Maine municipalities in the future.

Anything less than expansion of passenger train service from Portland to Auburn is counter to the Maine DOT's stated mission to support economic opportunity and quality of life by responsibly providing your customers with the safest and most reliable transportation system possible. Investing in Maine's infrastructure and creating new economic opportunities is a project that can't wait!

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Best,
Christina Cook

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, July 30, 2022 11:59:46 AM

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

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

Date: Saturday, 30-Jul-2022 11:52:36 EDT
Name: Andre Albert
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: aalbert06@roadrunner.com

Topic:

Comments:

Living in Litchfield, I never go to Portland for anything and on the rare occasion that I do, traffic is awful. If there was an ATV trail I could easily access, from Auburn in this case, Portland would receive a lot more of my business. I'm definitely not going to walk there from Auburn, so if they're going to have a trail and not allow motorized use, it would cut off a significant amount of revenue from potential customers. The trail would likely see little use in many sections, resulting in regrettable spend to even build a trail at all. I can't be the only one who would appreciate an alternative means of accessing Portland, not to mention all the towns along the way. Looking at the business the Down East Sunrise Trail (DEST) brings to surrounding communities and the amount of visitors it receives each year should make this an obvious decision. Rather than rely on out-of-state visitors, Portland and surrounding towns could now provide an opportunity for locals to travel between cities in a fun manner making it more attractive for people like myself to get out and visit and spend money in those communities.

If required, please respond as soon as possible.

From: [Christina Cook](#)
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Public Comment Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council
Date: Monday, July 25, 2022 8:47:10 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.

To the members of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council,

I am writing in support of maintaining and expanding the current rail infrastructure from Portland to Auburn.

Mainers like myself are still financially recovering from the COVID 19 pandemic and the country is on the precipice of recession. The Maine DOT has the opportunity to lead the country in innovating ways to increase opportunities for Mainers to access public transportation. Preserving and expanding on Maine's rail infrastructure is essential to creating new economic horizons for Maine.

Many in Maine's workforce already must contend with long commutes to access career opportunities to match the ever-increasing cost of living. I happen to have the opportunity to work remotely, however this will likely not always be the case. I support creating new passenger rail systems in Maine because I know in the future my own economic opportunities may rely on my ability to access affordable, reliable and safe transportation. I think that many Mainers would agree.

Additionally, Mainers often have to make the decision whether to travel to work in unsafe driving conditions or lose out on wages. If a passenger rail is easily accessible, it is likely that the state and local budgets would receive future relief due to reduced road maintenance due to volume of use as well as reduced emergency response needs.

Reimagining the Portland to Auburn line for commuter transport could be a pivotal opportunity to set a precedent in Maine not only for Maine's workforce but for many towns in Maine who depend on income from Maine's tourist industry. If the Maine DOT can successfully revitalize aging infrastructure to increase access and opportunities for Mainers in the Lewiston / Auburn area, it will set the stage to expand opportunities for a wealth of Maine municipalities in the future.

Anything less than expansion of passenger train service from Portland to Auburn is counter to the Maine DOT's stated mission to support economic opportunity and quality of life by responsibly providing your customers with the safest and most reliable transportation system possible. Investing in Maine's infrastructure and creating new economic opportunities is a project that can't wait!

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Best,
Christina Cook

From: Communications.MaineDOT@maine.gov
To: [Howard, Nathan](#)
Subject: Rail Use Advisory Council Comments
Date: Friday, July 8, 2022 12:01:43 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, 08-Jul-2022 11:56:31 EDT
Name: Gary DiLisio
Organization(if applicable):
Phone:
Email: wayupnth@gmail.com

Topic:

Comments:

Where are these meetings? Are they virtual or in person? If in person, where are they? If remote, where might I find the link?

I am fully in support of this trail

If required, please respond as soon as possible.