



January 31, 2023

Bruce Van Note, Commissioner
Maine Department of Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0016

Dear Commissioner Van Note,

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Lewiston-Auburn urbanized area, the Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center (ATRC), when considering the Rail Use Advisory Council's proposals, strongly supports the "Rail with Trail" option being advanced through the RUAC process.

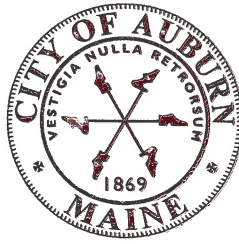
We feel that the positive impacts of recreational trail use, coupled with the potential future rail use, both freight and passengers, would conform with our overall transportation goals of improving access, safety and reliability in our transportation system but also allows for continued economic growth within our MPO member communities as both residential and commercial growth continues to climb. Having the possibility of regional, national, and international rail access in the future keeps our communities relevant from a logistics standpoint.

Coupled with our support position, comes a request. We would respectfully request that ATRC be invited to participate in further RUAC planning and all-future transportation related forecasting and feasibility studies that may impact our MPO communities (Lewiston, Auburn, Lisbon, Sabattus).

We appreciate your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Allen
Interim MPO/Transportation Director
ATRC / AVCOG
125 Manley Road
Auburn, ME 04210



City Council Resolve

IN CITY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Transportation, pursuant to Public Law 21, Chapter 239, established a Rail Use Advisory Council to facilitate discussion, gather information, and provide advice regarding the future use of the state-owned section of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad Berlin Subdivision between Auburn and Portland; and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn was provided a seat on said Council to provide input on city plans and policies relating to the future use of this rail corridor; and

WHEREAS, state of Maine acquired this corridor through two purchases, one in 2007 and another in 2010, as part of on-going planning for freight and passenger movements between the City of Portland and the City of Auburn; and

WHEREAS, the city has identified south Auburn as a growth area in its most recent Comprehensive Plan and multi-modal use of this corridor, including for active transportation, would increase its attractiveness for residential and commercial investment; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Auburn City Council supports a "rail with trail" recommendation from the Rail Use Advisory Council and the expedited movement of any necessary planning and design work to implement that recommendation between Maine's largest city, Portland, and the city of Auburn.

A TRUE COPY

ATTEST Susan Clements-Dallaire 1/3/23

Susan Clements-Dallaire, City Clerk

Date

Passage on 12/19/2022, 7-0.

Richard Whiting, Ward One
Joseph Morin, Ward Four
Belinda A. Gerry, At Large

Ryan Hawes, Ward Two
Leroy G. Walker, Ward Five
Jason J. Levesque, Mayor

Stephen G. Milks, Ward Three
Dana Staples, At Large
Phillip L. Crowell, Jr., City Manager

Jonathan LaBonte
Auburn
LD 1750

Members of the Transportation Committee,

As the Transportation Systems Director for the City of Auburn, I wanted to provide to you two documents as you consider LD 1750 and the use of this state-owned corridor. One is a letter from the Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center, a federally-funded metropolitan planning organization, representing Lewiston, Auburn, Lisbon and Sabattus. The other is a resolve from the City of Auburn.

Both ATRC and the City of Auburn voted to support a rail with trail for the state-owned corridor and LD 1750 advances one component of rail activity within the corridor.