

March 28, 2023

To: Joint Transportation Committee

From: Patty Barber

Regarding: LD 259 An Act Making Unified allocations from
the Highway Fund and Other Funds

Chairman Chipman, Chairwoman Williams and members of
the Transportation Committee

My name is Patty Barber from Hiram and I am speaking neither
for nor against LD 259 regarding Maine DOT's 3 year
work plan budget.

But I do have some concerns.

In this years budget are proposals for the newly approved
MDOT Department of Active Transportation. This department
can bring many good things to the people of Maine,
upgrades to safely navigate our roads and city centers.
Increased health and wellbeing from outdoor rec-
reation.

But as referenced in MDOT'S 3 year budget priorities, this
department is also extremely detrimental to our State
owned Railroad Infrastructure with their focus on
tearing up railroad tracks to replace them with
recreational trails. Examples in this budget plan
include The Lower Road, The Berlin Subdivision, The
Calais Branch and The Mountain Division. Luckily

The Rockland Branch was saved from this process by an investor working with the State to realize the vision for freight and passenger rail. This is the type of partnerships that would forever be eliminated if the tracks are removed.

I want to bring to your attention ID# 026858

2023 work plan

Cumberland ID/Year	Municipality	Scope	Name	Description	Total Project Cost
* 026858.00 * 2023	Baldwin, Brownfield, Fryeburg, Hiram, Standish	Policy, Planning and Research Railroad - General Planning Studies	Mountain Division Rail Line	Evaluate trail development between Standish and Fryeburg, and municipal support for operations. The trail will be broken into development phases with preliminary engineering beginning for a phase.	\$150,000

This budget item is to fund an engineering study to replace the tracks with a trail. The Mountain Division is anchored on one end by the Portland Amtrak Station, continues through New Hampshire as the Conway Scenic Railroad and ends in the Amtrak Station of St.

Johnsbury, Vermont. Yet a trail advisory group. The Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council or RUAC voted to replace this section of track with a trail.

As you all know, any RUAC decision to remove Railroad Infrastructure from a State Owned Line must first go before the Joint Transportation Committee, then the Full Legislature, then I think - Federal approval before any tracks can be pulled up.

Yet MDOT has already budgeted for this year - 2023 \$150,000 to build a trail that has not even been

③
approved yet. This funding was not in the 2022 MDOT budget. Where does this funding come from?

More importantly, this project is not known to or supported by the majority of the townspeople in the municipalities along the line. I know this because over the last month I have either spoken before, or contacted by email the Select boards of Hiram, Brownfield, Belchertown, Standish and Fryeburg, as well as some of the towns State Senators and Representatives. Most of the people I talk with are shocked that their railroad tracks are to be pulled up, and most feel that removing them would be detrimental to the towns economic opportunities.

This whole RUAC process was done quietly without townfolks' input, and now MDOT is trying to quickly push through funding for tearing up our Rail Infrastructure without anyone noticing.

well. I noticed. And I am taking this opportunity to bring it to this Committee's attention. More oversight of MDOT's budget items to turn State owned Rail Corridors into trails needs to occur.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

2023 workplan

Cumberland ID/Year	Municipality	Scope	Name	Description	Total Project Cost
WR 44984 2023 HCP 4	Baldwin	Drainage Maintenance	Route 107	Ditching on Route 107 in Baldwin. Beginning at the intersection of Sebago Road and extending 2.86 miles north to the Sebago-Baldwin town line.	\$50,000
WR 44986 2023 HCP 4	Baldwin	Drainage Maintenance	Route 11	Ditching on Route 11 in Baldwin. Beginning at the intersection of Route 107 and extending 1.84 miles north to the Sebago-Baldwin town line.	\$50,000
026858.00 2023	Baldwin, Brownfield, Fryeburg, Hiram, Standish	Policy, Planning and Research Railroad - General Planning Studies	Mountain Division Rail Line	Evaluate trail development between Standish and Fryeburg, and municipal support for operations. The trail will be broken into development phases with preliminary engineering beginning for a phase.	\$150,000
025853.00 2023 HCP 4	Baldwin, Sebago	Highway Paving Light Capital Paving	Convene Road	Beginning at the Hiram town line and extending east 3.76 miles to Route 107.	
025967.00 2023	Biddeford, Old Orchard Beach, Scarborough	Bicycle/Pedestrian On-Road Sidewalk/Trail Rehabilitation	Various locations	ADA improvements for Collector Road paving projects. PACTS Sponsored.	\$341,000
026342.00 2024/25 HCP 1	Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Brunswick, Gardiner, Richmond, Topsham, West Gardiner	Highway Paving Interstate Ultra-Thin Bonded Wearing Course	Interstate 295 Northbound	Beginning at the Brunswick town line and extending north 21.51 miles.	
026884.00 2023 HCP 1	Bowdoinham, Brunswick, Gardiner, Richmond, Topsham, West Gardiner	Highway-Bridges Bridge Joint Replacement	Various locations	Region 2 Interstate 295 bridges.	\$1,300,000
021676.00 2023 HCP 2	Bridgton	Highway Safety and Spot Improvements Rural Highways Drainage Improvements	Route 117	Beginning at Route 37 and extending north 0.11 of a mile to Wyonegonic Road.	\$235,000
026236.00 2024/25 HCP 5	Bridgton	Highway-Bridges Bridge Replacement	Depot Street	Cornshop Bridge (#0318) over Stevens Brook. Located 0.20 of a mile west of Main Street.	\$1,600,000
027016.00 2024/25 HCP 1, 2	Bridgton	Highway Paving Rural Highways 1 1/4" Overlay	Route 302/Route 117/Route 117S	Beginning 0.040 of a mile north of Sandy Creek Road and extending north 1.510 miles. Beginning at Route 302 and extending north 0.030 of a mile. Includes 0.030 of a mile on Route 117S.	

2022 workplan

Cumberland ID/Year	Municipality	Scope	Name	Description	Total Project Cost
WR 43473 2022 HCP 4	Baldwin	Drainage Maintenance	Route 107	Ditching on Route 107 in Baldwin. Beginning at the intersection of Route 11 and extending north 2.85 miles to the Baldwin-Sebago town line.	\$50,000
025853.00 2023 HCP 4	Baldwin, Sebago	Highway Paving Light Capital Paving	Convene Road	Beginning at the Hiram town line and extending east 3.76 miles to Route 107.	
025967.00 2023/24	Biddeford, Old Orchard Beach, Scarborough	Bicycle/Pedestrian On-Road Sidewalk/Trail Rehabilitation	Various Locations	ADA improvements for Collector Road paving projects. PACTS Sponsored.	\$341,000
026342.00 2023/24 HCP 1	Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Brunswick, Gardiner, Richmond, Topsham, West Gardiner	Highway Paving Interstate Ultra-Thin Bonded Wearing Course	Interstate 295 Northbound	Beginning at the Brunswick town line and extending north 21.51 miles.	
026236.00 2023/24 HCP 5	Bridgton	Highway-Bridges Bridge Replacement	Depot Street	Cornshop Bridge (#0318) over Stevens Brook. Located 0.20 of a mile west of Main Street.	\$1,600,000
WR 43578 2022 HCP 1	Bridgton	Bridge and Structural Maintenance	Route 302	Repairing sidewalk and wearing surface. Pondicherry Bridge (#2681) over Stevens Brook in Bridgton on Route 302. Located 0.13 of a mile north of Maple Street.	\$40,000
025937.00 2022 HCP 4	Bridgton, Denmark	Highway Paving Light Capital Paving	Route 117	Beginning at West Main Street and extending northeast 6.96 miles.	
WR 43347 2022 HCP 4	Bridgton, Sebago	Drainage Maintenance	Route 107	Ditching on Route 107 in Sebago and Bridgton. Beginning at the intersection of Route 117 and extending to the Sebago-Baldwin town line.	\$90,000
018714.07 2023/24	Brunswick	Airport Airport - General Capital Equipment Purchase	Brunswick Executive Airport	Safety and infrastructure improvements that may include acquisition of snow removal equipment.	\$721,000
018714.08 2024	Brunswick	Policy, Planning and Research Airport - General Planning Studies	Brunswick Executive Airport	Safety and infrastructure improvements that may include a master plan update.	\$172,000

Have DOT 3yr workplan
2022