

## Questions and discussion points from August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Design Subcommittee Calais Branch Trail Management Subcommittee

### Design and engineering questions:

- How to design and build a corridor that protects rail bed for future rail use while providing compatible mixed use trail.
- How to make trail design compatible for future dual use.
- Design/Cost Estimates
- Basic Design Elements
- Cross Sections
- Safety in design
- Are there any places that it would make sense to move the trail off the rail bed?
- Where will the trail start and stop?
- Where are potential trailheads and parking areas?
- What can be done to best protect the rail bed for future rail?
- Will design/width/surface change between Urban/Rural areas?
- Are there any areas that the modes will be separated?
- Signage/Road Crossing/Safety/ Design decisions.
- Environmental Investigation/Wetlands/Contaminated Soils?
- Is bed grandfathered, if we put trail on bed, do we need environmental mitigation?
- Designed for emergency vehicles.
- What happens when private property has encroached on Right of Way? Any examples?
- Design to minimize impacts to abutters.
- How to incorporate historic rail elements.
- Enforcement of R.O.W.
- Does bed need to be widened?
- Trail width?
- Landscaping?
- Side protections for safety?
- Will the decisions on trail surface be affected by the potential affect on the rail bed?
- How do ensuring compatible uses affect design?
- How will the trail be designed on and near bridges?
- Location of Rest Room Facilities?
- What would ideal design look like?

### Rail:

- When to take up Steel. All at once, or in sections?
- What is the Rail Salvage Plan?
- Do we pull the tracks and Ties, or just cover it?
- Leave bed usable after salvage of steel.

One or two steps? 1) Salvage 2) Build Trail (or both at once)

### **General Questions/Comments**

- Is MaineDOT committed to preserving R.O.W. and/or Railbed?
- Implications of funding sources on users, etc.
- Do we need emergency phones along trail?
- Cooperation between funding sources.
- Economic justification.
- Priority Sections?
- Any chance of rail preservation funds can be used to maintain trail?
- How did Wolfeboro design trail, other examples/estimates?
- Has the rail bed been maintained?

### **Resources**

MaineDOT Multi-modal Program Development

Safety manuals

Maryland Anne Arundel Trails.

Other trails with multi-use include motorized.

AASHTO Bike/Ped Design Guide

MaineDOT Calais Branch February 2001, multi modal report

Trail head design examples

Copy of Rail Statute

Aerial Resources

[www.exploremaine.org](http://www.exploremaine.org)

Photographs of line

Jeff Dobbs Flyover

### **Additional information obtained after August 23rd**

- **MaineDOT Multimodal can put together an overview of how rail bed will be protected.**
- **Show how trail base also be good for rail if it returns.**
- **Safety Elements**
- **Typical Design**
- **Updated estimate**
- **Will present overview at next meeting (not September 8<sup>th</sup>)**