MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib



Reproduced from electronic originals (may include minor formatting differences from printed original)



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 956

S.P. 415

In Senate, March 11, 2025

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendation of the Calais Branch Rail Use Advisory Council to Create a Multi-use Trail

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on March 6, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

DAREK M. GRANT Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MOORE of Washington.
Cosponsored by Representative MINGO of Calais and
Representatives: MCINTYRE of Lowell, STROUT of Harrington, TUELL of East Machias.

Preamble. Whereas, the State Railroad Preservation and Assistance Act requires the Department of Transportation to seek legislative approval for any conversion of a state-owned rail corridor in which the department controls the right-of-way to a nonrail recreational or nonrecreational transportation use; and

Whereas, the law allows the Commissioner of Transportation to establish a rail corridor use advisory council upon petition of one or more entities; and

Whereas, the Department of Transportation received letters of support from all communities along the rail corridor requesting the formation of a rail corridor use advisory council; and

Whereas, the Calais Branch Rail Use Advisory Council convened and met for 8 months in 2024; and

Whereas, ten of the 11 Calais Branch Rail Use Advisory Council members, with one member abstaining, voted to recommend the interim conversion of the existing railroad track to a multi-use trail; and

Whereas, the State Railroad Preservation and Assistance Act further provides that once the Commissioner of Transportation receives a report from a rail corridor use advisory council that includes a recommendation of track removal or other change for interim nonrail use and the commissioner concurs with that recommendation, the commissioner shall seek legislative approval of the recommendation by submitting legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters prior to track removal or the other change for nonrail use; and

Whereas, any track removal or other change for nonrail use is considered interim in nature and rail corridors are to be preserved for future rail use as provided under the State Railroad Preservation and Assistance Act; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Calais Branch rail trail recommendation. Resolved: That, consistent with the majority recommendation of the Calais Branch Rail Use Advisory Council, 12.26 miles of inactive existing track material from the Route 214 intersection in Ayers Junction in Pembroke to Route 1 in Calais must be removed and replaced with a multi-use trail on the existing railbed. The completed multi-use trail is interim in nature, and the project to create the multi-use trail is subject to available funding resources, permitting and municipal agreements.

32 SUMMARY

This resolve requires, consistent with the majority recommendation of the Calais Branch Rail Use Advisory Council, that 12.26 miles of inactive existing railroad track material from the Route 214 intersection in Ayers Junction in Pembroke to Route 1 in Calais must be removed and replaced with a multi-use trail on the existing railbed.