

Ellsworth Strategic Transportation and Recreation
Monday June 2nd, 2008 1:00 PM
Ellsworth City Hall 2nd Floor
Minutes

Attending: Bill Ceckler, Bruce Mattson, Mickie Sumpter, Tom Testa, Jef Fitzgerald, Fred Michaud, Charlie Corliss, Jim Fisher

Updates

Rail

- a. Summer construction plans
- b. Equipment acquisitions

May – received three cars

- Caboose
- 64 Foot Flat Car
- Ballast hopper car

Hope to have the two coaches delivered from Conway Scenic

- 1926 vintage – good mechanically, but need a lot of carpentry
- Hope to have cars refurbished by the end of the summer

Will be working on crossings
Starting with Beal Avenue

Norfolk Southern just entered a partnership with Pan Am to fix line from Albany to Boston for freight.

Trail

- a. Outcome of bidding process

Awarded contract on Friday to Thibedeau – state gets a surplus of \$2.7 million

Highest bid would have cost \$6+million

Will mobilize the effort in mid-June

Plan to have all rail up by end of the year

Will construct about 40 miles of trail by end 2008 – focus on Machias to Cherryfield

Will complete the rest of the trail by the end of 2009

- b. Recap of Business and Trails Conference

Business conference in Machias

Good turnout

- c. June 7 Trails Day Events

Machias 10:00 at Station 98

Parade on Main Street

Cookout at Whitney's Tool shed

- d. Planning a trail event for mid-July marking the initiation of the rail-trail conversion
- d. Geo-tourism initiative (Jim)

City of Ellsworth

- a. Highway improvements
 - No progress on the rail-trail design
 - The preliminary plan was promised for last Christmas, but as yet has not been received
 - Need to contact Andrew ...
- b. Bike Pedestrian Initiatives
 - Ellsworth submitted the Safe Routes to School proposal

MaineDOT (Fred Michaud)

- a. Anna Price move to FHWA
 - Dan Stewart will take Anna's place on the committee
 - Fred will be more involved
- b. Corridor Planning and Long Range Planning initiatives

STAR Contract - Facility Sponsors / Ownership Options

Estimating Demand – Please bring any information you have for this step – preferably including approximate time of day.

- a. Rail - 1.5 – 2 hours

See potential demand from connection to Island Explorer.
Rainy day tours.

- Desk, workspace behind it
- Information rack

b. Trail

- Encourage people to park with trailers out at Washington Junction
- Clubs also encouraged to use Washington Junction
- Floor space will be minimal
- Contact Charlie Jacobi about ridership for ANP
- Contact Dan Stewart about Gardner-Augusta trail and Brunswick Trail
- Petit-Timus trail – check with Bill Ceckler, Jane Murphy in Fredricton, NB
- Paved and gravel parking areas
- Adirondacks example – bike/rail trips

Bike rental facility?

Refer to local businesses

c. Intercity bus

d. Regional bus

e. Park and Ride

f. Chamber of Commerce (example: 150 people in 100 cars on peak summer days, multiple RV's on occasion, average LOS – 10 minutes)
8,000 over 135 days

g. Museum

h. Other

Maintenance

Utility closet – wash facilities

Base Maps

a. Transportation

b. Environmental constrains