

**STAR Center Meeting  
Ellsworth City Hall  
9/1/2009**

Attending: Bruce Mattson, Tom Testa, Micki Sumpter, Dan Stewart, Michele Gagnon, Jef Fitzgerald, Jim Fisher, Janet Toth, Charlie Corliss, Michelle Beal

Introductions

Surface Strategic Transportation and Recreation Center

- Jim summarized where we left off
- Partners
- Gantt chart

Michele

- Who is doing the business plan? HCPC
- What do we do if the plan does not find a feasible solution? Do we announce that result?
  - Want to be sure that the plan is acceptable to Ellsworth residents
  - Want to be realistic about what we can accomplish
  - An attractive trailhead can be successful. A trailhead at Washington Junction with no staffing will be a much smaller attraction

Bruce

- Could look at other corridors – paved shoulders on Washington Junction Road
- Ellsworth lacks shoulders on High Street, Washington Junction, Route 1
- Could have shoulders on Route 204 and Route 184
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Dan

- The plan has been to have the trail go into Ellsworth

Tom

- Maine Central sold the out parcels on the corridor (1980's)

Updates

Charlie Corliss Sunrise Trail

- 66 miles removed, remainder will be removed this year
- Currently at Goodwins Siding – near Tunk Lake Road
- Hope to turn over some of the trail in Washington County to DOC
- Half of the bridges are complete
- Covering about a mile a day with final surface material – should reach Cherryfield in mid-October
- Trail may be completed by mid-July
- Entire corridor may be open for snowmobiles
  - Downeast Heritage Rail is willing to Grant permission for snowmobiles between December 1 and March 1
  - Michele – need to discuss management of motorized vehicles in City of Ellsworth
- No washouts on the completed sections – some problems where it has not been completed. Put a lot of emphasis on ditches for drainage
- Economic impacts appear to be positive
- Some complaints in East Machias about noise
- Jef – Ellsworth will be holding a public meeting in October about public use of the proposed n town trails

#### Rail – Tom Testa

- Completed one crossing at Lincoln Street
- Have one more crossing at Davis Street then on to the falls
- Will be replacing rail at the high school this Saturday
- Using train as a work train
- Need a rail inspection to carry
- Purchasing a coach in Michigan and will have it here at the end of September
- Hope to have some demonstration operations this fall
- Plan to start excursion service next summer
  - Seeking a location for people to park and ride
  - Being contacted by land owners who have places to sell or lease, but there are usually some critical problems

#### Ellsworth Update - Jef

- Ellsworth working on trails plan including rail with trail along Calais Branch
- Possible bridge over Union River and onto utility corridors
- Bill Clark working with Steve Sloan at Bangor Hydro to identify trail options west of the Union River

#### Chamber of Commerce

- August visitation numbers are very high, but July was very low
- Getting inquiries about the trail

Tom Testa

- Encouraging multiple uses of the Corridor
- The Washington Junction to Route 179 section has rail with trail
- Want to deflect criticisms about rail competing with trail
- Concerned about safety for people who are trespassing on the tracks

MaineDOT - Dan Stewart

- Spring grant round
- Stimulus Projects – Route 1A through to Union River Bridge
- Section from Union River Bridge to Maine Street is not being planned at this time

Next Meeting

- Monday October 5<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM