

Ellsworth STAR Crossroads Meeting

09/28/06

Minutes

Attending: Sally Jacobs, Bill Ceckler, Michele Gagnon, Victor Smith, Mickie Sumpter, Jennifer Hurth (Gary Friedmann), Milan Testa, Tom Testa, Jim Fisher, John Kelly, Karen Cadbury, Chris Hall, Bill Haefele, Tracy Perez, David Rodrigues, Fred Cook, Gary Lanviroux - Stone Consulting - Preservation - short line railroads, tour operations, John Hanky - work on rail heritage projects around the country

Discussion facilitated by Tracy Perez

What do you want?

- rail station
- trail head
- bus station
- information center
- Park and ride

Feasibility Study

Infrastructure needs

- Access to rail, trail. route 3
- Parking needs
- Building - ticket sales, bus stop,
- Staffing - CofC, Trail Manager

Site analysis

- strengths and weaknesses

Business plan

- management
- ownership
- operations and maintenance cost

Cost Analysis

- feasibility study - \$100,000
- purchase - \$500,000
- building and facilities - \$1,000,000 plus
- operation and maintenance
- marketing

Funding sources

Federal

- FTA - requires NEPA, only for transportation
- FHWA

State

- MaineDOT
 - Bond
 - Park and Ride -MaineDOT might provide \$50,000
 - Study - Tracy has requested \$80,000 for a feasibility study from MaineDOT. Includes needs, business plan, management plan. Requires 20% local match (\$20,000) Also need a 20 year guarantee that the facility will be maintained.
 - Enhancement Program - trail related, can include museums

Revenues

- rental space
- parking
- other?

Steps

- Planning and Feasibility - \$100k
- Funding
- Preliminary Engineering / Design \$200k
- Bid
- Construction - \$\$1,200k

Discussion

Chris Hall

- we will need to pursue a variety of source including CDBG, EDA, FTA,
- RR Trust - can pursue this with private funds

Gary

- involving layers of government - extends the time required for a project
- involving government increases costs, changing the project

Wish List - Vowel study - AEIOU

- Amenities
- Entertainment
- Interpretation
- Opportunity - gas, food
- Utilities

Railroad

- Siding
- covered platform
- Parking 300+ spaces

- gift shop
- display
- bathrooms
- waiting area
- office space
- maintenance facility (Washington Junction)
- signage
- landscaping

Trails

- Parking - cars, trailers
- Swing parking at Washington Junction
- Filling station access
- Information Kiosk
- Restrooms
- Water Fountains
- Office for Trail Manager
- Trail maintenance equipment (Washington Junction)
- Bike racks and bike lockers
- Trash
- Lighting
- Benches
- Showers
- connectivity to MDI for Bikes

City of Ellsworth

- Site should be connected to the city
- Public space character

Regional Information Center

- Prefer location north of triangle
- Parking for RVs, motor coaches
- Brochure display area:
- Counter space for information personnel
- Bus Parking - easy access, turnaround space
- Internet connectivity (wifi) - touch screen information kiosks
- Public telephones

Chamber

- waiting area
- information space
- Chamber offices
- Meeting space

ANP

- Information for visitors about ANP at MDI and Schoodic
- Connectivity to the gateway center

Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce – Expand Intercity Bus

DTI - ask Paul Murphy for input

Other non-profit organizations

Union River Healthy Communities

MaineDOT

Park and Ride or commuters

Universal Access to the trail

Connectivity to the Acadia Welcome Center -particularly transit

Connectivity to gasoline - not crossing highway

Mitigation for pedestrian crossings

Mitigation for increased number of turning movements

Phasing

Next meeting October 18 2:00 PM

(email notes to kcadbury@adelphia.net)