



**Eastern Trail Alliance (ETA)
Eastern Trail Management District (ETMD)**

**BLAZING THE TRAIL SOUTH
Kennebunk to South Berwick**

Total off-road miles planned: 19 miles within the old Eastern Railroad corridor (owned by Unitil)

Breakdown of miles:	Kennebunk to Wells border:	3
	Wells to North Berwick border:	8
	North Berwick:	3
	South Berwick:	5

Final phase of 11 miles from South Berwick to Kittery will need a feasibility study to determine the route.

Average costs are estimated at \$10,000 per mile for existing conditions survey, \$600,000 per mile for design, permitting & construction.

OVERVIEW

- The Eastern Trail (ET) is a 65 mile transportation/recreation trail of local, state and national significance. It is the southernmost section in Maine of the 3,000 mile East Coast Greenway, a national greenway from Calais, ME to Key West, FL. Both trails are now 35% complete toward reaching their goal for a 100% off road facility.
- When complete, this project, Blazing the Trail South (BTTS), will add 19 miles and extend a current 6.2 mile off road section of the ET providing over 25 miles of off road trail connecting 6 communities in the most densely populated region in the state (Greater Portland, Cumberland and York Counties) providing a safe and convenient facility for bicycle commuters, recreational riders, walkers, and wheelchair users, for transportation, health and enjoyment.
- This extension will promote trail-associated economic development in York and Cumberland Counties by providing a safe and scenic transportation and recreation corridor forming connections between towns as a thread to promote regional cooperation in economic and tourism development plans. Based on the 2018 ETA Economic Impact Study data, over 251,000 annual visitors visited 22 miles of the off-road ET and spent roughly \$200 per person for soft and hard goods plus equipment rentals.
- Negotiations for a CoLocation Agreement for the 19-mile Kennebunk to South Berwick stretch are ongoing between the Eastern Trail Management District (ETMD) and Unitil, the gas company that owns the corridor. In December 2017, Unitil issued a Letter of Intent in support of the project.
- Once the survey, permitting and final design is completed and the CoLocation Agreement is signed, the project will be “shovel-ready” and municipalities can begin to apply for construction funding.
- Funding will be a combination of Federal and State allocations with the required 20% match coming from a combination of municipal, foundations and private sources.
- To raise this 20% required match, the ETA/ETMD together with the individual municipalities will embark on a fundraising campaign similar to the model first used for the successful Close the Gap campaign in Scarborough reaching out to individuals, corporations and foundations.

KENNEBUNK AND WELLS

- The towns of Kennebunk and Wells are in the early stages of planning for their sections of the trail, having set aside the funds needed for that purpose. They also provided the matching \$ required for the Private Public Partnership program and received funding from Maine DOT to cover 7 of the 11 miles of the route's survey work. Maine DOT has accepted the final report for the first phase of this survey work.
- Since October, 2018, the Eastern Trail Alliance (ETA) and Eastern Trail Management District (ETMD) has raised all funds necessary to complete the survey in Wells plus an additional \$72,000 towards funding the preliminary design for the entire 11 miles in Kennebunk and Wells.
- Now that the funding for the survey is secured, the towns will proceed with the survey work and, together with ETA & ETMD, seek funding for preliminary design, then permitting and final design over the next two years.

NORTH BERWICK

- ETMD met with North Berwick Town Manager and representatives from Pratt & Whitney, Hussey Seating and Pike Industries in May and November 2018 to discuss feasibility of off road route, alternatives and outline a plan of action. There is strong industry support and interest in moving forward on these 3 miles.
- ETMD identified three alternative routes that would combine on and off road sections should the totally off road route not be feasible.
- Action items include:
 - First step is for ETMD to contact the Sanitary District & Unitil to discuss their requirements for current proposed route that would pass by their facilities.
 - There is strong support and interest in moving forward on these 3 miles. Next step would be moving forward with the town to determine the costs for an updated existing conditions survey and together seek funding for the survey

SOUTH BERWICK

- ETMD met with South Berwick Town Manager and council on December 4, 2018 to discuss the proposed off road route and outline a plan of action.
- There is strong support and interest in moving forward on these 5 miles. First step would be moving forward with the town to determine the costs for an updated existing conditions survey and together seek funding for the survey.

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