



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

**BLAZING THE TRAIL SOUTH.....
Through the Woods.....Kennebunk to South Berwick**

Total off-road miles planned: 18 miles within the old Eastern Railroad corridor (owned by Unitil)

Breakdown of miles:	Kennebunk to Wells border:	2.5
	Wells to North Berwick border:	7.5
	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, \$850,000 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 18 miles and extend a current 6.2 mile off road section of the ET providing close to 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 252,000 annual visitors visited 22 miles of the off-road ET contributing \$3,000,000 the local economy.
- Negotiations for a CoLocation Agreement for the 18-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 March, 2019, 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 have already commenced the first critical step in this process, funding and completing an existing conditions survey. The survey will be completed in summer, 2019 preparing the way to proceed with design.
- This survey will determine what is in the area. Once we have completed the survey, we can apply for the funding for design/build. After that, we apply for the permits, and then construction begins. This will take a few years, but every step must be followed and this first piece is the most significant, as the entire process starts here.
- Funding for the initial 6 miles was a three way split between MaineDOT, Kennebunk and Wells. Funding for the balance of 4 miles came from the Eastern Trail via grants, large donors and their 2018 annual appeal.
- The Eastern Trail and municipalities of Wells and Kennebunk are now actively seeking the funds for the balance of preliminary and final design, permitting and construction. At this stage we now have \$70,000 towards the preliminary design costs and are reaching out to foundations and major donors for funding. Preliminary cost estimates are available on request.

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.
- In February, 2019 ET secured the funds to move forward with the first phase of the survey covering 3,780 feet from the North Berwick/Wells town line, past Pratt & Whitney and up to Route 9. This survey will be completed by mid-summer.
- There is strong support and interest in moving forward on this segment. 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.
 - Next step would be moving forward with the town to determine the costs for design for the 4.9 miles and extending the existing conditions survey past Pratt & Whitney.

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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