Maps of Future Eastern Trail Extension South from Kennebunk

Bob Pease suggest ETA make available the following maps that show the envisioned future Eastern Trail as it might be extended from the current southern end of the off-road ET. It's just south of the Turnpike Bridge at Rte. 35 in Kennebunk. One maps shows the North Berwick section in more detail. The southern end of the old RR corridor has been converted into miles of Rte. 235. An engineering feasibility would, working with local residents, produce a recommended off-road route with maps and estimated costs. The ET would cross N. Berwick's downtown district after passing Pratt-Whitney.

For those interested in visiting the southern end of the off-road greenway section, public parking is offered at Kennebunk Elementary School, about one mile north of the Rte. 35 Maine Turnpike overpass. Kids love to put-the-hammer-down to truckers. Representative Kathy Chase of Wells told me her grandchildren love the experience.

Will this ever be built? Only if the people want it badly enough. In 2012, Maine Department of Transportation received \$45 million in requests for Transportation Enhancement funds from 92 Maine municipalities. MDOT has approximately \$5 million to allocate. Fortunately the ET is one of only three trails designated as of statewide significance.

Maine Municipal Association recommended to our Legislature that it pass a \$100 million transportation bond including \$5 for trails. My grandmother used to tell me, "Squeaky wheels get the grease." Ask your legislators to support that bond. The Appropriations Committee will be conducting hearings. Sen. Dawn Hill of York chairs that committee. Rep. Megan Rochelo of Biddeford, and Rep. Kathy Chase of Wells also serve on that committee.

I thank everyone who attended the historic 26 March 2013 Eastern Trail informational public meeting where these maps were first shown.

Best regards and many happy trails,

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John Andrews

President Emeritus Eastern Trail Alliance

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