

MSP Disclaimer on Rock Island Trail Public Comments

The following 8,685 comments were gathered during a public comment period, which ended August 31, 2017. These comments do not reflect the opinion of the State of Missouri or the Department of Natural Resources' Division of State Parks, nor are these entities responsible for the content or the factual accuracy of the comments. The responses have not been edited or otherwise altered, except to remove names and other identifying statements, and potentially offensive language. The public comments were provided in response to the following question:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is considering entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project, a conversion of the former Rock Island Railroad corridor into a 144.3 mile long recreational trail from Windsor, MO, to Beaufort, MO.

Please provide your thoughts, comments, and suggestions regarding DNR entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project.

Adding 144 miles of Rock Island Trail is an historic opportunity. About 30 of the 144 miles are within the city limits of towns. It will be an economic development driver for dozens of small rural communities and improve their quality of life on a daily basis. It will provide recreation, transportation, an opportunity for daily exercise and ways for students to walk or bike to school safely. The first 47 miles have brought many new businesses, like the Chilhowee Corner Store, Leeton Cafe and Leeton Grocery. It has grown others, like New Town Bicycle and Coffee Shop in Pleasant Hill and several restaurants and lodging places in Windsor. Businesses are gearing up in the next 144 miles, like Rock Island Village in Eldon. That 48 bed senior living facility opens in August. Perhaps most importantly in terms of a go or no-go decision is that there is no requirement to develop a trail to a certain standard or on a certain timetable. It could be used immediately as a primitive trail by hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians after signs are posted, entrances are blocked from motor vehicles and bridge skeletons barricaded.

I think this is a GREAT opportunity. The economic impact should mirror that of the Katy trail. I am sure that a major donor will present itself. I would be more than happy to chair a committee that would be responsible for finding donors. I will do all I can to bring this to fruition.

This will be a tremendous plus for biking in Missouri.

Please move forward with this project. It will be very beneficial for communities, as has been shown with the development of the parallel Katy trail just to the north.

It's a big waste of all taxpayers money!

Please do! This trail will mean so much to so many people. We love the Katy Trail, but we live in Eldon - it will be so nice not to have to drive 35 miles to ride! We'd make so much use of the new trail to see places we haven't seen, contribute to local economies along the way, take advantage of the health benefits, spend more time with family (we've encouraged several to buy bikes and get out there with us!) and friends. We've been thoroughly enjoying watching progress happen along the trail - rails up, ties up, brush cleared. Can't WAIT for it all to be finished and we look forward to using as much as we can as soon as we can!

This trail, when completed will be a gold star by Missouri's name---and will also benefit the towns along thr route. I can not wait to hike the trail and explore the small towns!

I live about a half mile from where the trail will be in Leslie, MO. My family can't wait for this trail. There are so few safe places to run or ride a bike in rural MO. This trail is so needed in this area.

I am a frequent user of the Katy Trail and my wife helped get the information on building the Katy to the public, especially the rural areas where there was opposition. If you look and ask the towns where the Katy passes through, almost everyone has positive comments on the Katy Trail. Every state needs to take advantage of these trail possibilities as they are popular and can generate significant revenue.

The combination of the Katy and Rock Island trails would be one of the top trail system in the US and would draw people from many states.

Great idea

Connect it through Washington and into Chesterfields Great Rivers Greenway and it will be flowing with traffic.

This opportunity doesn't just impact the Rock Island Trail. As soon as this Trail is completed it will be a jump on point at Villa Ridge Missouri for the Pacific Riverwalk Trail. This Trail we'll connect with the St Louis Great Rivers Greenway to the north and to the Ozark Trail to the South creating and over 600 Mile Trail. This has a huge economic potential to the entire State and region.

Being an active cyclist and seeing how the Katy Trail has affected many towns along the route, I believe that this is a project that needs to be developed and maintained by the DNR. By developing this project, many more people can enjoy the trails and get out and explore nature. It allows those that do not readily get out on their bikes to enjoy the trails without fear of getting run over by cars. It also allows those of us that enjoy riding our bikes for long distances to get off the roads. I also see development along the route for future growth of smaller towns in new industries. This is a win/win proposition and I hope that the DNR enters into this agreement for our future!

Thank you. Good safe environment to ride free from vehicles.

This opportunity doesn't just impact the Rock Island Trail. As soon as this Trail is completed it will be a jump on point at Villa Ridge Missouri for the Pacific Riverwalk Trail. This Trail we'll connect with the St Louis Great Rivers Greenway to the north and to the Ozark Trail to the South creating and over 600 Mile Trail. This has a huge economic potential to the entire State and region.

What a great way to travel and see the state. This trail would revitalize areas that have seen little or no activity since the railroad left.

I am an avid supporter of this trail and its development. I have personally ridden the entire KATY Trail on two occasions and spent \$500 plus dollars over the four days. While traveling I met people from several states and also at least one foreign country. The addition of the Rock Island Trail will make Missouri even more of an active recreation destination and draw people to the State.

Methods of Non-Motorized transportation has dominated human history and only in the past 70 years has it been completely abolished in most developed areas of America. However, through projects like this and cooperative Trail Use Agreements, we can change that and bring back the freedom and health benefits that non-motorized transportation maintains within our society.

LOVE the RIT. I drive down from Lee's Summit to Pleasant Hill at least twice a week to ride it. Just did 20 miles the other

day. Rode from PH to Sedalia via Windsor and the Katy in December, taking Amtrak back to Lee's Summit.

I totally support the Rock Island Trail and any initiative DNR has to expand it.

As a long time walker, jogger and bike rider,(emphasis on long time), my age has brought me to a point where level surfaces are my friend. This proposed trail will bring better health opportunities to thousands of Missourians. The trail will also have a positive impact on tourism and the economic benefits that come with it. Please, please move forward with this project!!!

I think this would be a wonderful project and support the DNR entering into a trail use agreement. My husband & I often ride on the Katy Trail and just completed a 4 day, 157 mile ride on it. We would certainly make use of the Rock Island Trail too once it is opened. Thanks!

These villages along the proposed trail will benefit greatly from the increased tourism traffic as bikers and hikers will be searching for supplies, lodging, restaurants, etc... What are we waiting for? Do we expect there will be a great railroad resurgence in America? Do we think shoe factories will once again open and help these struggling small towns and their economies? I see little downside. Build it, promote it, and celebrate it without further delay!

I look forward to using them Rock Island Trail. It will have as much an impact as the Katy Trail.

This trail has the potential to bring so much positive change to our State. People want to live and vacation in places that make it easy to enjoy the outdoors. Bike riding is such an inexpensive, entry level activity. It will also help Missourians get healthy and we all know that saves money! Please complete it asap!

All you have to do is look at the statistics of the many years of the Katy Trail. Yes we had disagreements in the early years but it gives enjoyment to thousands of Missourians and is a big ticket on our Tourism. The cross country bicyclist always use the Katy Trail in their plans.

Bring the Rock Island into the picture and you have a full loop for a ride. As a bicyclist that is a big consideration when picking a trail. Look at the Raccoon River in Iowa. It is now a loop and the numbers are increasing in use. I believe that if the Missouri government lets this loose they are are doing a disservice to it people and missing a grand opportunity. We don't want to miss keeping those small towns that make Missouri famous.

As a landowner next to the Katy Trail, I see first hand the positive impact trails have on our state. I fully support the expansion and development of the Rock Island Trail!

I support the trail and feel the rural communities along the trail will receive a much needed injection of economic activity as well as encouraging citizens to get more exercise. Often if someone wants to go for a walk, they need to drive to a safe place or risk walking along a busy roadway. The trail will provide a safe and serene place for locals to exercise without

the concern of getting hit by a car. Further, communities such as Eldon have already planned and dedicated resources to improving the community around the trail, such as parks, and rebuilding the depot for a community center and chamber of commerce building. I feel the funds will be well invested in our state.

Very interested in seeing this project advance towards completion. I would absolutely intend to ride every available mile and spend money in the businesses adjacent to the trail.

I live in Arizona and have twice ridden the Katy Trail - both times round trips in order to fully appreciate the natural resources along the trail and the hospitality of the towns through which it passes. I met people from all over the US, Canada and other countries cycling the Katy Trail. A group of 10 of my cycling friends are planning a Katy Trail trip for 2018 and they would certainly add the Rock Island Trail to their itinerary if it were completed.

The proposed Rock Island Trail will make Missouri THE family friendly and vacation cycling destination of the United States, as it adds additional miles as a loop to the already popular Katy Trail. The small towns along the Rock Island Trail will benefit with new business ventures catering to RIT users. As former small town resident, I am aware of the sense of community pride that develops with this kind of project and focus. In addition, the RIT will be a marvelous resource for local residents to walk, run, cycle and horseback ride.

Hurry up and get the RIT completed as I am very eager to return to Missouri and pedal it end to end!

I'd love to see this developed as a trail. Perfect for users on foot and bikes. A great type of trail that's easy to use and is in nature away from traffic.

I strongly support the use of the Rock Island Rail property as a biking/hiking recreational trail. I have seen rail properties in the past sit idle, with no functional use. For Missouri to not make use of this land in this beneficial way would be tragedy.

There should be no question as to the benefit such an addition would have to the Economic Health of our State. Being from a community along this line and knowing that the KATY brings in 18.1 million dollars in revenues annually I have no doubt we can expect this number to double. Looking into the future just a bit suggests to me that the remainder of this corridor will be available soon and the KATY and the Rock Island together will form the longest continuous trail loop in the country. Now you have opened the door to International Recognition and use! Please allow the 23 or more communities along this line to take this ball and run with it!

Really looking forward to having the Rock Island Trail constructed!

Great idea! Go for it!

I feel that it would be beneficial for the towns and cities that it goes through or by and will create a great biking opportunity. I am looking forward to biking the Rock Island. It would be helpful if the State could extend the Katy to the Kansas state

line and to find a corridor that would connect the Katy to Iowa and one to connect to Arkansas.

Would be great for us! We are excited to have a safe bike trail so close to us. We live in Gerald.

I am very much in support of DNR entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement for the Rock Island Trail Project. I will provide some reasons below.

1. As the school superintendent I know that the trail will be able to provide safer access to our schools for those students that walk.

2. I believe that the trail through our community would improve the health of our community. It would encourage more walking and biking.

3. I believe that the trail would help us attract and also keep our young families. We know that young families are looking for quality of life features and a trail through the community definitely helps attract those families.

4. A possible trail through our community has already spurred development with the Lake Regional Hospital to expand and also Rock Island Village <https://www.rockislandvillage.com/>

5. The Eldon School District Building Trades program plans on renovating the existing depot. We have an Eldon Alumni that has challenged the community with a \$150,000 matching grant towards building the depot. However we can't start construction if Missouri State Parks doesn't own the property. Our agreement with the previous director was that the depot would be given to the City of Eldon for development and maintenance.

6. Eldon and Versailles are considered some of the poorest communities in the State according to this article:

<https://www.roadsnacks.net/poorest-places-in-missouri/> I believe having a trail through those two communities would greatly improve the economic conditions.

I am also am a cow/calf farmer and I do have some property along the trail and this does not concern me.

I live in Illinois and regularly travel to Missouri to ride on the Katy. Between gas fill-ups, lunches, snacks, and the occasional overnight hotel B&B stay, I end up spending a lot of dollars on Missouri because of my riding. Being able to extend mileage onto the Rock Island Trail has been a big source of excitement for myself and my friends. More trails = more cyclists and more tourism \$\$.

Looking forward to using the trail. I live near Beaufort about 200 yards from the trail. Planning on using it regularly because there isn't anywhere the walk other than the highway. I hope it goes forward. Thanks

I am extremely excited for the new trail. Get it open soon so we can all start enjoying it!

I am in Full support of turning the Rock Island Trail into a bike route. I want to use the Rock Island for a round trip bike trip starting at Pleasant Hill to St. Charles and return back using the KATY Trail. I'm very much into longer rides of over 60 miles a day and I feel rail trails are the safest way to bike that are free of auto traffic. I'm also a huge supporter of state parks and the natural beauty they hold.

Please continue to support the donation of the Rock Island into a beautiful bike trail.

I am in favor of the State developing additional riding/walking opportunities, including the Rock Island Trail Project. I live in Camdenton and am not directly at any point of the trail but it would be closer for me than the Katy.

This will be a world-class acquisition for the state of Missouri and will bring bike tourism from all over the world.

I think its a extreme waste of money. When our roads and bridges are in the condition they are in. And being a landowner along this to take there land that runs by their homes. Bad idea all around.

Should be just like the Katy Trail. No motorized vehicles allowed.

Super excited for this trail!

There is NOT one safe place for a kid to ride a bike in our community. They can't walk or ride to school at this time. This is small town America. We need some healthy, active options in our area.

Our population deserves to have a trail available to them for an active lifestyle.

We have local groups of cyclers that would utilize this as well. This will bring others through our town and promote tourism in our area.

Trails give locals access to safe hiking/biking and bring tourism dollars to small towns along the route.

Please continue to push this project forward. I am from Arkansas and make 2-3 trips a year to ride the Katy. That means I spend

\$ on gas, food, lodging, etc in Missouri. I can't wait to do more of the same on RIT. The Katy/RIT loop will be a national treasure and a economic asset for rural Mo!

I'm very eager to utilize the Rock Island Trail. I hope to take advantage of the towns along the trail. In addition I am also eager to see Missouri become a destination for biking the Rock Island and Katy Trail loop.

Can't wait to have one of the largest trail networks in the country here in Missouri

Certainly hope DNR accepts and enters into this interim trail use agreement regarding the Rock Island corridor. Many Communities along the corridor seem to be willing to do their part to make this a viable opportunity for DNR and the state.

I think it's a great idea. Giving us the opportunity to bike ride in a safe environment. Ride somewhere for the day spend the night and come home the next. Also allowing the communities to grow with their business to grow. Great for the kids that have little to do here in this vicinity.

This would be a huge asset for Missouri! Both the communities involved and trail users would benefit. I hope the project can move forward.

I think this would be a great idea! There are a ton of people who I think would love it!

The development of more trails in Missouri is clearly in the best interests of all Missourians. Expanded trail systems in Missouri support the health and welfare of the population by encouraging healthy outdoor activity and engagement in inexpensive community activities that support appreciation of our beautiful state. Trail systems and their use by residents and out-of-state tourists create much needed economic activity for the state.

It would be a big draw for the State and some much needed money for the towns along the trail.

Yes! This would such a great asset in so many ways to so many individuals and families!. It would improve health, relationships, commerce for all the surrounding communities! It would turn useless land into beautiful recreation land!

Great Idea!

As the Executive Director for the Windsor Area Chamber of Commerce, I can speak with some insight as to what this trail will mean to some of these smaller communities that are struggling economically. I serve on the Farrington Park Board of Directors, as well. (Farrington Park is our city park and was donated to Windsor by the Rock Island Railroad in 1954 and is named after J.D. Farrington, the President of the Rock Island at that time.) The campgrounds at the park have seen a 400% increase over last year. We've had visitors from France, Yugoslavia, Costa Rica and other countries, as well as, visitors from Oregon to New York. These folks spend money when they're in a community. Today was the big Katy Trail Bicycle Ride...around 300 riders. I can't tell you how many times I was asked about the Rock Island Trail and there aren't enough words to describe the excitement and anticipation when these bicycle enthusiasts talked about it. There was an 88 year old gentleman on this ride and he is really excited about it. (Don't wait too long...hahaha!) Please don't let this opportunity pass: for the small communities that will benefit so much from it, the great State of Missouri that will benefit from it and the outdoors enthusiasts that will use the trail. This is a "bucket list" deal! (Yes, I heard that several times today.."riding the loop is on my bucket list")

Having a contiguous piece of property owned by the public for public use is a tremendous benefit for residents of Missouri as well as tourists. Care must be taken so that pedestrians and cyclists should exclusively use this and limit access to motorized vehicles

I'm all for getting this trail up and going!

Rode the Rock Island Spur with a friend about 10 miles starting from Pleasant Hill three weeks ago. Great addition to our trail system, especially for those of us in the KC Metro. A parking lot at the start of the trail would be welcome so you don't have to ride on the highway to get to the trail. Looking forward to exploring more segments of the trail.

The addition of another rail to trail project is a positive step, both toward renewed economic prosperity and in the expansion of a corridor in which Missourians and visitors can be outside and enjoy the natural beauty that surrounds us here. As a connector line to the already famous Katy Trail- an expansion of this type of recreational venue on top of an already popular destination for cycling, hiking, running and trekking will boost the world class outdoor recreational opportunity that the Katy already provides to visitors and residents. A timely application of resources to start this is crucial to investing in the future of the state, its citizenry and in boosting awareness of the beauty of the land it touches here in the Ozarks/north central Missouri. Please move forward and commit to this enriching project.

The Rock Island Trail is the single-most important economic development lever that has occurred in the last 30 years for any of the towns along the Rock Island Trail including (but not limited to): Windsor, Ionia, Freeburg, Canaan, Rosebud, Gerald, Owensville, Eldon, Belle, Bland.

Missing this golden opportunity to spur growth and development in these forgotten and neglected areas of the State of Missouri, by doing little more than NOT REJECTING a gift provided by a private source would be a slap in the face to the voters and residents in each of these locations...and a slap that would not be easily forgotten or forgiven. Providence has laid this world class opportunity directly in our laps. Final development need not happen overnight, but to miss the chance to preserve the corridor for the future would be a senseless tragedy, a colossal blunder, a nonredeemable error.

Please show Republican supporters of rural economic development, that politics will not keep you from supporting the actions we elected you to take. Move forward with the Interim Trail Agreement without delay. It has already taken us 30 years to get here. Support rural economic development now.

Move forward with the Interim Trail Agreement without delay.

Please complete this trail project so tourists like me can come and ride it and spend lots of money in small towns along the way. We've ridden the Katy Trail several times, spending about \$1,000 on each trip. We can't wait to ride the Rock Island Trail!

Can hardly wait for it to get ready for walkers. Goes right across the road from my house so I won't have to drive to town everyday to walk the trail.

Absolutely, without a doubt. Will be nothing but good for our state.

Will have possibly more funding, but wit that comes restrictions, regulations and reporting.

Everyone in our little town is very excited about the trail and will be very disappointed if the project is not completed.

Will have possibly more funding, but wit that comes restrictions, regulations and reporting.

I think it's a great investment for the state of MO! Hope it all works out. Can't wait to try it out!

Tourism is important to the state. With the addition of the Rock Island trail, MO is poised to become a major destination for the many people like myself who enjoy active vacations. I am a MO taxpayer, and I am looking forward to having the trail available for use. It will be an asset to the health of Missourians. It will benefit the economies of the towns it passes through. I am totally in support of the development of the Rock Island Trail.

I'm looking forward to the completion of the Rock Island Trail Project. Selfishly, it would be only 5 miles from home, but having overheard local people getting so excited about the trail has caught me off guard. While towns along the eastern end are eagerly planning for its opening - people talking about starting restaurants, B&B's, etc., the boost to all local economies would be welcomed. And let's not forget the health benefits. The sooner it gets opened the better. The Katy Trail has proven the case for bicycle-pedestrian trails and another one would really prove that Missouri is the 'Show-Me' state.

Adding to the available trails in Missouri by using the abandoned/donated property from the Rock Island rail line seems like a no brainer to most of us. The economic benefits alone to those small towns along the route would also benefit the State tax coffers - adding jobs, new businesses, etc. I see little down side compared to the huge upside and would welcome another trail opportunity.

I and many cycling friends have enjoyed many hours and days on the Katy Trail. We would love to have new and more trails to use to enjoy seeing the beautiful Missouri countryside and meet the people who live and conduct business there. I hope this program continues forward as cycling and hiking use increase across the state.

It would be a great recreational and commercial asset for the State of Missouri. I cannot think of any reason why the DNR should not enter into this agreement.

As long as the money is available to support the initial trail build and continued maintenance of the trail. Not sure why we wouldn't do it.

I fully support the development of the Rock Island Trail. This would be an incredible boon for Missouri tourism, as well as a fabulous trail for Missourians.

I have bike the Katy Trail - and the Great Allegheny Passage and the C&O Towpath. These trails continue to attract the active crowd, and to be a starting place for those entering into fitness.

So, please develop the Rock Island Trail!

You only need to look at the popularity and success of the Katy Trail to see the benefits of developing the Rock Island corridor. Many of the towns along its path are in desperate need of the added business and tourism that the trail can bring. Aside from the economic benefits, the development of the trail will provide much needed safe areas for local families to ride bikes and hike, away from busy streets.

Cannot wait for our family to take advantage of this wonderful trail! Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

I strongly support any measures that will move the development of the Rock Island Trail project along. This will be a treasure for the people of the area and the rest of Missouri. It will be good for the economy of the local communities. People who ride their bikes on trails such as this will bring money to the area. I don't see any down side to this.

I'm so excited about the prospect of the Rock Island Railroad corridor becoming a recreational trail! I fully support the DNR developing the trail, so much so I plan to move in a city that is along the trail after I retire in July 2018. This trail will provide an economic boost to small communities and draw cyclists and hikers from across the U.S. I can't wait to ride the trail sections as they are opened!

Please keep the Rock Island Trail moving forward. This is a great opportunity for a route similar to the Katy Trail to be accessible to many more people, and open up alternative means of transportation and recreation to individuals across the state. The Katy Trail is already known as one of the best bicycle routes in the entire country, with many other states following suite, the Rock Island is yet another opportunity to show the success of such a program.

I fully support DNR developing the Rock Island rail corridor into a recreational rail-to-trail conversion. This, combined with the nationally recognized Katy Trail, will ensure Missouri will be a primary destination for long trail tourism.

DNR currently spends over %10 of its budget on the Katy trail alone; the proposed 144 miles could easily TRIPLE that! DNR will be responsible for fences. Landowners are taking the brunt of the liability of trespassers already- not necessarily "trail users"! This corridor has a very small population living along it; therefore people using it for its proposed purposes will not offset the liabilities and nuisance of those who abuse the access to private property. It will not be a wise investment for the taxpayers of MO to build a much more expensive recreational trail within 50 miles of the current Katy trail!!!

The land should revert to the landowners who own the land (paying the property taxes) just as the original railroad easements state; not give Ameren a "charitable tax credit" for "donating" an easement over land they don't OWN!

NO-NO-NO on accepting the RAILROAD EASEMENT from Ameren. Let the rails-to-trails-conservancy pay Ameren the "8 figure\$\$" they supposedly offered!!!!

Yes, go forward! If money becomes an issue, then sell bonds and charge a user fee. The Katy has proven the model is successful.

YES. Please follow through with the proposed Rail To Trail route!

And, if you would, get to cracking on some north-south routes, too!

I think the Rock Island Trail is a wonderful thing for the state in the country. I think it will bring business to all the small

towns that it passes through. I personally have bicycle all of the Rock Island in the majority of the Katy Trail. I have bought food and supplies along the trails. And also have spent the night at local hotels and camp sites. I feel this is big business for the state. I meet people from all over the country that come to ride one of the biggest rails to Trails project in the country. And with the addition of the Rock Island Trail this will really draw a lot of attention to the state of Missouri. We have everything in place to get this done. There is no reason for us not to complete it. This benefits everyone.

It would be a great recreational addition to central Missouri. If you like to walk or ride bikes you are limited to rough gravel in much of the area. This would give us a local and safe option to ride.

As someone who just purchased a house near the Katy Trail BECAUSE of the Katy Trail, I can tell you that this project will bring much joy to many people in Missouri. There is immense freedom in being able to bike or hike for hours or days on a safe corridor. I can't wait for it to be finalized!

Please forge ahead with developing the Missouri Rock Island Trail. My wife and I regularly use bike on rails-to-trails. This trail would be a nice addition to the KATY Trail.

It is my hope, as a frequent user of The Katy Trail, The Missouri DNR will transform/maintain The Rock Island Trail to the high standards it has shown in operating all the State Parks.

I/my family look forward to riding "The Rock".
Keep up the good job/works.

██████████

I would like the trail to be developed.

I can't wait to ride the Rock Island Trail. I'm all for the agreement if it means the project continues to make progress.

Allow equestrian use

I fully support all efforts to enter the Interim Trail Use Agreement. I believe that the Rock Island trail will provide a positive influence on our state and the communities it passes.

This is a trail I will definitely use and bring out of town guest with me.

Please make this trail.

This is an awesome idea. I enjoy biking but riding on the roads scares the hell out of me. I'm always looking for safe places to ride.

very happy to have this underway. Cannot wait for it to open. I hope you only allow bicycle and foot traffic. No ATV and equestrian use. I feel that small towns along the trail will also benefit from the trail as it will bring in more revenue and business opportunities.

I have ridden the entire Katy trail five times and done numerous weekend trips on the Katy. I have met people from all over the world who come to Missouri to ride the Katy and

have spoke. With many who would come back to enjoy the Rock Island Trail.

My husband and I along with many friends are looking forward to the day we can ride an over 400 mile trail loop in our state.

I have ridden the GAP, C&O trails and have met many people on those trails that are also waiting for the Rock Island trail and visiting Missouri and the small towns along the way. We have a treasure with the Katy trail and adding the Rock Island would bring many visitors to our state and the communities.

I am excited to have this trail. It offers the state of Missouri and all the towns along the trail a great opportunity for bike tourism revenue. It also opens beautiful Midwest landscapes for all to enjoy while promoting wellness through activity and sense of community. I can't wait to see this trail completed.

This trail would be a wonderful asset to our state. Both our communities and our economy would benefit. I've worked in Missouri State Parks for years and have traveled all over the united states on camping trips and I think Missouri has one of the richest, well managed, accessible park systems around. Let's continue to build that reputation. Let's take this amazing opportunity to provide a way for our youth to seek adventure, a way for our citizens to stay healthy, and provide our communities and small businesses a much needed source of income. This would improve lives for Missourians and provide an opportunity for the rest of the world to have a first hand look at Missouri's natural history and beauty and meet some of the friendliest and diverse people in the Midwest.

I would be very interested in seeing DNR acquire, build and operate the rock island trail. We have spent countless hours enjoying the kate trail, and the rock island trail would be a closer commute to get to and appears to be even more scenic. I see this as an excellent investment of state tax dollars. Much better than building another park in one location.

I wholeheartedly support this project--I wish it had been done years ago (especially once it became apparent it would not be used any more as a rail road due to the high dollar homes being located too close to the line near Lee's Summit, I believe.) This will be a great addition to Missouri's parks system and an economic boost to many small towns along the route. I'm also looking forward to having a close destination from which to ride my bike. I am completely in favor of my taxes being used to fund this and I hope it proceeds as rapidly as possible. (I'm not sure what you need my phone number for but due to the high number of scam calls we receive I do not respond to any phone requests. If you require further information, please contact me by email. Thanks!)

I am an avid cyclist who lives in the City of St Louis. I have ridden the Katy trail from beginning to end. I plan on utilizing the completed part of the Rock Island to reach the Katy on my ride this year. I fully support the completion of this project!

I think this is a great idea! What better way to bring people to Missouri and show off native scenery.

I am in full support of this trail. We are homeowners/business owners along the route and feel that attracting tourists will better our area and economy. We would also like to enjoy the trail! It would be a great bicycle, horse, and running trail. My area (St. Albans/labadie) is full of horse owners who would appreciate more equestrian trails.

I would ride the trail everyday. I am very excited about the trail and would love to help with it.

I think it's an excellent idea. Love the Katy Trail and look forward to having something a bit closer to home – Argyle - Freeburg - Belle - Bland.

This is great opportunity to further put Missouri on the map for trail enthusiasts. There are many cyclists around the country who would use this trail and bring their money to contribute to our economy.

The rail trails are the only reason I visit Missouri. I come from Kansas. Stay in a hotel or bnb about 15 nights a year and eat at local establishments all because of the k trail. Please continue building it.

Proceeding with the interim trail use agreement would be a effective way to provide public recreational space for families and especially children to enjoy the outdoors. I know at least in the Owensville, and Garald area the path would facilitate travel between the town communities and their respective schools allowing children in those communities to safely walk or ride to school without the risk of walking the streets. Such an addition would not only be in the interests of the communities involved but would provide a valuable outlet for people of all ages to enjoy the great outdoors.

My family and I live an hour and a half from the nearest access to the Katy Trail. We make several trips a year to ride on it. The opportunity to have another trail like the Katy Trail is very exciting. It would be nice to see different parts of Missouri from our bikes. We have already ridden part of the Rock Island Trail and look forward to riding the bridge and the tunnel areas that have not been developed yet.

Very excited to potentially have this available. I look forward to being able to make a full loop.

Please support and encourage the Rock Island Trail. I'm looking forward to exploring more of Missouri and its small towns.

Our community would benefit greatly due to the Rock Island Trail. We are very small communities that have no revenue draw, this is an opportunity to help our small communities survive.

I am a cyclist, hiker, a runner. Not only will the trail be good for me and very useful. It will be good for everyone to use. Some people will be able to use it to get from town to town. Wether if it's for exercise, travel, family time, work, etc. It will also be great for all the communities to draw more people to the towns. Which will bring more revenue and potentially more jobs. I think all around that everyone will benefit from it

becoming a trail. Thank you for taking the time to listen to me on this issue.

RIT is the best idea ever! Just rode 40 on the Katy yesterday. Can't wait to ride the RIT and it will be so much closer. Also considering buyin property somewhere along the route.

DNR should proceed quickly to gain control of the Rock Island Trail bed. The economic growth that would occur in the 20 cities along the trail would be phenomenal.

Missouri could be the number one destination for bicyclers in the United States and the world.

The trail will be a big positive for all of the towns along the route!

I support the trail system and anything the State can do to develop trails, I support. I hike and ride my bike on trails and use them when ever I can. Please support the Rock Island Trail project.

It's a great idea for Missouri. No where else in the country could you find this large of a rails to trail loop! And the rock island has features that are outstanding! I love this trail idea and know bikers ready to do the mo loop.

I think it's a great idea, drawing more tourism dollars to the state, giving residents another recreation option, and showing the rest of the country that Missouri has some forward thinking people in the state despite policies of the current administration.

Yes, please proceed. I ride Rails to Trails projects in the 4 state region (MO, KS, IA and NE) and I see these restorations from abandonment to a new transportation use bring back commerce and excitement, and a sense of pride, to the communities along the route. I see farmers and retirees living along the trails who never imagined riding a bike take it up for an improved quality of life. These projects also help melt the divide between rural folks and urban visitors as they meet each other at greeting speeds rather than internet speeds. - At the macro-economic level, there is no doubt adding to the Missouri trail network like this will draw in many more tourists, creating another reason to call Missouri a destination state. With this trail, MO will probably get more of my money than KS, IA and NE.

This trail will bring much needed commerce to all the small towns that are near it just as it has all the towns along the Katy Trail. It will put Mo on the map as the only state with such a long loop trails.

Please proceed with this historic opportunity. It will afford economic and health benefits, attracting visitors from around the world!

I would love to see the trail go through to provide a safe place to ride / walk through our community. It would take us through some of the countryside that cannot be seen from the roadway and allow us to enjoy nature and get some exercise at the same time.

My wife and I travel to find new trails, and always visit local businesses that support trail-users. I couldn't make it any simpler than that. I know many people that feel the same way. More trails = more people travelling where they wouldn't have previously, exercising and frequenting local businesses.

Please make the RI trail a reality soon. Please continue to upgrade both it and the Katy.

I am so glad the State of Missouri is proceeding with this trail. It will make a fine addition to our state's tourism resources. Take a look at the Michelson Trail in South Dakota for funding ideas. Riders pay a small fee to use the trail which goes to maintenance and development. Furthermore, cisterns are strategically located as a water source when no other water access is available.

I believe that this would be another great asset for the state. The 47 miles from pleasant hill to Windsor is see more usage every week and new business are opening along the route all the time. It will also be great to be able to ride the trail while at the lake of the ozarks,

Wonderful endeavor to go ahead with this extension from the KATY. I hope they go ahead with it as soon as possible so users can get on new trail along with the KATY trail. It will bring people like me back to pedal the KATY again and spend money in the small towns on B and Bs and food. It will increase incomes for all the wonderful people in the small towns with few job opportunities. It is a win win proposal for the people who earn their money from the recreationalists who use the trail and for cyclists. Just one way to help people in the rust belt make an honest living. That is really needed at this point in time.

I think making the old railroad lines into a walking trail is GREAT Ideal, i think the citizens of Missouri should be able to enjoy the natural beauty of the State, walking the same path the railroads used to help build this great Country of ours ! What I real find STUPID is one political party holding up this great ideal, and they wonder why a man like Trump got elected ? (By the way i did vote for Trump, because of the idiots in both political parties can't even agree on a hiking trail, that's why we need change !)

I would be thrilled to see this trail come to life. I love the Katy Trail, but it's pretty far away and requires a lengthy drive to get to it. The Rock Island Trail would provide easier access to many more Missourians!

So many people are absolutely thrilled about the development of this trail! The wonderful opportunities this trail will bring to the communities have everyone so excited. Hundreds of people have worked tirelessly, spent hours on research, paperwork, and meeting time to make this project a reality. Please do whatever it takes to make this happen!!!

I am very excited about a new rail trail to be available for cyclists across Missouri. Projects like this can make our state even better and a real destination.

I would greatly support the continuation of this project to add to outstanding, public recreation opportunities.

I think it would be a great resource for exercise and very nice for our communities!!!

My thoughts on the trail is that it would be great to have for bikers or others that wanted to go hike on the trail an get exercise out in the nature just not in some town on a concrete path through the park.

I am very interested it getting the trail. The proposed trail is 2 miles from My house. I look forward to having a safe place to ride my bike. I am hoping to do a lot of cycling for my health. Please get it going as soon as possible.

Can't wait to ride this new trail!

I think this is a perfect thing to do with the railroad. Love it.

Great idea! Please proceed!

Great idea! It complements the Katy. I live in eastern MO, already thinking about a road trip to ride the Rock Island. This will create/support small businesses such as restaurants, lodging and camping. Yes, and thank you!

The Katy Trail has brought life (and business opportunities) across central Missouri. The Rock Island can offer similar opportunities. I have read in studies that having a trail nearby increases the value of the land nearby. The communities along this potential trail can get a nice boost if the trail is built.

My wife and I bike various sections of the Katy trail multiple times a year. As we live in Rolla, we are looking forward to having the Rock Island Trail available to us at Freeburg. Missouri should be very proud of its parks and trail systems!

I cannot adequately express how much I want this to happen. The Katy is a jewel--people literally come from around the world to enjoy it. A cross-Katy trip rite-of-passage is part of each of my kids' and my memories. But, as good as it is, it's leaves out so many other wonderful places. The Rock Island is a logical extension. Please do it. Now. Or even sooner.

I think this is an awesome opportunity for the many small towns along the Rock Island Trail! Please continue to pursue the development of this to a hiking-biking-riding trail for those who live near and far from the trail! What a fantastic opportunity for these small towns to be revived and for the tourism for the great state of Missouri!! I look forward to using the trail myself to walk, bike, and ride my horse on both now and in the future when it is complete!

I think it would be great I know a lot of cyclists from all over the country would come ride it as well as lots of Missourians I am looking forward to riding it as soon as it is finished. I ride the Katy trail often and have ridden the entire trail. My family rides short rides on the trail and it would be great for others to have that same chance.

I'm excited for any additional cycling trail for our region. Thanks for all you folks do!

The Katy Trail provides a world class trail system that Spurs economic growth along communities on the trail and in Missouri as a whole. Providing another trail will make a complete loop and will spur economic growth throughout more towns. This also provides a wonderful way to keep citizens healthy and happy.

The more trails we have for hiking and biking, the better! Outdoor areas should be readily available for public use to improve health, reduce obesity, and provide inexpensive recreation and the experience of the natural environment.

This trail is great for the communities. Do what it takes to get it done.

Trails like the rock island project provide long term benefits for Missouri and it's citizens. I believe it to be a cost effective way to boost tourism and show off the beauty of our state

I think this is a great idea and I would actively use this trail. I'm very excited about the prospect.

Tools this opportunity would be wrong for Missouri as one of few state recognized as ' Best Trails State' by American Trails we must add this legacy to the next generation

I strongly recommend that DNR goes forward with this project. The addition of the completed Rock Island trail will make Missouri a more important destination for bicycle tourism. In addition to this 144 mile section. I'd like to see the Rock Island corridor from Beaufort, east to the Chesterfield valley added. That would add a connection to the Katy trail via the Monarch Levy trail and the Danial Boone bridge. It would be very short sighted and detrimental to Missouri's future to pass on this opportunity.

I am originally from Central Iowa, and if one needs an example of how trails spur investment and generate tourism dollars, drive up to our neighbors to the north.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the state of Missouri to acquire the Rock Island line, which when combined with the Katy Trail, will attract tourists from all over the world. This is an investment that will have a return for generations to come. The interest in cycling in Iowa can be traced back to an across-the-state bike ride that started in 1973. That ride pumps millions of dollars into the economy every year, and it is what spurred the interests in the trail up there. For Missouri to pass up on this would be a huge mistake.

It does not matter if you don't have a plan for trailheads yet. It does not matter if Pleasant Hill only has a "temporary" trailhead. Nobody rides those trails to admire a trailhead. They ride the trails to enjoy nature and to get off the busy roads. And if I'm not mistaken, that is in alignment with MO State Park's mission.

So excited for another bike trail in Missouri. This keeps people safe and brings riders to the state as a bike destination.

Do it! But in all honesty can you put the pressure on the KC end so I can be lazy an der leave KC by bike and ride to STL? Keep up the great work native cyclists want the trail for ourselves and all of the cyclists it will bring in.

The Rock Island corridor cuts through some truly wonderful countryside in the heart of Missouri. This trail is a true compliment to the Katy Trail in that each corridor has unique geography and offers an experience that can't be matched by the other.

Many of the communities along the Rock Island Trail could benefit from the tourism dollars and the corresponding economic development as entrepreneurs add new services for the trail users. This is a windfall for the State of Missouri and I encourage the Governor and the Department of Natural Resources to embrace this opportunity. It won't come around again.

Please support Interim Trail Use for this important transportation corridor which needs to be preserved.

What a fabulous resource for our state. I hear so much positive feedback from customers that ride their bikes or hike on the Katy and Rock Island Trails. I am amazed at all of the people that come from out of state to ride/hike these beautiful trails. It truly is a gem! With a trail on this magnitude people are also getting off the road and riding their bikes on these long gravel trails. Great way to provide a safe place for many.

[REDACTED] I'd like to encourage DNR to please give every consideration to accepting the corridor from Windsor to Beaufort for development of the Rock Island Trail. The huge impact the new Rock Island section of the Katy Trail has already had here in Windsor is enormous. Kim's Cabins has added two new cabins in May and already having to turn away folks even on week days. Cyclists from all over the country and the world are excited about the additional trail and talking like there is no doubt the trail will continue East. As the crossroads already, Windsor is seeing great benefit in lodging, restaurant business and small business increase. I want to see this same thing for the trail towns of the next 144 miles. The loop of the Rock Island section connecting back to the Katy Trail would put Missouri on the world map of trails!

Dear Governor Greitens,
Since the 1980's the majority of the Rock Island Rail Corridor from Beaufort to Kansas City has remained an inactive rail corridor that has become a huge eyesore for communities across the state. As a long time resident of Owensville, I can tell you that over the years many efforts have been made to re-establish rail traffic on this corridor. Time and time again, this has not happened because there simply is not enough business along this line to make it profitable. When the clay refractory plant closed here in the 1980's, regular rail service ended west of Union.

[REDACTED] They tried to use rail service, but the unreliability of service led them to ship paper by rail to St. Louis and then truck it here. No one in almost 40 years has believed this rail line would ever again be a viable and so the rails rusted and the ties rotted, and 30 year old trees grew up through the tracks.

In 1993, a statewide group led by Darwin Hindmann and Pat Jones entered into an agreement with Union Pacific to rail bank the Rock Island corridor. An investment group soon stepped in to take over and run the railroad. The Notice of Interim Trail Use (rail banking order was cancelled by the Surface Transportation Board as per the National Trails Act.. It took until 1999 for the original investment group and Ameren to acquire the line from UP. The only service that was continued was from Lackland to Union, Missouri. Coal cars are frequently stored on the track between Union and Beaufort. Towns along the corridor that had once thrived when the railroad was active continued to decline. The dilapidated tracks were a sad reminder of what once had been.

In 2015, Missouri Central Railroad, the subsidiary of Ameren Missouri decided to abandon the corridor. Ameren has offered to gift the corridor to the state of Missouri for interim trail use under the National Trails Act. It is very rare that a rail corridor of this length - 144 miles is gifted. The National Trails Act allows for interim trail use until such time that a corridor might need to be opened for rail service. Preserving a transportation corridor of this size is essential for future needs that our state may have 50 or even 100 years from now. How much will it cost taxpayers in the future to purchase a 144 mile strip of land that could carry communication and or transportation infrastructure not yet invented?

When I moved here over 40 years ago, most of our industries were locally owned. Today they have been bought out by large absentee landlord companies. We live day to day praying that another plant doesn't close and we lose more jobs. Twenty three communities exist along the 144 mile stretch of corridor. All were once thriving communities when the railroad was the major means of transportation While we all wish that we could go back to those days. we know that time is long gone.

I am asking you to please move forward in executing the NITU - Notice of Interim Trail Use with Ameren and the Surface Transportation Board. This is a win win for Missouri. With tourism the number two industry in the state, we have much to gain. The 2012 economic impact study on the Katy Trail showed an 18.1 million economic impact for the state. That study was done at a time the economy was very slowly coming off the recent recession. Today it is hard to find accommodations on the Katy Trail because they are booked so far in advance. And the new 47 miles of the Rock Island Trail is already in its first few months very successful and popular. Kansas City is poised to complete another 17 miles of trail between Pleasant Hill and Arrowhead Stadium in 2018. There are many entrepreneurs along the 144 miles yet to be developed who have already purchased property or have plans to expand businesses because the Rock Island Trail.

Trails attract visitors from all over the world. Unique features such as long, high bridges, and tunnels found on the Rock Island are even a greater enticement. The Rock Island is not a duplication of the Katy Trail. It lies in the foothills of the Ozarks and presents a very different view of our beautiful state landscape. The location of Missouri in the center of the country is a draw from all parts of the country. Unlike the Katy, the Rock Island traverses the center of 23+ communities.

Sometimes it feels like folks from urban areas think of rural residents as simple people. We may live a simple life, but we are well educated, hard working, and have a strong desire to see our communities thrive. We are not naive enough to

believe in a "Field of Dreams" -if you build it they will come. We know it will require hard work, commitment and a partnership with the State of Missouri to build and maintain this trail. We are willing and eager to take on the challenge.

Missouri Rock Island Trail, Inc., a 501(c)3, was established in 2013 to support the building of the Rock Island trail. The efforts of this organization and their willingness to work with State Parks to find funding sources and unique partnerships will perhaps alleviate some of the concerns the state may have.

Please Governor Greitens, help our communities realize new economic potential. Say yes to Ameren's very generous donation and allow State Parks to work with our communities to make this project a victory for all. I know you will make a decision that brings economic opportunity to small rural Missouri towns. Thank you!

This could be great for Missouri. Times have been changing. Even in the past 5 years, it appears as if being healthy and active is the cool thing to do. By making this project happen, we could potentially bring active tourists to Missouri and promote a healthier state for our residents. There could be state challenges, the military could get involved and do yearly ruck marches, and so much more. We yearn for a challenge. It's in our blood as Americans! The trail could simply be called the Missouri Gateway Trail!

I totally support DNR's consideration to enter into this trail use agreement with the railroad for developing the trail project. This type of recreational facility is such a benefit for so many types of activities that so many people will have access to, including walking, running, cycling, horseback riding, camping, etc. Also, this particular opportunity is so unique and rare (to develop a continuous recreational corridor that spans the entire state), that it would be wise to take advantage of it. Some of the benefits to the state, nearby communities, and users are measurable, such as economic growth and tourist draw, while others are less tangible (but equally or even more beneficial) such as physical health benefits, mental peace that comes from nature, and even spiritual benefits (providing access for people to observe nature and creation). In summary, I feel this agreement is an excellent use of DNR's leadership, and resources. Thank you for your consideration.

I think that is an amazing idea!! What a wonderful way to bring people to our beautiful communities. And to encourage people to get out and get moving!

I am a frequent user of the Katy Trail State Park, which I have bicycled & walked with my family on many occasions. I have colleagues from Georgia who traveled to Missouri to bike the trail from St. Louis to the west end, and back again. This park has been a huge boon for our state.

I am excited about the prospect of creating the new Rock Island Trail State Park, which would complement the Katy Trail and provide an even longer one-way trip. I encourage the state parks to consummate an Interim trail use agreement to move this project along!

I enjoy bicycling in the Ozarks where I reside, but also enjoy opportunities to see other areas of the beautiful landscape of my home state. Creating recreational trails, such as the Rock Island Trail, across our state is an excellent way to be stewards

of these resources as well as providing opportunities for individuals and families to exercise and create lasting memories of the Show-Me-State. I urge Governor Greitens and all those who have a part in this decision for the trail to consider the many benefits it can bring to our state and our citizens. Thank you!

The participation of DNR in the Rock Island Trail project would be of great benefit to the project and to the state of Missouri. The economic and recreational benefits of such projects have already been demonstrated by the success of the Katy Trail, and state government participation will enhance the great work already done by the private sector.

Recommend doing it and I will drive 2 hours to use it.

As a frequent KATY Trail user, I look forward to having MORIT closer and more accessible. I do a lot of work in Gasconade and Maries Counties. The economic development that will build around the trail is badly needed in these counties with slim opportunities. I have talked with several people who cannot wait for the trail to open so they can provide hospitality services in Belle, Bland and Owensville.

This trail project will be a boon to tourism .

I have taken two vacations in Missouri to ride the Katy trail and am looking forward the loop that the two trails will provide.

In addition I believe that by adding this type of attraction will make the great state of Missouri attractive to business considering moving to the state

I'm a frequent user of the Katy and Rock Island trails. I totally support the trails and the development of the Rock Island Trail.

I am very excited about the Rock Island Trail Project. I am a resident of Columbia, and have been using the KATY trail since it was first developed. But I grew up in the area in the middle of the Rock Island line, near Belle. I think this section of the state will bolster the tourism economy for the small towns located along the trail in a way that surpasses expectation, and open up views of our scenic agricultural country side to visitors in a new way. I look forward to biking from Freeburg to Belle to Bland to Owensville to Gerald, and I'm personally willing to support this project in any way that would be helpful.

I believe that the Rock Island Trail Project will be a great asset to Missouri just like the Katy Trail has been. The addition of the Rock Island Trail to Missouri's Rails-to-Trails system will potentially double the amount of time that cycling tourists will spend in Missouri. Instead of spending a week riding from Clinton (or Pleasant Hill/KC) once the Rock Island Trail is complete they can spend 2 weeks making a complete round trip from KC to St. Louis without having to backtrack on the same trail. Not only will this extend people's stay in Missouri but this is appealing to cyclists and draw more people to visit our state.

I consider myself to be a fiscal conservative and there a lot of things that I feel the government spends way too much money on. However, I feel that the development of the Rock Island

Trail is an investment in the future of Missouri and should be completed. I do agree that it should be completed responsibly. After all, it is simply a gravel trail on a relatively prepared ground. Yes, there are bridges (a couple long ones), tunnels, road crossings, etc. that need to be designed and constructed. These can be done using cost effective, fixed-price design/build companies rather than lining the pockets of multiple firms to do the same thing. Modest trail head facilities are all that is needed. If the communities where the trail head is located want something more than toilets and water spigots they can construct that themselves. The Rock Island Trail project currently has momentum with the opening of the 47 mile Pleasant Hill to Windsor section last year and the KC to Pleasant Hill section opening in 2018 and Amren clearing the 144 mile stretch. It would be a shame to loose this momentum on what is sure to be a great treasure to the state of Missouri.

I support the Rock Island Trail project because of the many good items that will result from it.

One just has to look at all the virtues of the Katy Trail and can see how this would benefit those of us on the south side of the river.

I wholeheartedly support this Trail.

Development of Rock Island Corridor into a trail is a great economic and recreational asset for Missouri!!

This is a tremendous project with benefits in health, recreation, and local and state economies. It it worthy of full support.

The addition of the Rock Island Trail, in addition to our fantastic Katy Trail, would draw even more trail riders to our state and increase the tourism dollars for our people in towns along these trails. I am excited about the potential of this project for our great state and I am willing to help if possible.

PLEASE BUILD THE TRAIL!

Twice a year a group of friends and me do a bike trip and would love to make the new Rock Island trail a tradition. Plus multiple times/year we ride out and stay in a Bed and Breakfast along the Katy Trail. We would love to have the ability to do this on the Rock Island trail.

Happy to discuss further-



I think the rock island trail will be another recreational income for the state of Missouri. The Katy Trail has proven to be internationally successful. The Rock Island Trail is even more magnificent. Free fresh air And exercise benefit all human beings.

We are very strong supporters of the RIT Project. This will help with the small town economies and allow us to have local weekend trips close to home. Our money will stay in Missouri!

YES YES YES! The Rock Island Trail is critical to our future as a small rural community. Eldon started as a railroad town in the early 1900's. The railroad effectively turned its back on us

in the late 1980's and we have felt that tremendous loss every since. The Rock Island Trail offers economic development opportunities we simply cannot create for our community in any other way. Eldon is ideally situated midway through the state and only 10 miles from the Lake of the Ozarks. The Lake region is actively seeking out ways to increase outdoor opportunities to extend length of stay and recreational opportunities available to tourists. Lake supporters have been very vocal and present at any community event we have held in support of Rock Island Trail development. We have been working for five years to achieve the end goal of a trail and we definitely see this as the future of Eldon. The Rock Island Depot in Eldon is one of only two remaining depots along the right of way. An alumni of Eldon High School has pledged a matching donation of \$150,000 to redo the depot to create a Welcome Center housing the Eldon Chamber of Commerce and a Railroad History Museum. We see tremendous historical as well as health and wellness benefits to our community and its citizens in addition to the economic development potential of the Rock Island Trail. We are passionate and willing to provide any information that is helpful in making this very important decision. Please call!

I think this is a really good idea to make use of what was there. This could provide many people with something to do and a way to do it. Definitely something I know that many of my friends and family would use.

This project can do for these communities what the KATY Trail has done for those communities along its route. In addition to the economic impact you have an increase in recreational opportunities for these undeserved communities. Let's put these towns back on the map and create opportunities for growth.

Like the KT Trail, the Rock Island is a great source of recreations. It's serves people of all levels of ability and all ages. My wife and I, along with our two dogs, has walked the entire KT and are currently working on the western portion of the RI.

Missouri is in a unique position to host an internationally valuable year round tourist attraction. I can only hope that Missouri leaders have the vision to create a trail loop, across the state and back again, through landscapes characteristic of north and south Missouri. The Rock Island and the Katy are the key components to the future world famous "Great Trail Loop of Missouri".

Missouri needs to do better as a tourist destination. Completing the Rock Island Trail corridor and connecting it to the KATY Trail would be a major attraction to bicycle tourists who tend to be older and wealthier than others. It would be a real attraction for day and multi day trips.

I feel very strongly for the development of this trail. Myself and family have traveled extensively and ridden many converted rail trails, the people that are attracted to these are family oriented interested in a safe riding place for themselves and families not once during our travels have we experienced any negative vibes or disgruntled people. I'm a life long resident to Gerald MO. and was raised less than a block from

this right of way. In Gerald like so many other Railroad Towns along this track economic hardships have fallen on our communities. With the passage of this development I'm very hopeful that it will bring renewed interest in our communities along with creating a positive economic impact. I highly urge you to take into consideration the passage of this agreement and lets not forget the healthy lifestyle options allowing our citizens the one that supported you during the past election to have a safe haven to enjoy, ride and exercise.

We love walking the Rock Island Trail and so do several of our friends and family. We would love to see the trail expanded so we can adventure in other parts of the state. We believe this is a great investment into our state and helps bring others to the great State of Missouri.

My husband and I are regular riders on the Katy Trail. We have talked with many riders from other states that come to Missouri just to ride the Katy. Several have asked us about the new Rock Island and are planning a return visit to ride the new trail. The Katy has been a great attraction for the state and we're certain the Rock Island will be to. Please continue progress on our new trail.

The Rock Island Trail Project could be a huge economic impact for the entire state of Missouri. Unlike the KATY trail, The rock island goes through the actual towns, even downtowns, of some of the rural communities most in need of a shot in the arm of their economy. Look at Hartsburg. Look at Rocheport. Think back to what they were like before the KATY. And then think about all 17 communities along the Rock Island. We owe it to our rural communities to help build up their economy.

Our small towns and the people in our small towns will greatly benefit from the Rock Island Trail. These towns are dwindling due to lack of businesses and working people moving out of the community. It seems that working people are moving to larger areas where opportunities are greater, non working people are migrating to small towns. We need a reason to boost the economy in these small towns to give hard working people a reason to stay. Our house is 1/2 mile from the MoRIT in Canaan and we have a farm 1/2 mile from the MoRIT in Gerald.

The acquisition and completion of the Rock Island Trail Is a must for Missourians now and into the future. Rails to trails brings jobs, tourism, and accessible recreation to a wide swath of citizens. Do not delay this with endless debate. Divert tax dollars to this project NOW.

Let's get the trail. I will be an asset to the state.

This addition to recreational options in Missouri would place our state among the most sought destinations for cycling in the world. Personally, I would thoroughly enjoy riding the KATY from Kansas city to the St. Louis metro area and return via the Rock Island Trail. Hopefully we, the bicycling community and MoDNR, can work together to make this into a reality. . . .

Please do this!! I am a bicyclist and it would be very helpful for people who commute via bike.

Thank you sincerely,

Get this done, Gov! I've enjoyed riding along the KATY Trail and feel this would be an amazing addition in the great state of MO. The more active a people, the healthier and happier we all are.

I think the trail will bring revenue to a lot of the small towns that are willing to participate. Added businesses like bike shops for gear, supplies and repairs will be useful and hopefully profitable. Bikers will most likely stop at store fronts located close to the trails to purchase meals and refreshments. Towns with hotels will have an opportunity to "host" or be the launch spot for many cyclists that will be use the trail.

On a personal note, the trail runs about 2 miles from my residence. I plan on using the trail as exercise and recreation once it's completed in my area. Having biked on the Katy Trail many of times in the past, I'm looking forward to the Rock Island Trail. Having a trail closer to home, I will be more likley to frequent them more often.

This section of the trail is going to open up new tourism for Missouri. People come from all over to ride on this trail and this will increase as the trail gets longer. I've ridden the entire Katy Trail numerous times and would like to ride the new addition.

More and more people ride on Missouri Rail Trails every year. Let's keep this going.

I ride the KATY trail and the addition of the Rock Island trail will not only benefit Missouri residents but increase tourism from additional users of the trail. The smaller communities that border the trail will be visited by people who would never see the areas if it were not for the trail. Riding or hiking of the trails is a fantastic way to see the beauty of the Missouri farmlands and countryside.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year. The economic impact on the surrounding communities will be immediate and long lasting.

Rail banking is the best way to preserve our established railways. Someday we may need to have a railroad again. If we give the land back to the landowners, we close the door on ever having a railroad there again. I think it would be next to impossible to establish such a railroad in the future. And with a trail in place, the installation of a new railroad would be much easier.

In the interim, a trail would be a great benefit to our local businesses, property value, quality of life, tourism, etc.

I voted for Eric Greitens and I want to keep the Rock Island.

We support the development of the Rock Island Trail. We enjoy riding the Katy Trail, but because it is about an hours drive away, we don't use it as much as we would like. The Rock Island Trail would be much closer and we would use it more often.

I think that this is a fantastic idea, and a way to turn an eyesore into an economic boost for the entire state. The tourism dollars that this will generate for our Missouri economy are immense; and the towns that it will help along the way will lead to a more prosperous Missouri for generations to come. When this trail is completed and connected with the Katy Trail, this will make the longest bike trail in the country; and perhaps the world. Cyclists from all over the world will be streaming to Missouri to ride the trail, and spend money in our small town bed and breakfasts, restaurants, and shoppes. Missouri will become a tourist Mecca, and the dollars that flow will transform our state, even attracting industry. Jobs will be added at an amazing rate, due to new industries and opportunities presented to our state by the trail. The possibilities are limitless. If the leaders of the State of Missouri have any vision at all or desire to bring an economic boon to the people of Missouri, they will do everything they can to expedite this trail and turn Missouri into the tourist destination it can be.

The Rock Island Trail would be a great addition to the Missouri State Park system and would open up another area of the state for discovery by cyclists, hikers, and cross country skiers. The KATY Trail serves as a successful model of re-deployment of an obsolete asset, in a way that enhances outdoor life and the economic growth of the small towns along the former rail line. Trails also provide areas that are separate from highway traffic and are safe for use by families with children. A trail provides a continuous strip of land that can be used by all, rather than the granting of small separate easements to individual land owners which are of limited value as separate parcels. The KATY Trail is already drawing cyclists to the state in significant numbers. The addition of the Rock Island would provide a loop around the state, increasing attractiveness and providing unique cycling adventures.

Great addition to our community.

Dear Governer, I encourage you to support this very rare opportunity. From giving children a safe opportunity to walk/bike to school to providing everyone a safe corridor for exercercise to growth through tourism, I see no negatives. I would love to invite you to grab your mountain bike and join me at anytime for a ride,(as long as you like), on any stretch of this potential trail. Thanks in advance for your support!

My friend and I are so excited about the RIT. We've done the 47 and hoping to get to do the rest when it's done. We've done the whole katy trail. We Deffinitely want to support The Rock Island Trail.

I think this is an excellent project and would love to see DNR take it on. My family and I vacation around the country and a strong trail system is certainly one of the factors that go into choosing a destination. I'd love to see Missouri become a standout in this area similar to Arkansas.

We fully support the rock island trail project. We enjoy biking the trails. As senior adults trails are a safe, off road exercise. We are excited to see the economic impact for Eldon as our community reconnects with its railroad heritage?

This is a great opportunity to expand our historic asset base as well as our recreational opportunities to Missourians as well as visitors.

We would love for this to all come together and for the entire trail to be completed. We live in Colorado but look forward to doing a long bike trip to include the Rock Island Trail and the Katy Trail.

I am a frequent user of the KATY Trail and am excited about the creation of the Rock Island Trail. Over the Memorial Day weekend we traveled (from St Louis) to Windsor, MO to ride the first section of the Rock Island Trail. We spent two nights in Windsor at Kim's Cabin and dined at a few of the local cafes. Over the past 20 years I have ridden the entire length of the KATY and sections of it several times always utilizing local services along the trail. Cycling is my main form of recreation and I travel to several adjacent states to ride. Having an additional trail in MO would be of great value to all of us who believe in being physically active (I am 65 y.o.). I strongly encourage you to continue funding this project. Thank you for your time and efforts.

This is very exciting. This will be a major item for bike tourism and for local residents in the vicinity of the trails. I live near the Katy trail and frequently bike on the trail. Having a potential loop trail in the State is an asset that virtually no other State can compare. I have also noticed over the last few years that use of the trail seems to grow every year.

I think that the Rock Island Trail would be a tremendous asset to the state of Missouri. I've witnessed the popularity of the Katy Trail and have met many visitors from out of state that boost the local economies of the cities along the trail, and know they're left with a positive impression of Missouri from their experience. Because of its location the Rock Island would offer spectacular scenery to trail users. This is an opportunity that can't be ignored, please make this happen for current and future citizens of Missouri!

We can't wait for the Rock Island Trail to be further developed. We are planning a trip to go and ride our bicycles on the first 47 miles in the Fall of 2017. We will be back out to ride the section Kansas City is working on as soon as that happens also. We have friends we have met thru bicycling that have ridden across the US that used the KATY to cross Missouri that want to come back to ride the Rock Island Trail as soon as Missouri gets more of the Trail developed.

I'm sure the Rock Island RR had a huge impact on the cities along the railway route back at the beginning of the century. No doubt the Rock Island Trail will have a greater impact on these cities especially the City of Belle. It will certainly revitalize cities trying to keep above water in these economically challenging times.

The Missouri Rock Island Trail will be personal for me if it is completed. I grew up feet from the soon-to-be trail in Eterville, MO, went to High School in the soon-to-be impacted community of Eldon, live less than a mile from the soon-to-be corridor on which I will regularly bike, and my

father was a Conductor for the soon-to-be immortalized Rock Island Railroad. For the state of Missouri to be able to contribute, in any capacity, to a lasting legacy for an area that has long been a part of my life would be a fantastic honor.

As a resident of the community of Stover, I support the trail efforts and hope to see it come to fruition. I'm a member of the Stover Lion Club, the Chamber of Commerce, and a small business owner. For all these roles I foresee a direct positive economic benefit. In terms of return on investment, this seems to be a unique opportunity help revitalize the small towns in mid-Missouri, and in conjunction with the Katy Trail, create a renowned tourist attraction for the entire state. It is difficult to think of another project that would benefit as many groups and people within the state, where invested dollar could have a multiplicative effect for both business and charitable organizations with the increased exposure. My wife and I enjoy walking for exercise nearly every day, but our small town can't afford to put in or maintain sidewalks, leaving the streets as the only option. Having a trail would be more than a breathe of fresh air, it would mean a safer, automobile-free alternative for us and our future family. We've lived in Kansas City and St. Louis and witnessed firsthand the trend of healthy living: exercise, farmers markets, urban trails. Imagine the impact it could have as people seek out new ways to experience all these things firsthand- from the trail as they work their way through the communities, farmland, hills, and timbers of central Missouri!

It should be a operating railroad.

This sounds like an outstanding opportunity!

The towns through which the trail runs really need the economic boost. It would also provide us locals with the opportunity for outdoor activities. We badly need this trail! It would be a terrible waste of this asset not to use it.

Yes! Please enter the agreement and make this trail happen. I am especially hopeful that the greenwood to pleasant hill portion will also be completed asap.

These types of trails make MO a great place to live!

The proposed Rock Island Trail Project benefits outdoor enthusiasts, especially bicyclists, promotes Missouri tourism, and would bring economic opportunity to small communities along the trail. I have met international and cross-country cyclists on the Katy Trail and I feel sure the Rock Island Trail will attract even more attention and money to Missouri as a cycling destination. Cycling Katy then Rock Island is first on my list of things to do when I move back to Missouri for retirement in 2021. Let's do it, Missouri! We have the best state parks and this makes a good thing even better.

The state should proceed with such an agreement, but hold rights until a benefactor and/or matching funds can be found, similar to the development of the Katy trail. The taxpayers should not have to bear the entire burden of trail development. What AmerenUE's contribution? Was the land deeded to the state in a settlement of the Tom Sauk incident?

I love the trail! I think it has economic and community development benefits as well as health benefits from encouraging locals to participate in outdoor activities.

I strongly support building the Rock Island Trail. We have ridden the Katy Trail many time, always staying in Bed and Breakfast hotels and eating in the local restaurants along the way. I think that Missouri is very lucky to have the Katy Trail and adding the Rock Island Trail will definitely make Missouri unique.

To Our Department of Natural Resources,
I sincerely support the DNR's acquisition and development of the Rock Island corridor as the complete Rock Island Trail. By preserving this continuous right of way across our state, we secure this infrastructure's opportunities and potentials into the future, when additional uses may be viable to the state's success. In the meantime, we can convert this asset into something both the general public and private businesses can profit from. While the corridor can't currently support rail service, it can continue to serve Missourians by becoming an attractive agri-tourist destination, offering communities greater economic opportunity for their small businesses, entrepreneurs and innovators. Missouri's state park system is ranked among the best in the nation, and the Katy Trail is among its most popular and successful undertakings. Building on the Katy's proof of concept, the Rock Island Trail will join and grow this successful model, while preserving an asset valuable to our state and vital to our communities. This new trail network would complete the largest rail-trail system in the world, increasingly positioning Missouri as a unique and attractive global destination for businesses and talent. Missourian's overwhelming support in renewing the parks and soils sales tax shows our broad support and strong commitment to our parks system, and a definitive investment in its mission. I sincerely hope the DNR will continue its mission to preserve and interpret the state's natural landscapes and cultural landmarks by recognizing the significances of the Rock Island Trail and its numerous features, in service to our state's proud history and bright future.

Thank you for your outreach,

This will be an amazing opportunity for our state! Not only will it out MO on the map as a world-class destination for cycle tourism it will also bring jobs and healthy recreation opportunities to the many towns the Rock Island corridor passes through! Please take advantage of this amazing opportunity which will benefit the state for many years to come!

The Barnett area community supports the State doing everything in its power to help the Rock Island Trail Project succeed. This could bring so many opportunities to our small town, which makes it an exciting time for us. The rural communities hardly ever receive something of this level of stature.

Governor,
I'm a long time St.Louis resident and an avid cyclist I would ask you to whole heartedly support the construction of the Rock Island Trail. I also realize there is only so much money

to go around any one year. But I ask that you look at this project as an investment in the State, Counties, and local Communities that will benefit economically from this trail. When you consider the Katy Trail's economic impact was determined to be \$18.6 MILLION back in 2013 and has continued to grow since then, and it cost \$6 Million to build, it would seem to be a no brainer to invest in the Rock Island Trail. Many other economic studies has been done in other states as well as on the National and International level proving with out a shadow of a doubt that trails and outdoor recreation that grows out from them create a huge impact on the economies and the health and well being of its citizens. I personally have ridden the Katy Trail from end to end in Oct 2012 and ride it regularly from the Page Extension. I know with out a doubt completing the Rock Island Trail loop with the Katy Trail would be a boom for tourism in Missouri. Why? Because no other state will have anything like it. Michigan's Iron Belle Trail will be close but its not a loop. Missouri will be unique. I humbly ask that you please make this trail project a high priority.

Thank you

See links to economic studies below.

<https://www.adventurecycling.org/bicycle-tourism/building-bike-tourism/economic-impact/>
<http://mobikefed.org/2013/03/katy-trail-186-million-annual-economic-impact-according-new-missouri-state-parks-study>

I am a 70 year old Boeing Company retiree who has been involved with this project since the beginning. I hope you will see the benefit, not only financially, but also recreationally that this trail will be to this region. I currently have to drive to the Hermann or Washington area to access the Katy Trail and will continue to do so, but having a trail closer to home would be so convenient for alternant trips. Because of my age, I hope you decide to support this project soon as I want to ride with my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren on this wonderful new trail. Long after I am gone, this trail will be a source of enjoyment and pride for everyone, thanks to Missourians like you.

The ex Rock Island line should be rail banked to preserve the history of the line and possible re activation if need be due to business along the right of way desiring rail service. Losing this line forever would be irresponsible on the DNR's part.

I am in total support of this. Although I would prefer trains running, the trail rail banking is the only way to ensure that the continuous right of way stay in tact. The settling of America and acquiring right of way was easy and today is impossible. We owe our founding fathers the respect for the hard work they put into creating a rail corridor. It is our obligation to preserve this for our unknown uses for future generations.

I believe that this is an important project that will enhance Missouri's trail system. This will provide increased tourism dollars and enhance economic opportunities for the small towns along the trail just as the KATY trail has done. Two years ago I biked the entire Santa Fe Trail from Santa Fe NM to New Franklin MO. On the last day of the ride from Arrow Rock to New Franklin we had an option to ride a portion of the KATY Trail and I chose that option bringing

along some riders from Utah and Arkansas. They were amazed by the KATY and raved about how lucky we were to have such a great resource and vowed to return and ride the entire trail. It made me very proud of what my state has done. I hope that Governor Greitens will approve the development of the MORIT.

Please enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement with the Missouri Central Railroad. It's a good deal for everyone.

I'm visually impaired but ride a tandem bike with my wife. We live in Lake Ozark and occasionally drive to Jeff City to access the KATY trail but are looking forward to being able to access the Rock Island Trail much closer in Eldon. Anything that might speed this action would be greatly appreciated.

I think development of Rock Island Trail Project is a good thing and will bring more income to Missouri via B&B's, Restaurants, small bike shops, etc. Look what it has done for small towns like Rocheport and others along the MKT trail. Plus it gives us (the people of Missouri) another avenue to explore our state and to get out and exercise and get health. All Wins in my book!
The time is now!

Your Honor

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail. Additionally, I hope you support entering into an interim Trail Use Agreement with the Missouri Central Railroad.

The Rock Island Trail will be a great benefit to a lot of rural Missouri towns unlike the Katy trail the Rock Island will pass through 23 small towns and promote small businesses either as a new business or to expand an existing business. That will bring in sales tax to the state and local economy. The trail will be used by local people as well as from out state, out of state and from other countries.

Hoping you will enter into the Interim agreement and get the trail project going and completed.

It needs to be done! This will be a wonderful trail and I can't wait to ride on it.

I am completely in favor of this agreement. Our state has benefiting enormously from tourism and other positive benefits since the MKT trail has been established. More trails to travel will draw more Missourians out, benefiting communities along the trail as well as people from out of state and country. I am on the MKT at least once a month, and I meet people from all over the world who have made that trail their destination and vacation. Bring on the trails!

I love the Katy Trail. It's one of the best features of mid-Missouri. I've met tourist from other states and Europe on the trail who came specifically to bike across our state. I've seen businesses in the middle of nowhere that exist solely because of customers on the trail.

I fully support the Rock Island Trail because it can duplicate these benefits. It will bring new business to the nearby small

towns. It will provide an opportunity to exercise and improve Missourians' health. Once built, it has to be one of the cheapest state attractions to maintain.

This should be a no-brainer. Although current infrastructure demands do not suggest future need of the right of way for railroad purposes, rail-banking the right of way preserves that potential. More importantly, the existing KATY Trail State Park has provided both recreational benefits and positive tourism dollars for the nearby communities and to the State. The Missouri Central right of way, especially in the east central portion of the State, with its tunnels and bridges should be anticipated to similarly bring dramatic tourism revenue and job creation to that portion of the State.

Currently, the KATY trail is a great place for individuals, friends, families, groups and organizations to experience peaceful recreation, comradery and fitness. I have been on the KATY and met people from all over the country that have come to Missouri exclusively to ride the trail. I believe the RIT would be a great addition to our trail systems.

I know my community is behind this project and am glad to see that some of the next steps are being considered that will help us move forward with this project which can make our communities healthier in many different ways.

Let's do it! As a daily bicycle commuter who uses the Katy and MKT rails-to-trails routes to get to work, these projects provide many benefits including more reliance on transportation modes that do not pollute, that provide exercise, and that allow for appreciation of our natural resources.

The MORIT is an all embracing project I feel will draw business to local communities which intime will provide jobs for those who use the Trail for vacations and commuting opportunities. The overall affect will open missouri as the leader in a Trail network

I think it is important to maintain these former railroad right-of-way lines, not just for the preservation and nostalgia that they bring, but for development of small businesses which they can spur along the route. This Rock Island trail will work as well in conjunction with the Katy Trail, which has proven to be a success and a draw for tourists from all over the country.

I have about 10 long time friends who reside from St. Charles MO to Lawrence KS. We are avid bike riders and we regularly meet to ride some segment of the Katy Trail. When we do, we stay in motels and visit restaurants along the trail or in nearby towns. We see other bike riders from both Missouri and from all over the US enjoying the trail It is obvious that the Katy has been an economic boasts to some of these small towns. When we repeat some segment we usually notice a new business that wasn't there the last time we visited. I have to think that the Rock Island Trail would also give some of the towns around it some of the same economic help. And personally, it would give me and my friends some new countryside to explore.

I live in Blue Springs, MO, and my parents live in Pleasant Hill, MO. I just want to say how incredible it has been to have the MORIT as a part of our community. It is great to have a safe place to walk, run, and ride a bike near us. Especially in Pleasant Hill, there are limited options for safe biking and exercise. My father and mother (upper 50s in age) have both picked up bike riding since the trail opened near them in Pleasant Hill. My dad is a farmer and spends part of his lunch break taking a ride on the trail. They never would have started biking if the trail wasn't there. It has helped them become more active and created a beautiful place for them to enjoy the Missouri countryside.

I think the trail is a huge asset to Missouri for the health of our citizens and economic opportunities that will be created by tourism and travel to one of the longest rails-to-trail projects in our country.

I think it will be an awesome addition to the trail system. Concerned we are going to miss our railroads someday, soon!

This would be a wonderful trail! It is just what Missouri needs. I fully support this project and am reaching out to others to do the same

A group of us recently stayed in Windsor, MO and rode the open portion of the Rock Island trail. We spent time and money in Windsor on both cabin rental and dinner in town. The potential for a continuous trail that links to the KATY trail in two locations will be very attractive for cyclists from Missouri and other states and countries. This is a great resource that we should not pass up. I am in favor of the Interim Trail use agreement.

I am very excited about the possibilities and opportunities this project will provide for those of us in this area. I strongly support the continued work and development needed to complete this project.

Would love to see the old rail service restored.

I have been riding a bike in Missouri for 59 years. After retiring 13 years ago, I have been riding 3 times a week or more. What I have noticed is that the number of Missouri residents riding bicycles continues to increase every year. More families and young persons are riding these days than before. I live only 3 miles from the Katy Trail. My wife and I frequently ride it. We support the 144 mile recreational trail from Windsor, MO to Beauford, MO and look forward to riding on it. Due to the popularity of cycling, more trails are really needed.

Jackson County needs to retain the Railroad as intact as possible for a future Light Rail right of way. This was a big point brought out in 2013 as then County Exec. Mike Sanders brought forth in agreement with Union Pacific. Pleasant Hill to Sheffield Jct. should be held for this usage. The rest of the line from P. Hill to Beauford should be railbanked.

I see this project as a wonderful addition to the communities along this 144.3 mile stretch of property. I am amazed at the economic development that has already begun in Windsor. I would love to have this addition

in my own little community. Missouri has many beautiful areas and this would provide another part of our state for visitors to enjoy. Instead of having unsightly property left by the railroad they could have a lovely trail for everyone to enjoy. I look forward to hearing more about this project and hope you will consider entering into the agreement. Best wishes.

I strongly support development of this trail project. I routinely use the trail for recreation and always meet people riding the trail from other states and countries. I have been very surprised the the trails have become such a "destination" for a vacation. I also ride the paved roads but it seems to become increasingly dangerous so the trails are a great alternative. Cycling is a way to remain physically active into your senior years. I am 69 and hope to be able to ride into my 80's.

I strongly support development of the Rock Island Trail. I believe it will have a huge economic impact for the region.

I think that the former Rock Island line across Missouri should be rail-banked and saved for the future, should it's use ever again be needed. Railroad rights-of-way all over the country have been torn up and lost forever, and this should not happen to the Rock. We need to think of the future. In the interim it should serve as a trail. This does not mean that the existing part of the route that is still serving as a railroad should be disassembled and turned into a trail, although building a trail along side of it would be a good option, so the trail would reach all the way across the state from KC to StL.

We don't need to lose this valuable asset. We need to think (plan!) for the future.

Thank you.

If you need an example of the positive impact for all of Missouri's image look no further than the KATY TRAIL....world class reputation for excellence....world class delivery by Mo Parks/DNR....Meaningful revenue for dozens of small businesses along the KATY....

All that can happen again when MO PARKS takes over management of the proposed new ROCK ISLAND TRAIL....Missouri will once again be in the spotlight of media attention....the best kind of attention....and again, just like KATY, SMALL BUSINESSES CAN FLOURISH along the Trail.

DNR doing what it does best for what continues to make Missouri Best.

I fully support development of the Rock Island Trail! The trail will nicely complement the Katy Trail, and provide further healthy recreational opportunity for our citizens. In addition, many people will come to Missouri to utilize and enjoy this lengthy trail system thereby providing positive impact to our local economies.

Great idea for the economy of the small towns that the trail runs through.... especially owensville, mo. Small town America could use a boost these days!!

This route goes through some of the most beautiful parts of Missouri !

I would like for this corridor to be preserved for rail use. However, the demand for its services as a rail line did not materialize.

I think the DNR should do all in its power to preserve this wonderful asset for all the citizens of Missouri and its visitors. I think it would be a great tourist attraction for Missouri.

I am thinking about opening a shop in Eldon, with 5 employees, and the pay of \$30000 a year. From an economic stand point, the Rock Island Trail would help my shop by bringing Customers and business.

This right-of-way, in addition to providing a St Louis to Kansas City link, provides the most practical route to the Lake of the Ozarks from both cities. It must be preserved for future use.

This trail will bring renewed opportunities for tourism and recreation to many communities previously devastated by loss of manufacturing jobs in the 2000's.

As a former resident of Eldon and a state-wide bicycling enthusiast I would love to ride this trail.

DNR should absolutely enter into this agreement. The Missouri trail system, including the KATY and now the Rock Island are crown jewels of the state recreational system, attracting users from all over the state and the country. Developing this trail further comes at minimal expense, furthers the wellness of Missourians, and potentially pumps millions of dollars into local economies along the trail. A cost-benefit analysis has to show this to be a no brainer.

This would be absolutely wonderful for the communities if DNR WOULD become the trail manager. If this trail exist it could potentially have a greater impact than even the Katy Trail because of its topographical attractions (bridges, tunnels, curves), its placement going RIGHT THROUGH dozens of small towns, and one of my personal favorites....it will allow MANY children to ride to school safely! Just in a 35 mile section of the trail there are 4 schools, one as large as 1,600 students, that could use the trail. Currently the 1,600 student school, prohibits school students to ride or walk to school because of unsafe road conditions. Every student MUST be motorized in. However, the trail borders the whole school campus AND goes under the highways that impede any sort of traffic. It would be a dream to see students freely bicycle or hike home!!! This is repeated down the track! Please consider the economic value to these once railroad towns and the benefits to our children!

It would be fantastic to have the Rock Island trail project to move forward.

The Rock Island Trail will be a tremendous asset for the many communities it passes through and the entire state. As an outdoor enthusiast I have no doubt that the trail will introduce countless citizens of all ages to the joys of cycling and walking for pleasure. I am certain this trail will positively impact the physical health of Missourians and the financial health of the communities it touches. I implore you to keep this project alive. Even if it takes 20 years to complete it will

affect many future generations to come. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

I believe the Rock Island Trail Project will be a great asset to the state of Missouri.

This is a fantastic opportunity that will bring jobs and economic development to many communities along the trail. Not to mention an increase in the general quality of life for residence there. I was originally from one of those communities and would gladly return frequently to partake in the recreational opportunities that this trail will offer.

AWESOME! I have enjoyed The Katy Trail since my first trail ride in 2008. Love this trail. I would be very happy to see the Rock Island Trail to come into fruition. I vote "YES"

We recently biked the Rock Island Trail spur and found it to be a wonderful experience.

The trail is well maintained and the views were outstanding. It is a marvelous addition to Missouri's Katy Trail. Please continue to support this project.

I fully support the Rock Island Trail Project. This rails to trails project will provide an economic boost to Central Missouri towns, including Meta, Argyle, and Freeburg, from where my family hails. Quality of life will dramatically improve for local residents as their recreational opportunities increase.

I look forward to traveling from my home in Kansas City to explore the Rock Island Trail. Please support DNR as it considers entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad.

This is a tremendous once in a life time opportunity for the people of Missouri. Multi-use trails like the Rock Island are gaining in popularity all over the United States. I have already seen a lot of interest in this trail. Too miss out on this opportunity would be a shame.

Yes! Yes! and more YES! I frequently drive from Illinois and spend lots of money in Missouri to enjoy the great trail system the KATY provides, and I've seen first hand the great economic impact it has had on the many small towns along the route. Towns that were dying a slow death are now bustling with activity, bed and breakfasts, restaurants, wineries, pubs, shops and stores, all catering to the riders on the trail. Let's see, biking is low impact, environmentally friendly, extremely healthy, excellent for local economies, and fun. Hmmm. What's the debate again? Bike trails make sense! (And dollars!)

I have enjoyed riding on the Katy Trail many times, both locally near St. Louis and all the way across. I am hoping to ride the 47 miles of the Rock Island Trail from Windsor to Pleasant Hill sometime this year.. But I am most excited for the completion of the entire Rock Island project!!! Missouri is already nationally famous for its rail-trails, and this will be a fantastic addition. What a benefit for local towns! Just this April, I was in Boonville and talked to an older couple from Milwaukee who were spending 5 days on the Katy. There are

so many people like them, both from Missouri and elsewhere. We have to get going on the Rock Island Line as soon as possible!

This is a brilliant possibility. Missourians would benefit from this trail system in many, many ways. It is clear that this system will bring additional income to the many communities along the route. The additional tourism income will come from across the state, from around the country, and indeed, from around the world. This trail system would truly be something that all Missourians would enjoy. Please do not pass up this historic opportunity. If all Missourians realized the ramifications of the Rock Island Trail Project, I am convinced that 100% of the people would enthusiastically support its development.

This would be a good thing for communities and having tourists from out of state coming to this trail.

Dear Gov,

Missouri needs the Rock Island rail-banked and converted to a trail for the following reasons.

1. Positive economic benefit to all communities on or near the trail.
2. A positive "quality of life" adder for all Missourians.
3. A rail-banked resource that can be converted back to rail if need be, for future generations economic value.

I fully appreciate your best efforts to achieve the above by your supporting the trail.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

I am eagerly awaiting completion of the Rock Island trail. Not only will it spur economic development in many rural communities, but it will also provide a safe recreational area for rural residents who desperately need to exercise.

I think the quicker the Rock Island Trail is opened the better; it will have a positive economic impact and increase tourism for our State. I have personally made financial contributions to this project, just as I have done with the Katy Trail. These are great assets for our state.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources cannot manage [REDACTED] without making you know what kind of mess. If you want to abuse citizens rest assured they are doing it for you. If they were not so inept and lazy they would do far more damage.

I would LOVE to see the trail be Equine Accessible in all areas! I love riding the in Windsor and would love to see more of the trail open for horses. Specially in the Versailles/Eldon/Eugene areas

This would be a wonderful addition to recreational opportunities while also creating business and economic growth opportunities.

Great idea

I grew up in Owensville, MO. When I was a child, the railroad moved clay out of Owensville to be processed. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] My mother is 86 years old and she believes the trail will bring commerce and new life to her little town. News about the Rock Island Trail is in their newspaper (Gasconade Republican) almost every week. What a positive message the state of Missouri sent to these little towns along the railroad when the trail work began. They see renewal in a changing transportation system - from trains to bikes! I heartily support the Rock Island Trail Project!

I cannot wait for this trail to open. I live in St. Louis, have family in small towns along the route, and love to bike! I've seen the huge health and happiness benefits cycling has had on our home, I've seen the huge economic impact riders can have on small towns, and I'm looking forward to helping support the places I grew up.

June 20, 2017

Dear Official - Missouri DNR:

I am writing in regards to your department's plans to convert the Rock Island Railroad corridor from Beaufort west to Kansas City into a recreational trail. I personally do not feel that the taxpayers of this state should carry the burden of constructing and maintaining another rail-trail which roughly parallels hundreds of miles of the Katy Trail across the state. The Rock Island corridor differs from the Katy in that it runs through an area rich in Missouri resources including mines for clay and other minerals, Missouri Farmers Association agricultural centers / grain elevators, Kingsford Charcoal's plant, a pet food plant, and many, many more. After the Rock Island shut the line down following its bankruptcy in 1980, thousands of trucks were forced onto Missouri highways to continue moving these commodities, costing the taxpayers dearly in maintenance not to mention the added congestion on Missouri roads. Farmers located all along the Rock Island are now forced to bear significantly higher costs to truck their crops a greater distance to elevators served by active rail, causing financial hardship on these hard-working Missourians. When Ameren sought to abandon the line following a deal to repay the state under Gov. Nixon's administration to use it to build a trail as ransom for the Tom Sauk Reservoir collapse, the Missouri Farmers Association (MFA) was staunchly opposed to the line's removal. Although the old, worn out track material has been scrapped from Beaufort west to Kansas City, a clean right-of-way now exists and would be the prime opportunity for Missouri to provide an economic shot-in-the-arm to the economy of central Missouri by re-laying 90 miles of track from Eldon east to connect to the active rail at Beaufort. West of Eldon, the state could and should retain ownership by "rail banking" the corridor as a resource for possible future industrial / economic development. In the interim, I feel that ONLY this segment west of Eldon should be considered for conversion to a recreational trail, and only then should funding come from non-profit organizations like Great Rivers Greenway. The rest of the right-of-way from Eldon east to where active rail begins again at Beaufort should be converted, using state and federal funds, back to an active railroad.

Because railroads move massive amounts of goods at a fraction of the cost of trucks, not only would re-laying the track remove thousands of semi trucks from state highways, it would provide a catalyst and incentive for economic growth in the mining, manufacturing, and agricultural sectors of the state

and especially bring new optimism and commerce to the town's economies located on the line. The average cost to build a rail line averages \$1 million per mile, but given the availability of a clean and existing right-of-way, this could most likely be accomplished for less. While there are still bridges and tunnels in need of significant maintenance after 40 years of neglect, federal grant money is readily available to accommodate these.

As Missouri's economy continues to grow under Gov. Greitens exceptional leadership, I am confident such an undertaking would put our state's economy in a much better position to compete, as other states like Pennsylvania, Maine, Ohio, and others are breathing new life into long-neglected railways.

I sincerely appreciate your time, and look forward to hearing your insight regarding this matter.

Sincerely,
Scott A. Nauert
Clayton, MO

I feel including the Rock Island Trail as part of the Missouri State Park system would provide a unique destination for cycling and hiking enthusiasts and set Missouri apart from other states in their support of getting people out to enjoy the out of doors. I also feel the trail would provide great opportunity for all of the small towns along the way to highlight the benefits and features of small town Missouri.

The Rock Island Trail would be a great complement to the Katy Trail. With it in place, there would be a circuit rather than an out and back route, and more options when choosing how to cross the state.

Many people are excited to use the new trail, and several have already been on it as far as they could, over on the Windsor side. All of them booked hotels and cabins, and ate at restaurants. Us cyclists ride about 40-70 miles, then we start looking to stop find a place to sleep. That's good for the economy.

Others I have been talked to from Kansas, Iowa, and Oklahoma are also talking about our new trail. It just seems like all good from here- good recreation, good revenue, and good neighbors. Let's git'r done!

Get it. Make it a trail. It would be a great addition to the Missouri trail system.

The proposed trail will provide health and recreation benefits for citizens using it, will give dozens of towns along the route a new way to tap into civic pride and showcase themselves, and will give the state of Missouri hundreds of thousands of tourist tax dollars every year. It's a no-brainer -invest in the trail once and get at least that much back in multiple benefits every year! How soon can the trail be developed?

This would be a great addition to our current Rails to Trails bicycle paths. It would provide more safe bicycling opportunities in Missouri. I ride the Katy Trail every chance I get and love the ability to do long distances on the trail.

Fully support this initiative

I am absolutely in favor of the Dept. taking on this project! Allowing those who live in the area to access a trail like this would be important to local commerce, but also would encourage outdoor activity that is critical to physical and mental health! It would also broaden the network of trails available to those of us lucky enough to utilize the KATY -- PLEASE PROCEED!!!

Creating these paths promote healthy living and gets people opportunities to use other venues to either exercise or commute. As a cyclist it allows me to not endanger myself by riding on roads. I have been to other states that promote these paths and it seems to me that it also helps the surrounding economy's when people use these trails to trek and camp.

Will be great for Missouri tourism and small business. Very cool for families.

I support the Rock Island Trail Project. It will be a great addition to the recreation venues in our state. It will encourage more physical activities and be an attraction to out of state bike riders.

Any new trails that will get people out and moving is a great thing...more trails please!

The right of way should be maintained for future infrastructure and development. Keeping it as a trail is a great use to maintain the right of way. Returning rail service to the area would be very beneficial.

If this were to be returned to an active railroad shortline it would be an economic boost for the local economy and help transport industrial and agricultural material for efficiently for less cost and less pollution.

This could easily be developed into a side by side railroad/trail situation.

More alternate travel options are always a good thing!

I don't know much about this area, but I'm all for more Missouri trails.

I think it should be used as a tourist railroad with dinner train or a commuter line from Downtown St Louis to Union. The Museum of Transportation could use the line for sightseeing trains. cost the line to Kansas City for Amtrak service and use it as a route to the Lake of the Ozarks.

I live in Kansas City.

The Katy trail is a true gem of Missouri. While on the Katy, I have met people from all over the US who have traveled long distances to experience it. One problem with the Katy is that it's western terminus is not convenient to KC. The Rock Island trail solves some of that problem. Having the Rock Island continue on to STL (with a ride-able surface) would be fantastic, especially if the Eastern terminus is convenient to residents of St Louis County.

Every town along the Katy has embraced it, welcoming travelers, starting small businesses, etc. Riding the Katy is a charming experience and advertises to everyone the Midwestern friendliness of rural Missouri. I'm sure the Rock Island trail would do the same and be equally as charming.

Two reasons to develop the Rock Island Trail:

1. Extending the trail into a more populated area provides further opportunities for physical fitness activities where population density and traffic are barriers.
2. I know cyclists who come to Missouri just to ride the Katy Trail. The Rock Island extension makes it more attractive and more convenient to cycling tourists.

I so happy to see that the trail is coming

This is a great idea for tourism. Please do it.

This is awesome. I'd love the opportunity to ride more across the state. Katy Trail has been a great resource to discover new towns and enjoy nature. Another option would be great - I'd use it!

I feel the trail is a great idea. It would provide great recreational use along with helping area businesses in rural areas with additional people coming through. I suggest allowing volunteers to aid in the trail. I know in Owensville, MO alone many people would volunteer and the trail could be done for very minimal. This would allow the state to save money and give the people what they want!

From an economic perspective, this should be a no-brainer. Linking Rock Island and Katy would create a destination trail that would be unparalleled in the US and most of the world. Already on the Katy, I have met people from Germany, Austria, Australia, Canada and Japan (and that is just me and our once-a-year whole-Katy ride). If there was a loop, the draw would be tremendous. Why? Because as humans, we want to explore something new. An out-and-back ride/hike does not have the appeal that a loop does.

We live in Illinois and my family spends about \$2,500 to \$3,000 a year for our annual Katy ride. If the loop was available, we'd push ourselves to do it, and Missouri businesses would likely get an extra \$2,000 of our money. Each year, we vote on this or a trip to Florida, Colorado, etc. Katy wins every time.

I can't wait until it's done! I live in Versailles and many are very excited about the project. I hope that local organizations and municipalities can all work together for their vision of the trail in their communities. I hope partnerships such as those will make the project come to fruition sooner.

The towns along the old Rock Island line would be re-invigorated by the trail project. Tourism is Missouri's second largest industry and this is an opportunity to give the state a world-wide reach. An influx of trail enthusiasts would provide a boost for the economies of the towns and the state both of which could use it. One need only look at the huge success of the Katy Trail and the old rail towns along it to know this is a fact. It will be hard to explain to the people along the Rock Island counting on an economic rally why state government doesn't care about them, their families and communities.

No other project will yield as many long term benefits to such a large number of people for so long a period of time
JUST DO IT!!!

This is an exciting opportunity decades in the making. Adding these miles will further enhance Missouri as a trails destination internationally and provide new economic development opportunities in places with limited potential for growth otherwise. Please move ahead. Thank you.

Absolutely! It will boost the economy of many rural Missouri communities.

DO IT!

As a member of the Missouri Bicycle and Pedestrian Federation, I am supporting the effort for the Missouri DNR to continue in the development and acquisition of the Rock Island Railroad abandoned line for pedestrian and bicycle trail use. Missouri is quickly becoming a vacation spot for use of the many trails we enjoy and this addition would be huge to attract even more to our beautiful state.

I will say trail, at the least. If railroad service can be restored along the route, that'd be great. In that case I'd suggest the idea of rail-with-trail. I think it's important to seek all possible railroad opportunities and potential railroad customers before making the corridor just a trail. However, if there are no opportunities to restore rail service, then having a trail will at least help maintain the corridor.

This would be awesome! Please build this trail.

This would be a wonderful trail! My parents grew up near the area and I have many relatives there. Would be great for local use and tourism.

Dear Governor Greitens :

The Rock Island Trail is a vital Economic Development project for our area and has the potential to revitalize our small town. Due to the Lake Area and Internet sales we have barely kept pace with the financial requirements to run our city. We have looked for industry and tried to get more employers and have not had much luck. The Trail will help our downtown area with jobs and revenue. I have been involved with this project over the last five years. Since we are so close to the Lake of the Ozarks this could be a tremendous boost, not only to our economy but also the other small towns along the Trail. We already have individuals willing to donate money and labor to build the Trail once it is turned over to DNR and ownership is established. Eldon owns part of the old Depot now, but the other half is still owned by Ameren and they will not give us ownership till the Trail is turned over to DNR. The local building and trades class has volunteered to supply the labor to re-do the building as a commercial learning experience and a contribution to the community. We have a donor willing to donate up to \$150,000 toward the project but we can not proceed until the property has been turned over. We realize that we will have to raise a large sum of money and a substantial amount of volunteer labor to make the Trail a reality, but we are willing to do that. The Trail will ultimately be a tremendous financial asset to the State of Missouri not a liability by increasing Tourism and becoming the longest Trail in the nation when it is connected to the Katy Trail. This

would make it a good Economic investment, therefore we need your support. Thank you

It would be more beneficial for the Missouri taxpayers if their money wasn't wasted on a trail that would generate little or no money to even cover its costs of construction and maintenance. If, however, the railroad is restored by private interests, then the freight of the companies along the line currently being hauled by trucks along Missouri's highways could instead be transported by rail, taking those trucks off the highway and thereby not only decongesting our highways but also cutting down on the costs to maintain those highways. If a trail is put in, then the prospect of rail service returning to those communities and companies will be lost forever.

Looking forward to using the trail personally. I also hope it helps Versailles grow and improves the community.

We should be spending our Missouri park tax dollars on the Rock Island Trail Project project instead of trying to create new parks in places that people won't visit (e.g. Echo Bluff). We know for a fact that the Rails to Trails programs bring in massive amounts of tourism to our area and sees great economic benefits for towns along the route. Attempting to create "destination" parks without a significant attraction seems to be a waste of tax dollars; as an avid Missouri State Park Camper (10-12 times a year), the idea of going to visit proposed parks like Ozark Mountain State Park, Bryant Creek State Park, and Eleven Point State Park sounds pretty boring, as they don't offer much beyond trees and creeks.

Sounds like a good idea.

Love the trail. My understanding is that only the trail is only usable to those who walk or bike it. Why can't it be used by those who love to ride horses and utvs/atvs? An example is the Sunrise Trail in Maine that used to be a railroad. They allow walking, bikes, horses, utvs/atvs, and snowmobiles. The Rock Island trail would be used by so many more people if it were allowed to be used by horse and utv/atv riders.

I think this would be a wonderful addition to our area!!!! I know I personally would use and enjoy it.

I would love for this to happen. It would save me driving as far to the Katy Trail. That would also make my wife happy. I'm sure the local economy's would like it also. 2 votes yes.

I was soooooo excited when I found out this was happening! My husband and I love to hike on trails, and part of this trail is 1/4 mile down the road from our house. I can't wait until it's finished!

I fully support the proposed Rock Island Trail Project. As a citizen of Gasconade County I fully support the Rock Island Trail Project.

I fully support the Rock Island Trail Project. While typing this I am sitting at my desk looking out my office window at a 3 mile blight through our

community now known as the Rock Island Rail Road. For decades it has sat unused and has attracted trash, weeds, and various unlawful pursuits. As citizens of this great state we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to turn a negative into a powerful positive. A bike trail through our state and through my town on the Rock Island Rail Road bed that connects with the Katy Trail will provide a unique experience for any who want to bike across the show-me state. I firmly believe that people will travel from all over the world to enjoy this proposed trail. Just the rumor and hope for a trail has already created economic activity in our small town of Owensville. In particular an old historic building on our main street that was on the verge of being condemned has been purchased by a trail enthusiast and is being restored, specifically due to the hope of future customers from the Rock Island Trail. Another bare piece of ground that was adjacent to the trail has been purchased and cleaned up with the expressed intentions of building a new restaurant next to the trail. Several customers have approached me with numerous business plans once the trail is official. One farmer that owns land adjacent to the trail and to the city limits of Owensville has offered to donate 1 acre of ground for a trail head and Owensville welcome center. All of this activity in a small town of 2600. This trail will not be a burden to the tax payers of Missouri, it will be an income producing asset for us and our future generations. In Owensville it has the added benefit of providing a safe avenue for our children to walk, bike, or run to school. Currently students are not allowed to walk or bike to school due to the lack of a safe way to cross Hwy 19. The proposed trail goes under Hwy 19 and is adjacent to our school campus. Currently our school district buses all children, regardless of how close they live to the school, due to the safety concerns with crossing Hwy 19. What a great way to reduce transportation costs to the school district and help get our young children some much needed physical activity! Our small school district can completely eliminate one bus route if the trail proceeds. All of this potential benefit in just one small town. I have not even attempted to put a dollar amount on the intrinsic value a trail like this offers. How can Missouri afford not to support this endeavor? Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important project.

I am a proponent of the Interim Trail Use Agreement in order to further the Rock Island Trail Project. The Rock Island Trail will be a great asset for many Missouri communities and bring healthy recreation as well as economic development to these areas. Most of these towns are limited economically and bringing in outside sources of income is greatly needed to increase quality of life.

I am enthusiastically awaiting the completion of the Trail. As a father of four young children I am glad to see greater opportunity for healthy activity near my home and town. Please consider the Agreement.

Yes. The expansion of the trail systems throughout the state is a positive for all of Missouri.

I believe this is a very positive project for the commutes involved and recreational activity for the state of Missouri. I cannot see a negative side to this.

Kudos to DNR for leadership with this project. Such trails have proven to provide economic stimulus to rural communities and outdoor recreation to many. This project should be wholeheartedly pursued.

This is a wonderful idea and project. Small cities along the trail will experience growth by persons using the trail. Small businesses will open and offer places to sit and offer food and drink adding revenue to the city coffers. I do not ride horses but my family and several friends do so it would be nice if an area was added for trail riding. Thank you for considering this agreement.

This would be wonderful for the small communities along the trail. Many of these small towns are economically depressed. The trail is a chance for them to recover and become vital business economic areas.

As an avid hiker, burgeoning cyclist, and overall lover of Missouri outdoors, I highly encourage the DNR to go forward with the interim trail use agreement for the continued development of the Rock Island Trail Project. I am especially impressed with the big picture goals for future trail connections, including those leading into St. Louis County. I look forward to utilizing the Windsor to Beaufort trail soon!

This land should be given back to the owners as it will increase the upkeep of our parks which already need improvement. Don't saddle us with more deficit. Let the landowners and small business's have it back!

I feel that creating this trail and entering into an agreement with the DNR will not only help to improve the economy of this part of Missouri it can also play an important role in improving the health of the community by giving local citizens a safe and controlled space for recreational activities such as bike riding, running and walking. At the present time if you want to ride a bike for any distance you either must drive to the Katy trail or attempt to ride on the narrow 2 lane highways which can be very dangerous. Obesity is one of our number one health issues in our county and state and this trail will provide a great place for people to get out and enjoy a nice walk, run or bike ride and not have to worry about traffic constantly.



I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN Eldon and my father was a Rock Island railroader in the yards in Eldon. Since we no longer have a railroad, I believe the Trail Project would not only be of economic value to Eldon residents but a nice tribute to the families of railroaders past as a sort of memorial to what the railroad meant to the town in the 40s and 50s

I personally feel that this project is outrageous. As a landowner along this corridor I do not want the public to have access to my land. It will cause added expenses to me not only with the probability of added littering, but if I wish to fence my property that is very expensive. Not to mention the liability of someone hurting themselves on my property if they veer from the trail.

I know some think that this trail will be economically boosting for the towns it passes through, but what else is there to make people want to come to your town for more than a bike/walking trail? Let's look at the areas along the Katy Trail. At least the Katy Trail has historical significance with its ties to Lewis & Clark.

I know some people live for biking/walking trails, but what is the historical significance to the Rock Island Rail. From what I have found it was just another business decision that went bad. I do not like the thought of my tax dollars going to beautify a bankrupt business so that the public might use it to walk or bike on.

From personally biking the Rock Island Trail this spring, I think it would be a great asset to our State. It brings out the natural wonders of Missouri and brings people closer to nature. Extending the trail towards the east will be beneficial to all the smaller communities along the way by boosting the economy with trade and commerce from the users of the trail. B&Bs, bike shops, convenience stores/delis grow along the length of the trail. It would bring in more tourism from outside the state and even country by being one of the first longest loop recreational trails. It could bring about competitions, charitable events, etc... I think it would be a great way for Missourians to get connected and bring attention to the natural surroundings of our beautiful state.

I'm all in favor of this development. Trails are good for Missouri.

This trail would be a great recreational and economic tool for Missouri. The Katy Trail is already such an asset, and this would only build on that success. I support the trail and encourage DNR not to let this unique opportunity pass by.

Adult obesity rate in MO is 32.5%. We rank 10th in the US for obesity. Children need to get outside whenever possible. This trail will provide for a healthy environment and recreational opportunities for the people of the state. Many towns are hurting economically in MO. This trail will stimulate community pride and economic development for many small towns along the trail. Our natural, cultural, and educational resources must be protected.

Trails are great places for exercise, recreation and enjoyment. We ride the Katy trail now and would like to ride somewhere new. The trails bring in visitors to the state which in turn brings in revenue.

One of the things we look for in planning a vacation is where can we ride our bikes and I know others in and out of our state do the same thing. Trails are an investment in the future of Missouri.

This needs to happen as soon as possible, for the health of the people who will utilize it, and for the tourist dollars it will generate.

For the love of the outdoors, the Rock Island Trail Project means having the great opportunity to take walks, ride a bike, or running without having to make the run along side a major highway with drivers not always watching out for you! Just having the chance to go somewhere safe to improve your

health by moving your body in the open air instead of sitting on a couch is such a great asset to the community. Please do not let this opportunity go by the wayside. There are strong statistics showing by having a trail run through a community it can and does improve revenue, which is much needed in the community of Owensville, Rosebud, Bland, and Belle. We want people to come and see for themselves how great of a community this is and that we welcome people as they come to enjoy the great outdoors along the Rock Island Railroad!!!

Please consider allowing the trail project to go forward

The Rock Island line goes right through our little town of 1500. I would like to see the State accept the donation of the land even though Parks could not develop it in the near future. Small towns along the line could develop the line in their borders at their own cost and the line could provide fitness and economic potential for those cities. If this is not accepted, a great opportunity will be lost forever.

These small rural towns need all the help they can get so they can help themselves.

This is an incredible opportunity for our community. Love the Rock Island Trail project

I can think of nothing more important. At a time when every state is looking for solutions to unhealthy, sedentary lifestyles and their impact on health and well being it is essential that all citizens have safe place to walk, run, and bike. At a time when rural areas are losing economic opportunities what could be better than a trail and the life it could restore to the small towns along it? At a time when people are so polarized what could be better than a trail that brings together city dwellers with small towns and with farms? And finally, what could be better than the symbolism of a linear park creating a shared community benefit available to all?

Please please please make this happen MO. The Katy Trail is a jewel and the Rock Island will make biking a great loop through central Missouri's small towns a world class attraction.

Nearly forty years have passed since steel met steel on the Rock Island line. During those four decades, the great majority of these towns have seen their economies in a downward spiral with their main street slipping from significance to obsolescence. Jobs have moved away or gone out of existence. Having a bike trail is not a panacea but it is better than a brushy, rusty rails help in the air by some splinted pieces of wood. Our town has experienced many people visiting here and then later buy land or houses here. There will always be a few that oppose the corridor being rail banked but the great majority recognize not only its economic but also the safety benefited associated with it.

Please move forward on this. As a long time Missouri physician I can tell you that we need to promote healthy active lifestyles. This is particularly true in rural Missouri. Anything we can do to promote outdoor activities such as walking, hiking and bicycling we should do. Our rates of obesity and diabetes are through the roof.

Yes, this would be great. I would travel to enjoy this trail and support local businesses along it.

I don't believe Missouri can go wrong on converting the former Rock Island Railroad corridor into a trail for all Missourians to enjoy. Even better is that the trail would link with the Katy Trail, providing a unique opportunity for an entire looped outdoor trip throughout the State. As a native of Missouri, I love this idea. This concept, and implementation of the idea, will not only be great for Missouri residents, but will make for a great tourist destination as well. I also believe it will be beneficial to the small towns that are located along the trail and will provide a boost for small local businesses. As a 28-year-old female living in the St. Louis area, I will very much look forward to myself, my husband, and family riding along the trail and visiting some of the small towns along the way. Myself, and many people my age that I know, are tired of seeing the typical national chain restaurants and retail stores.

We want to see more connections to unique and local places throughout Missouri! The loop will make for a great multi-day outdoor experience of seeing parts of Missouri that we might not otherwise get to see. Please make this trail happen!

Personally, I think there are plenty of backroads within our State that people can ride bikes or horses on with out spending our tax dollars on something a rather small majority of folks might use. I'd much rather see tax assistance towards revitalizing small towns that are dying on the vine! For instance, help with tax incentives for small businesses and perhaps refurbishing homes that could be restored for proper housing. Not everyone wants to migrate to a big city!!! We need to keep our small towns alive and thriving and I'd much prefer my tax dollars go toward this type of assistance.

I feel it would be a wonderful addition to the trail network of Missouri.

If you build it, they will come.

I think the rock island trail project is a wonderful idea. I wholeheartedly support it.

This not only one of the best economic development projects in years. It is one of the only rural development projects in a long time. These small communities need this tourism opportunity badly. When you couple that with the recreation and health benefits it will provide. You cannot afford not to build it.

I have just retired and am riding my bicycle more often than before. I now have time to visit trails in other states (I live in IL) and am encourage by the prospect of the Rock Island trail project. As more people get interested in riding bikes longer distances this trail has the possibility of additional tourism in your state, with benefits for the riders and the communities affected by the trail. I encourage you to contribute to the project.

I am 100% in favor of development of this trail! It will be a wonderful attraction for our state and an economic boon to a lot of towns who suffered when the railroad left. GO FOR IT!

I support the Rock Island Trail project!!
Let's put unused rail corridor to a healthy use!!!
Thanks for reading this

I believe this is a great project for rural Missouri. This will have more residents of Missouri out and about seeing the great scenery of our state. This will also do great things for the economies of the smaller towns along the trail.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year. I think this trail will provide great benefit to the people in the community. I hope to be able to use this trail in the future.

Who has the 200 mil to actually open the trail???? Huge waste of tax payer money!!!! DNR needs drop and run now...

Waste of my tax dollars, should revert to the property owners.

Missouri's trails are gradually becoming a more important tourist and citizen recreation/exercise resource. Good idea to expand if adequate resources are available to improve and maintain.

Please develop this land for biking/walking trails. Our state would benefit from this

Just look at the successful KATY Trail. What a wonderful way to get fit and enjoy nature. Can't think of a better way to spend tax dollars

Please extend the Rock Island trail and to add to the Katy Trail! The cities along side these trails do an amazing job catering to the hikers and bikers as they enter. Please don't let this die in bureaucracy!

Sorry, but when attending the local meeting to discuss this project, we were told by the ones organizing the committee no tax money would be used to do the project. Now some of the work has been done through grant money, and asking for DNR help and keep it up for bicycle riders. This is like asking for a blank check for taxpayers to support regardless what wording they want to call it. I must say I'm 100% against this project. Also added cost of security, cleanup, maintaining the upkeep, and liabilities are also in question.

Please do so.

Let's complete the rock island trail. many folks I know use these trails.

YES! YES AND YES AGAIN! Please get this thing going and contact Eric Greitens office and ask him to push for it!

I am all for it! I have used the Katy Trail and can't wait for the same opportunity on the Rock Island Trail. It will be a great asset for Missouri!

I hope this happens! I love riding the Katy and more trails are def needed! So many people use the Katy and the RIT would be a perfect addition!

The Rock Island Trail Project is a wonderful opportunity for the area it runs through. We need this trail for the biking and hiking access for people throughout the region. Personally I am greatly looking forward to the trail as the KATY Trail is a bit far for us to travel on a regular basis.

So excited for this potential, my family lives very near the proposed trail.

This state needs this

This project is an excellent opportunity for Missouri to further enhance its trail system, bringing trail users not just from Missouri but from the world. The KATY trail is an excellent example of this. The Rock Island corridor, however, differs from the KATY & will offer rich recreational opportunities for trail users. And, like the KATY, will bring visitors to the communities along the corridor to enhance their economies.

I think it will be a great asset to the community. It will help create more healthy activity

I think that the Rock Island Trail will be a great asset to all the communities that it goes through/passes. Most of the communities don't have the resources to develop the trail. Having the DNR develop it will be great--the sooner the better!!!

I think everyone can benefit from recreational trails

I think it is a great idea and should be pursued. As a physical activity researcher, there is tremendous support that establishing rail trails encourages activity and gets people in surrounding neighborhoods more active. Increased activity can lead to decreased health problems and lower healthcare expenses. So it is in Missouri's best interest to pursue the project. It truly is a instance of if you build it they will come. In addition having a rail trail provides a safer place for individuals to walk or ride bikes, reducing accidents from vehicular collisions. So 100% support on the project.

My family lives in south central Missouri and are avid cyclist. We would love to see another rail trail in Missouri. Each year we visit the Katy trail multiple times and stay in hotels or B and Bs supporting the local economy. We have met people from other states who come to ride these trails because there is not another trail like it. This trail connect with the Katy would really put Missouri on the map and I believe would bring cyclist in from all over and their money.

Considering troubles with inattentive drivers and hostility toward cyclists on the road, trails like this are becoming more and more a necessary part of the cycling infrastructure. It has been proven over and over again that cycling trails like this bring tourist traffic and money to small-town economies. This Trail would be a great addition to Missouri's ever growing network of cycling trails. I highly support this and I hope to see you do the same.

I'm a lifelong Missourian who strongly supports the Rock Island Trail Project. As a regular user and avid supporter of

the Katy Trail, I've seen the impact the KT has had on former railroad towns and towns and cities located adjacent to the Trail. Towns derelict or dying have found sustenance with the advent of trail use. Spend any time on the KT at all and you meet people from all over the U.S. and even the world. Along the way they spend \$\$\$ at restaurants, bars, stores, b&b's, bike shops -- some of which didn't exist prior to the trail's existence.

The MoRIT could easily have the same impact for the old Rock Island towns along its path. With the demise of industries and the railroads that supported them, many small former railroad communities are struggling to find ways to survive and to re-invent themselves. The development of the MoRIT will give communities along its corridor an opportunity to re-create themselves in ways similar to locales along the KT. Towns such as Eldon and Belle already fall into this category; they see value in supporting this effort by embracing the trail and moving forward in its development. (Surely Belle's hiatus is only temporary.)

In sum, the MoRIT corridor provides some of the best Missouri has to offer in regard to scenery, rural communities, and just plain good folks. And, as I've learned, people who use and support trails are pretty good folks, too. Let's not just be about show me, but about show them. Please support this conversion. Please.

We live near and own property in Eugene, Missouri, and have been following the recent developments in the progression of converting the old Rock Island line into possible a pedestrian/biking trail. Many who live in the small communities along the old Rock Island Railroad are excited and encouraged about the economic possibilities that a trail could bring. Unlike recent acquisitions and park openings that benefit one specific geographic area (i.e. Echo Bluff), the Rock Island trail would have a state-wide impact. We already have a successful model in the Katy Trail--we know the trail system appeals to a world-wide audience. Let's make this happen!

The Rock Island Trail would be a fantastic addition to the existing Rail-to-Trail system.

Yes, please! Old rail beds make wonderful cycling trails. It would be a boon to recreation and tourism for the entire length of the trail. I don't live in that area, but would probably drive up to cycle on the trail.

Thank you

Bike trails, marked routes and any means of using bicycles in Missouri is a great idea. It's good exercise, an affordable means of transportation, decreases pollution and it promotes a healthy lifestyle. I personally like trails because I don't especially like riding where I have to compete with vehicular traffic. I enjoy taking my grandchildren on trails just as I rode with my children on streets. I'm happy to say that now we don't have to ride on the streets in Springfield. I'm always looking for new trails to explore in different parts of the state. World class trails will bring world class travelers to our trails and that's good for the economy. Good trail systems attract the right kind of folks to settle in Missouri. Supporting bicycle riders is always a good move, because it's good for Missouri. I'm a big fan of complete streets, too. I love to ride my bicycle,

but not so much on busy streets where there are not designated lanes for bicycles.

Go for it! Sooner than later. Can hardly wait! THANK YOU!!

I am in favor of this project. I believe that it will be a boost to the economy of the small towns it passes through. And it would be a good thing for the communities to increase access to safe exercise routes. Katy Trail has proven to be a positive influence on these things.

Good thing for the state and for the Eldon area. I like it and will use it occasionally.

Please?!?!?

Why not finish what you already started and haven't finished properly. Windso to Pleasant Hill! You supposedly squandered the money for a proper bridge here in Pleasant Hill and we ended up with a half-assed bridge and no restrooms at the trail head. The method of getting on the trail is screwy with inadequate signage. No one in Jeff City would admit who decided to rob the fund from the Ameron agreement to build our trail and put in a bridge as originally designed!

I would be overjoyed with the Rock Island being converted into a trail. As a resident of Owensville, we have seen a decline in commerce since the 1970's. Young folks have moved out and the town has lost many merchants. It would be wonderful to see a resurgence in our small town's economy that the trail could potentially bring.

Great project. Missouri Parks have been leading the rest of the country for years in many areas and they need to continue to in the Rock Island Trail Project. These trails have provided the citizens and guests of the State tremendous recreational and fitness assets without breaking the bank in funding.

The completion of the trail, in addition to the Katy, will provide a unique and valuable resource to our state. We'll be seen as a haven for cyclists and as a place to draw in tourists from around the country and world. The economic benefit to towns will be enormous and cannot be understated.

Expanding Missouri's rails-to-trails is a win/win situation for the users of the trails and the towns along the trail corridor. It would bring in additional tax money for the state with hotels, campgrounds, restaurants, convenience stores etc.

As long as the railroad bridges across the gasconade and osage rivers are made safe

This a excellent use of funds and would be a success like the Katy Trail.

Fabulous idea. I will definitely use the trail. I am a biking enthusiast. Especially in the Eldon area. I also enjoy walking on trails. Bring it! Healthy choice!

I am strongly for completing the Rock Island Trail. It draws a lot of tourist now and when completed it will be used by

people from around the world and make Missouri a destination point. Please help expedite the new trail.

The trail would be a great idea!

I think that would be a great asset to the community not just for local people but those that like to travel and hike and explore new areas. I already know that just the prospect of this coming in has boosted moral in the smaller communities in the area with talk of putting in a bicycle shop or a coffee shop or even a bed and breakfast. I think the positives much out weigh the negatives for a project like this.

I am in support of the proposed trail. As a user of the Katy Trail I have witnessed the positive impact it has on economy, health, and family life. I love Saturdays on the KT. It's regularly full of smiling kids on their bikes...accompanied by their involved parents. Southern mid-MO needs more of that! I am from Belle...and the possibilities in our area seem endless with Gascondy Bridge sure to be a highlight of the trail. How can that not bring business to town nearly every weekend?

This trail would be an economic boon for the communities along the trail project. The trail passes through the heart of Owensville. The businesses on First Street would be reinvigorated by the hikers and bikers who could stop for a meal and shop in our stores.

My family and I would love to have this trail to hike and enjoy. So would many other Missouri families.

I am strongly opposed to the development of this trail. I feel that any DNR money could be put to better use. I don't mind paying taxes, but I am very concerned when there is government waste of tax money. Most communities along this trail have some sort of walking trail or lovely streets people could walk on. Why do we need to spend money developing more places to walk. Another big concern is the trail going through rural areas where both sides are private. My family owns a lot of land along where the trail will be. We remember when the tracks were clear of brush. We always had trespassers coming onto our land. There is no way to monitor this along a trail like this in the rural areas. We had vandalism and theft. We wonder if any of the supporters of this trail would want someone walking in their back yard. That is basically what will be happening to many people who own property along this trail. Again I strongly oppose any tax money being spent for this project. There are many more areas where money could be spent and benefit more citizens. The public roads is one example.

The Rock Island trail should be developed for immediate use. It can only create more recreational options for bikers and walkers in Missouri and will attract bicyclists from all over the country. Please support the development of this trail.

Super excited about this trail and what it's going to do for our community.

As a psychologist, I see the many mental health benefits of having such a trail system throughout these areas. Decreased depression, anxiety, loneliness, isolation, and boredom would be beneficial for individuals; increased activity level, sense of

purpose, and feeling of belonging would also be a result for many people. Positive side effects could be better self-esteem, decreased self-consciousness, and improved social skills. Physically, having a safe trail system would help people get into better shape and get fresh air and sunshine.

Regarding the economy in the areas where the trail will go through, more money will be spent in these towns, which will boost businesses and individuals alike. These areas will be seen as more desirable to some people, who will visit more often and spend more money. I have no reason to go to Bland, Missouri, but a trail system that goes through the town may result in a stop at the quick shop and local eatery.

The trail system is a win-win for outdoor enthusiasts as well as locals.

I SUPPORT THIS PROJECT. This is an excellent plan and will provide revenue and health care benefits.

This project will not only provide a wonderful outdoor experience for all ages but will help make the surrounding area a lovely park instead of just an over grown path through the various towns and byways. It will certainly promote the natural resources of our wonderful state of Missouri by providing a road or pathway in which everyone can enjoy the natural beauty of our surroundings. I certainly hope the DNR will confirm the agreement.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year. Great trails improve public health, increase property values for surrounding land owners, increase tourism dollars, and have many other benefits for the community and state. As an Iowa native, I grew up witnessing how a strong bike culture benefits communities and economies with RAGBRAII. I would like to see Missouri become a state known for it's biking infrastructure.

Thank you.

The department should do this as soon as possible. My understanding is that this is the first step needed to further develop the trail into a hiking/biking/recreational trail. Missouri and the towns along the trail need this resource, and it will bring Missouri world wide notice for something other than Ferguson. It would be used by both Missourians, US citizens, and others. The benefits of trails like these are well known, both for health and recreation, and also for economic impact.

Without knowing all the nuances involved, the department should move ahead as quickly as possible with the acquisition and development of the trail and ancillary resources.

Many people, including myself, would be willing to donate \$\$\$ and time to make this happen for the benefit of our communities along the trail!!!

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very good use of the old railroad. Will have a tremendous positive financial impact on small rural communities that are along this trail. Many of which are struggling with declining populations and revenues. I currently live in Eldon, a large factor when purchasing my home last year was the proximity to the trail. I know I must not be the only one thinking the same. Also this trail will greatly improve the walkability of many small rural communities as many of them are unable to maintain decent sidewalks due to financial constraints. A walking trail through the middle of many of these towns will encourage people to get out and walk instead of driving. Which in turn leads to an improvement in the health and lives of those living within many of these small lower income communities. The impacts are already visible as people are investing in the communities. Plans have been laid out in Eldon for several properties to be developed that are currently vacant and deteriorating. The long term social and economic benefits of this project are sure to greatly out shadow the cost to build and maintain.

I live in rural Gasconade County. I try not to leave the area any more than I have to, but when I do, I have come to realize what a rarity it is to be able to still enjoy the rural life. People don't realize what they have here. True freedom. I can hunt, fish, work the garden, walk the dog, you name it without leaving the farm. This may not seem to have anything to do with the Rock Island Trail, but it does. I don't want this area to change. I personally don't know any adult in this area that owns a bicycle. Consider the farmers & homeowners along the trail. If you are sitting on the back porch enjoying the sunset, do you want a bunch of people in blue spandex and helmets coming through your back yard? The trail project is catered to one specific personal interest group at the cost of all the taxpayers. There are local business people that think the trail will be a big boon to the local economies. I think they are fooling themselves. I would like to see a referendum vote on the issue, in the counties affected. I predict the trail would be rejected.

YES to the Rock Island Trail!

Governor Greitens: I wholeheartedly support development of this trail especially since a portion of it runs through communities in our newspaper coverage area which have already expressed public support for creating walking and biking paths in towns including: to connect with the school campus (Owensville), with the city park and downtown (Belle), a safe walking path off of U.S. 50 for students in Gerald moving from home to school, and continued tourism development in Rosebud.

Our previous state parks director was actively involved in the acquisition of this railbed (as it's railbanked) and Ameren seems ready to give it to the state once salvage operations are finalized.

Please help make this happen. A trail like this will continue to help small towns in our region attract visitors and tourism dollars.

[REDACTED]

The Rock Island Trail Project will open many opportunities to small communities along the trail. We will be able to share the beauty of our rural area with many people. I think it is a plus to our state and all of us.

I very much hope you are able to complete this wonderful project. It will benefit every community it connects. Highways and county roads are so unsafe for bikes. Long haul routes like this save lives!

I think the trail is a good idea to provide local recreation and also to attract more tourism to the area. I think it will be great if kids are able to cycle to Owensville school using the trail.

Please! We want this trail. What's boon for Missouri tourism. Cyclist want to ride border to border. Please continue making this trail a reality.

I strongly support this agreement and the development of Rock Island Trail. I urge you to move forward with this work for the great benefit to recreation and tourism in Missouri.

Please, I have wanted this for as long as it has been even a thought of a proposal. I have worked on and off for over 20 years to further the rails to trails type projects in Missouri. I love the KATY and have ridden its entire length. This project is just as important and brings with it all of the same benefits. I likely needn't explain to the DNR the various ecological, economic and human benefits bicycling and hiking brings to both humans and the ecosystem. But governor Greitens, please, I am far from a single issue voter. Don't make me regret voting for you. I'd like to see you complete another term, but not at the expense of bicycle infrastructure I have worked 20 years to see to fruition. It is so close to being complete. Don't tear that away from me, us and our posterity. Making the Rock Island Corridor happen is the right thing to do, not just for Missouri, but for our nation and our future generations. I am so thankful for these agencies (DNR, Mo Dept. of Conservation etc) and our natural areas and parks. I think about the hikes, float trips, camping trips, swimming, bicycling, hunting, birding etc. that I and my friends, relatives and now my children enjoy. This provides more of the same for generations to come. Thank you for your time and consideration.

As a former employee of Missouri State Parks, I am familiar with the budgetary and management concerns involving the Rock Island corridor. However, even with those considerations in mind, the option to enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement on the corridor is a one-of-a-kind opportunity that the state should not let pass by. The trail would create a nearly 400-mile loop that would attract visitors from across the nation and build on the international success of Katy Trail State Park. In addition, as with the Katy Trail, small towns along the new trail would enjoy increased visitation and economic benefit. In my former position with the park system, I heard from many supporters throughout the state who felt the same. I encourage the state to proceed with railbanking and move forward with the development of the trail as time and resources allow.

I know this corridor will bring opportunities for community growth and prosperity. It has our families full support.

Go forth we love our trails. We use the trailhead in Leeton daily to walk the dogs, run, and bike, what a great resource.

My family is very excited about the new Rock Island bike trail. It will be wonderful to have a long-distance bike trail that is closer to Rolla, our home town. We plan to spend many weekends on this trail!

Looking today at the Katy Trail -- a trail I have walked and biked many times over the years -- I am grateful for the vision and efforts of those who made it possible. I doubt that even the most optimistic of those early trail supporters envisioned the success it has become today. The Katy has resurrected dozens of communities along its route, provided new business opportunities to small entrepreneurs, brought thousands of tourists (and their dollars) to the Show-Me State, and provides miles of affordable recreational and fitness activities for families and individuals.

Another such opportunity exists with the Rock Island Trail project. It would be shame to let it slip through our fingers after years of hard work by so many dedicated people. The Rock Island could be another jewel in Missouri's parks and recreation system, replicating what the Katy has done for the state and its citizens. Please, follow the vision of those early supporters and enablers of the Katy Trail.

I believe you should enter the project it has the potential to add tourism and money to local economies while adding something the local communities can use.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

It's a great idea!!!! It can't get here soon enough!!!!

PLEASE follow through with the Rock Island Trail Project. With the obesity health crisis, these types of recreational jewels provide opportunities for all ages to get out and exercise and enjoy nature at little to no cost by walking, jogging, cycling or horseback riding the trails. They are also economic generators for the towns along the trail. My family likes to cycle. Not only on trails close to where we live (in the KC area), but everywhere. We frequently travel with our bikes, staying in hotels along the way, eating in restaurants, shopping, etc. as we ride the various trails. The more trails available, and the longer the trails, the more people will travel to experience them. We have biked the entire Katy Trail, and have ridden trails as far away as Alaska. And after being run off the road in my own residential neighborhood and breaking my collar bone on July 4, 2016 (very thankful that I wasn't hit and killed), I will be looking for even more trails to ride because they are much safer and more relaxing to ride than any road. Please don't let this jewel slip away from the people

of Missouri - as that is what it truly will be when it is finished. Thank you.

I am not sure how I feel about a trail coming through our town. I do know that if it does, the pallet yard in our town needs to be gotten rid of. It is a serious hazard. I do think that the trail might also boost the economy in our small town.

I AM VERY AGAINST THIS TRAIL. THIS WILL GO THE FULL LENGTH OF THE BACKSIDE OF MY PROPERTY. THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE REVERTED BACK TO THE LANDOWNERS. WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT? OR OUR SAY SO? THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE WE HAVE TO DEER HUNT, AND TARGET PRACTICE AND I DO NOT WANT PEOPLE TRESPASSING ON OUR LAND. I THINK ITS ABSOLUTELY INSANE TO SPEND ALL THIS MONEY ON SOMETHING THAT WILL RARELY BE USED. YOU CAN BET, THAT I WILL HAVE MY POSTS PAINTED PURPLE AND TONS OF NO TRESPASSING SIGNS PUT UP, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO HUNT AND DO AS WE DO ON OUR PROPERTY NOW. THINK ITS A SHAME THAT THE LAND WAS PROMISED BACK TO LANDOWNERS WHEN THE RAILROAD WENT OUT, AND NOW BIG WHIGS AND HIGHER UPS DONT CARE ABOUT THE OWNERS AND JUST DO AS THEY DAMN WELL PLEASE WITH SOMETHING THAT IS NOT THEIRS...OH AND ON ANOTHER NOTE. THOSE THAT FEEL THEY NEED TO TRESPASS, I WILL HAVE THEM ARRESTED

Worse idea ever... To many people target practicing and deer hunting.....

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year. The Trail is an amazing public-private partnership, with Ameren donating property worth millions of dollars and private and local donors lined up to contribute millions of dollars to the success of the project. But we need Missouri State Parks to take the necessary steps to make all of this private investment possible--that is the "public" part of the public-private partnership. Trails have huge bipartisan support in Missouri that cuts across political and geographical lines. This internationally significant trail system, benefitting communities across the heart of Missouri, will be a major part of Governor Greitens' legacy. Please consider supporting this trail.

Please get this process started and funded.

I support the Rock Island trail development. We need to have resources for families to do activities together. Our society is to saturated with electronics. It's refreshing to have resources that provide opportunities for people to get out into nature and get refreshed from those experiences.

I think it is great!! Families can utilize the trail, educate their kids on wildlife and enjoy our rural scenery!

What a great idea. Any time multiple communities combine to support public parks and recreation areas, the citizens of those communities bond and benefit in multiple ways.

I live about about a half mile from the trail. I can't wait until it's done so I can take my sons with their bikes.

This project is a great idea for the small, dying town located along it, such as Versailles and Stover. Imagine the tourism boost it can provide! It also would allow area residents access to a trail instead of driving an hour to the Katy. I sincerely hope the Governor pursues this for the betterment of Missouri.

I strongly support the Department of Natural Resources entering into an interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year. I live in the City of St. Louis, and believe that funding trails is money well spent. The recreational, economic development and health benefits are well documented. This is a window of opportunity that must be seriously considered, for the benefit of Missourians and our future generations.

I currently use the portion of the Rock Island Trail that is completed. Although the some of the neighboring land owners are apprehensive, I find numerous people who live a short distance from the trail making use of it. These are folks who may not have been physically active, but are using the trail to improve their health. I believe the number of people who will use and benefit from the trail more than offset the concerns of local land owners. Other rails to trails conversions in the state have not brought new crime (major or petty) into areas covered by the trails.

This project is important for the health of Missouri citizens as well as for the incredible possibility for tourism dollars. Only yesterday I spoke with the campground director at Windsor. The spur from Pleasant Hill to Windsor has only been open for six months and has already received visitors from 6 countries and most of the states of the Union. I live in Sedalia comma and I wish to say that if you are not aware of the tourism dollars that the Katy Trail has generated for Missouri, then you have your head in the sand. To me, this is an absolute no-brainer. This project will create a Trail Loop that will draw twice as many visitors as the Katy Trail draws already.

Please. This trail would be amazing for so many reasons!

The Rock Island Trail will provide a natural approach to fitness for Missouri residents. It will provide fitness and entertainment together.

The trail will provide an economic boon to communities near and along the trail.

I support the completion of the Rock Island Trail Project. As a Sedalia resident, I have witnessed the economic impact of the Katy Trail. I have spoken to people from all over the world who have visited Missouri because of the trail. The final 144 miles would create a loop that would certainly more than double the attractiveness of the trail both to individuals and to the burgeoning list of touring companies who lead groups on the trail. All of this means \$\$\$\$\$\$!!!! for Missourians.

I can also speak personally as one of the many people whose physical health has taken a dramatic turn for the better from the physical activity that safe cycling provides.

This is an exceptional opportunity for the access to and development of property to give the residents of Missouri trail system unlike any other in the nation. It would be a mistake not to take advantage of this opportunity not only for what it would mean to the citizens and taxpayers of this state but as a national attraction and for tourism for Missouri. I fully support the DNR moving forward with this agreement as I think it is good for Missouri.

My family is 100 percent for the trail. It will mean SO much for our community. It could be an economic boost for our town (Belle).It could possibly be a safe passage to a proposed elementary school. A safe place to ride bikes,walk or jog . All the communities along the trail will benefit from it.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail. The larger the trail system, the further people will travel to visit it and the longer they will stay. With the Katy Trail and Rock Island Trail together, Missouri will have a trail system that will bring travelers from all over the world--even more than currently visit the Katy Trail. That will be an economic boon for rural communities along the trail, and my understanding is that those communities are unanimous in supporting the Rock Island Trail. My husband and I have enjoyed bike trips on the Katy Trail, and we hope to have the opportunity to take bike trips on the Rock Island Trail in the future.

I fully support the Rock Island Trail Project and rails to trails in general. I think it is a great use of a resource that should be embraced as a unique standout attraction in Missouri. So much effort was put into building these roadbeds by American hands. It would be a waste and an insult to continue to let them become overgrown and unused. Money will inevitability flow into small communities that line the trail and they will surely see redevelopment that encourages small businesses, restaurants, and recreational opportunities that everyone can agree will help rural Missouri.

I would strongly encourage the state lawmakers to support the development of the 144 miles of the Rock Island railway into a trail system. The current trail system is constantly used and very beneficial in many ways. I know people that come from out of state just to use the trail from Kansas City to St Louis which brings in lots of revenue for the state. The new trail would bring in more people getting exercise which promotes the health of our state citizens. The improved health will cut down on medical expenses and should save the state money. I could go on and on about the benefits but you get the message. I urge you to approve the development of the proposed trail. Thanks. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.



I have never been in favor of any of these projects, first and foremost once the trains stopped using the tracks, the land should have gone back to the landowner. The Government and

Corporations in the past have been able to take what they wanted from the landowners and use it to put profits in their pockets, now when they have milked all they can from it, should go back to the landowner plain and simple. Black is Black and White is White Oh my, I am quoting common sense, something the government and big wigs do not have.

I fully support the Rock Island Trail Extension. I have ridden my bike on the Katy Trail from Clinton to St. Charles and supporting many MO small business along the way. If it's extended, I'll ride it again.

This is good for Missouri and the entire region.

The success of the Katy Trail should indicate the importance of adding the Rock Island Trail to the state trail system. The RIT will be a great complement and alternative to the Katy and will help support the communities located along the trail. Gov. Greitens needs to accept the 144 miles of the RIT.

That would be a great use for many citizens and would allow for a safe environment to be utilized to promote healthy living.

The 'Rails to Trails' program nationwide has been an economic and health benefit to those citizens living around and near the converted rail lines. Communities which otherwise are passed by by people looking for something to do, a recreation activity, a family experience, a fun way to spend a day are visited when they are on or near a trail created by reusing abandoned railroad right of ways. I am an adult who votes regularly, a true independent voter, as is my wife. We enjoy biking ourselves and last week purchased two new bikes for our teen twin granddaughters. I have ridden the Katy Trail and have participated in the MS 150 bike fundraiser. Biking promotes health, wellness and staves off many bad effects of modern diet/lifestyle. Please consider supporting the new Rock Island rail corridor expansion of Missouri's trail system. Out of state visitors also enjoy riding new (to them) trails. Thank you.

I personally think it's great idea if we clean up that part of town it goes through in Stover because it looks terrible. Also will there be someone patrolling it because for one I am a woman and I don't feel comfortable running on that side of town by myself

I'm so ready for this trail. My house is located right near it and I want to use it daily. I jog and bike the Katy Trail now but it is at least 30 minutes away

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year. What a boost this could be for our economy all across the state and connecting to the Katy Trail would make Missouri the place to go for those wanting a long extended trail. I cannot see the negative side of continuing with this project. Bringing more people to Missouri for tourism is always a win-win.

Dear DNR board memmmbers,

My nephew and i just finished a portion of the completed section of the Rock Island Trail. We road from Pleasant Hills to Metford and we had a great experience. The trail is very

smooth and rideable. I want to encourage you to accept the 144 miles of the Rock Island corridor so we can continue development of the Rock island trail. The town of Pleasant Hills has already seen the addition of several new stores because of the trail. I know that there is a great deal of expense involved in making trails, but i feel that the cost would be offset by the increase in tax revenues generated by the addition of new stores.

The Katy Trail brought in 10 million dollars to towns along the Katy Trail. I believe the Rock Island Trail will do more. The scenery along the eastern portion is stunning. PLEASE see this as a unique opportunity that you should not overlook.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail Project, and urge the Governor to sign the bill.

Hi, I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year. We always have the chance to be an advocate for health and well being and I think the image of the state improves the more ways we promote healthy lifestyles. Please allow this to happen. Thank you very much.

The rock island trail would be an economic boost for the small towns that the railroad runs through. Business owners are enthused about this project in hopes of boosting current businesses and new, upcoming businesses. There has already been properties purchased close to the proposed trail with hopes of traffic through these small towns that currently have very little sales tax coming in. This proposed trail would put Missouri on the map for the most connecting trails on earth. It offers the most scenic trail with the tunnels and bridges it has to offer, right here in Missouri. I am an avid bike rider and also have a farm background. I know that some farmers along the proposed trail are against this project saying that it invades their privacy and there will be trash left on the trail. These ideas are coming from people who have never been on the katy trail or know the condition of it. Bike riders/walkers appreciate having the katy trail and are very respectful of it. There is never trash and if a farmer is along side of it working, they are more than happy when a rider stops by for a visit. Let's put MISSOURI on the map for the most connecting miles of trails and get those trail enthusiast from all across the map to come to MISSOURI and ride our trails and spend their money.

I believe the trail will be a tremendous asset for our community in Belle Missouri. It is my hope that it will bring additional businesses and buyers to this area. Belle has been dormant for the last 30 years since the rails quit operating. The Rock Island Trail will be our chance to shine again. Dear Governor please support the trail and allow it to continue with all funds necessary. Thank you.

I support the construction of the Rock Island Trail. Given the 20+ year success of the Katy Trail investment in expanding our world class rails-to-trails system is a wise use of our tax dollars. Development of this trail will enhance quality of life in communities adjacent to the trail and in the surrounding area as well as bring additional tax revenue into Missouri.

The Rock Island Trail extension is a huge amenity for the State of Missouri. The trail will help our state attract millennials to live in Missouri, aiding the development of technology companies and modern manufacturing. It is critical that we continue to develop our state as a modern attractive place to live.

The trail will support economic development along the route of the trail as well, improving local small economies and the tourist industry in our state.

Let's get this trail going already! So many small businesses and communities are looking forward to this development. I personally cannot wait to use the trail!
Stop stalling and get this going!

These smaller communities will finally have a golden opportunity to bring some revenue in. I am all for it!

I am very excited to see the old rail be refurbished and active once again. I feel like some of our once large train towns that are now almost non-existing will thrive and grow once again with the increased revenue that bikers and hikers will bring in. America is always looking for ways to get out and be active for the next generation, and this is a fantastic way to do just that. Missouri is called the "Show me State" so let's show the world what we have to offer. The hills and valleys, the rivers and the plains, the bridges and tunnels and the beautiful small towns and amazing farmlands. I feel like stalling a project, that is already well on its way, will be a terrible mistake. There are people all over the world making plans to visit Missouri and the largest connecting trail in the world. We need to jump on this opportunity quickly and increase our outside revenue! I truly hope this project will not be delayed any further.

Trails help the Missouri economy, particularly in more rural areas that can have trouble attracting visitors. Trails are good for Missouri families, providing free entertainment and bonding time. Missouri's place as the best trails state can and should be strengthened.

Governor Greitens and DNR Staff:

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year with the idea of making it a Missouri State Park similar to the Katy Trail. The Katy Trail is a wonderful recreation resource that is well known nationwide as one of the most beautiful and friendly hiking and biking trail in the United States. And it generates about \$20 million dollars in economic development in the community along the trail. We have the opportunity to create a unique 500 mile biking loop along both sides of the Missouri River from St. Louis to Kansas City and back.

Bike trails are a huge asset to the state and its population. They promote tourism, health, and a wonderful outdoor experience. They are a great value with little upkeep. I fully support the Rock Island Trail.

To Whom It May Concern,

I wanted to write and express my EXTREME excitement at the prospect of the Rock Island Trail being converted into

biking/hiking trail!!!! I've ridden the full MKT trail 10+ times and sections of it countless times with lots and lots of my friends and family! We absolutely love it and see what a tremendous asset it is to our state!!! It brings in so many people from all over the world who we meet along the trail which as a bonus adds tourism revenue dollars to our economy and enhances the attractiveness of our state to visitors!!! So this is why we can't wait to see the RIT finished and completed as soon as possible!!!! We all our chomping at the bit to see it fully completed so we can all enjoy the new scenery and explore more of our amazingly beautiful state by biking and hiking!!! Thanks so much for your time and attention in reading this! Have an amazing rest of your day and week!!!

I think this would be wonderful! The Katy Trail has been such a wonderful addition to our state and has provided huge recreational and economic impacts for small towns all along the trail. I think the proposed Rock Island Trail would provide similar benefits and enable people to bike or commute from town to town all along the trail. They could even connect to the Katy Trail and do a much longer cross state ride than is now possible. I strongly support the development of the trail.

I am a resident of Illinois. I have spent much time in Missouri using the KATY Trail, and consequently spent much money in the small towns along the trail. I strongly urge MoDNR to enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement for the Rock Island Trail Project. It is no secret the economic impact the KATY Trail has on its small towns. The small towns along the Rock Island corridor deserve the same chance at prosperity. I grew up in a rural area where the small towns are shrinking and dying and a resource such as the Rock Island Trail can do much to prevent that. The combined resource of the KATY Trail and the proposed Rock Island Trail loop would draw tens of thousands of bicycle tourists on an annual basis from all over the world. No other state yet has such a resource and economic engine.

Trails and greenways provide a variety of benefits that ultimately affect the sustainability of a region's economic, environmental, and social health. These benefits include:
Creating Value and Generating Economic Activity
Improving Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation
Improving Health through Active Living
Clear Skies, Clean Rivers, and Protected Wildlife
Protecting People and Property from Flood Damage
Enhancing Cultural Awareness and Community Identity
Numerous studies have made the positive link between trails and their benefits abundantly clear.
Missouri Needs to expand Bike/Ped Connectivity!

I strongly recommend that the state proceed with plans to acquire and develop the Windsor-Beaufort segment of the Rock Island Trail. All evidence suggests that this trail, like the Katy Trail, will be a real boon to Missouri, from the standpoint of public health, opportunities for safe family recreation, and economic benefits to businesses and towns along the trail. Missouri has already gained national notice because of the extent & quality of its recreational trails. I hope we can build on this momentum.

We chose to live in the country to be left alone. I'm not real excited about putting a walking trail through our backyards. Most thieves are too lazy, but you offer them a nice sneaky path in and out of properties and they will find it.

My family lives in the small town of Owensville, MO. This town is struggling. Small businesses open but can't stay open because there is no new traffic to sustain them and the current population cannot support them. With the news of the new bike trail, people are becoming inspired to try again. It would mean a constant flow of people who stop to eat, shop, and remember what they have seen. We want them to come back by bike or by car. Please! Make this a priority for the small towns in the trail's path.

If this will facilitate completion I'm all for it. We love the Katy and really look forward to the Rock Island -- and visiting more Missouri small towns and spending money!

Very excited about the Rock Island Trail coming to Eldon. I believe it will be beneficial to our community economically, recreationally, as well as health benefit. We own land adjacent to the trail and support its development!

The Rock Island Trail is an amazing opportunity for Missouri to add to what is already a world class nature based tourism industry. Let's be honest, this thing is a sure fire money maker for the state. Once completed, it will create a loop with the Katy and create the longest rail to trail in the nation! You only have to look at the Katy Trail to see the economic impact this could have, and the Katy isn't even through as pretty a landscape as the Rock Island will be.

This is a potential tourist magnet and an endless asset to the Missouri park system. All the forgotten towns along this corridor will be rediscovered and profit from it. This trail should be completed as soon as possible.

We moved here from New Mexico where we enjoyed hiking, backpacking, and biking on lots of land owned by the people. We can't do as much of that here in Missouri, but we do have the wonderful Katy Trail. We have ridden the trail three times so far, and we were excited to hear about the opening of the Rock Island Trail. Please continue to support the development of rails-to-trails bike trails in Missouri. Thank you for your time!

I think this trail link, the MoRIT, would be an economic engine for the state. Bringing communities back to life, generating tourism dollars, lowering healthcare costs, and protecting a strip of recreational land for future Missourians. PLEASE make this trail a priority, for our state and our people.
Thanks!

Please develop the Rock Island trail. It would be a wonderful asset and bring many tourists to Missouri!

This sounds like a great idea to me

I think it would be wonderful because it will get the bike riders close to Eldon a place to get on the trails without having

to go all the way to Jeff City. I am looking forward to being this close to a trail. I am 78 years old and enjoy riding my bike 20 to 40 miles at a time and would do so more than I do now if the trail was opened through Eldon. I ride 5 miles everyday but on a street in Camdenton and would feel safer and enjoy it a lot more with a trail as close as Eldon. And I could get my grandchildren back on bikes for them to enjoy the sport as much as my husband and I do.

We live close to the community of Belle. The trail will run directly through our community. I look forward to taking the grand children biking on the trail and walking the trail in the early mornings. Our community will receive a wonderful boost by having an influx of tourists using the trail. It will be a wonderful way to keep small towns alive and give our children and adults, a place to exercise and enjoy the great outdoors.

Governor, I appreciate your attention to weather emergencies in Missouri. I writing today to tell you about a need in small communities like: Belle, Bland and Owensville. We have lovely restaurants and businesses but they would greatly benefit from a trail which would bring new visitors to our communities. They struggle to survive each year. Once the arrival of trains was a boost to their economies, now the future could hold a new boost to these communities in the way of tourists.

In addition, our youth and adults would love to ride the recreational trails through their home towns.

I invite you to consider a day trip to our communities to visit with our businesses and hear their stories. They will touch your heart. Who knew that Belle would have a restaurant specializing in Greek food.? Thank you for listening.

I fully support adding the Rock Island Trail. We need more safe places to hike and bike long distances. Please consider this for all Missourians.

This trail will have beautiful overlooks and is more scenic than the parts of the Katie trail I am familiar with. I am excited to see its beginning and know it will be a real boon to the towns along its length.

I support the Missouri Rock Island Trail development through mid-Missouri. It will provide an economic stimulus to the towns along the trail. More importantly, it will provide a safe place for Missouri youth to cycle, a healthy alternative to sitting on the couch playing video games.

great

I urge the DNR to pursue and enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement with the Missouri Central Railroad for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project. Trails like this enhance quality of life for all who live in or visit Missouri. They can serve dual purposes in terms of being a recreation and a transportation resource. Here in central Iowa, the Raccoon Valley River Trail and other central Iowa trails connect over 20 communities and make it possible for people who live in those communities to use bicycles to commute to work, shop, go to the movies or visit restaurants. Missouri's

Katy Trail is known around the world, a valuable resource and sales tool for the state.

An investment in trail development today will return much more over time. I urge the DNR to be bold and visionary here. Trails matter. Thank you.

The trail would help the economic growth of smaller communities like our area. Plus it will be of recreational value to families.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will as well. As an avid runner and biker, I have had the pleasure of using the Katy Trail on numerous occasions and I have seen the positive effects it has had on the adjoining communities. Living at the Lake of the Ozarks, there are not a lot of safe options for running or biking. The Rock Island Trail will change that and make those opportunities more accessible to where I live, along with improving the economies of the small towns along the trail. I hope you will consider accepting the transfer of the Rock Island Trail from Ameren later this year. Thank you!

This trail needs to be done, I rode the 47 miles already done and met lots of people riding for their health for their families. If completed there will be many people from out of state and country that will bring money to every community along the trail, Thank You

While I am a train lover, and would love nothing more to see trains operating on the old Rock Island Line, it is not worth the expense to reopen the line. A railroad line is about generating revenue, and the cost ratio to rebuild the infrastructure, laying down new track, and other expenses will not justify the revenue that could be generated. This was always a weak line to begin with, as it was too late in the game when it was built. However, it is important to preserve the legacy of this line. Although it pains me to admit this, as I see it, the best use of this would be as a rail trail and state park. While I in all likelihood would never truly be able to use the trail, the part that is open now, is successful. It is my recommendation that the DNR continues with the plans of pursuing the use as a trail, instead of rail operations, or complete abandonment.

Let's move ahead with the trail and get this done. This will be a positive economic driver of tourism and jobs to Missouri.

Missouri has put itself "on the map" with the development of the Katy Trail, which has become a destination and provided an economic benefit to the areas it travels. This would serve as the same vehicle for positive change.

We tried to give our section directly for the trail but the "legal process" has to occur first. We could save a lot of time and money going directly for the trail.

Rock island trail would be great!

I think this section of trail would be an outstanding asset to the local communities and an outstanding addition to the rails to trails project in Missouri. For over twenty years, I have driven by numerous sections of this trail - along Hwy 54 from Eldon heading northeast; the two spectacular bridges outside of

Stover which must have awesome views of the landscape west of Stover (never brave enough to try to walk the existing bridges); saw the elimination of the bridge over Hwy 52 between Stover and Cole Camp (I think it was removed because of the low clearance); and the trail section over Hwy 65 south of Sedalia. When this trail is built, I hope some connection can be made into the Jefferson City area, so that a person could bike the Katy trail west out of the Jefferson City area (or Columbia, MO) arrive in Sedalia and then use the Rock Island to head east through the small towns mentioned above and return back to their home base whether it be Jefferson City or Columbia. I can't wait to see bikers on those stretches of the Rock Island visible from major roadways! I have waited for over 20 years to see this happen. Congratulations to the local communities (Eldon and Versailles) that have finally embraced this wonderful idea of bringing bikers and hikers into their communities.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

Our bicycling trail systems in Missouri help bring in much money to our state. People are constantly looking for new places to enjoy outdoor recreation. Bicyclists bring money into our state at an alarming rate because they know how much effort has been put in setting up, building, and repairing our trails. We are known as a great place for bicycling - we continue to benefit from long range planning. Please help us to continue to attract families who are looking for safe places for family outings. Thank you!

Trail coming right behind my house how am I going to keep thieves out ?

The trails are a great opportunity for people to realize the natural beauty of Missouri, which is awesome. It seems like more SAFE, no frills campgrounds along the trails would be nice for the hikers and bikers that can't always pay for bed and breakfast accommodations, or for those who just like the rugged, natural environment experience. Thank You

My husband and I are totally excited about the development of the Rock Island trail. We use the Katy Trail to ride bikes and walk our dogs, but have to drive quite a distance to get to a trail head. We live in Rosebud, Mo and think the trail will bring both recreational and business opportunities to our little town. If the DNR will help get the project up and running more quickly as well as making sure it is done in an environmentally responsible way, then I think that will be a great partnership.

We need this trail

Please enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement. A lot of people have put a lot of effort into getting to this point. If you (DNR) won't/can't contribute funds to its construction, so be it. Let the cities along the trail build their pieces, create further enthusiasm for the trail, and the push for funds will come later on (hopefully with an actual park-friendly administration at that point). Ultimately, the trail can go forward with or without DNR on board, so why be obstructionists to its

completion? Your participation, at whatever level initially, will help expedite the overall process. I fully support DNR's participation in the Rock Island Trail Project.

I totally support the development of the Rock Island Trail Project, understanding the economic impact the Trail will have. I fail to see why Department of Natural Resources would be the Agency being involved in the agreement with Missouri Central Railroad, when common sense seems to dictate that the State Department of Parks should be that agency!

Thank you for your consideration in allowing my comment.

I believe that this would bring even more rider/tourists from around the world to Missouri. It would be an economic boon to Missouri and all the small communities along the Trail. The price is certainly right.

The Rock Island Trail is an essential part of Missouri's bicycle infrastructure and is very important to myself and my bicycle riding group. Please show some vision and support the Rock Island Trail.

I plan and lead trips on Missouri's bicycle trails, especially the Katy Trail. My average trip includes 7 riders. My wife and I recently rode the Bike Across Missouri (350 miles). Bicycling is an important activity and source of revenue for Missouri. Please support the Rock Island Trail.

Make sure you are totally familiar with DNR's stipulations are they can become very hard to work with once an agreement is signed.

The trail would bring lots of tourism to the area and possibly rejuvenate many of the little towns dotted along its path. I for one am very excited about it because it backs onto my property and we can access it right from our back yard.

Dear Governor Greitens,

I complete this survey as I ride the Amtrak River Mule train from Kirkwood to Lees Summit after completing the Katy Trail Ride 2017. This is my 4th ride across Missouri on the Katy Trail State Park. The park is a beautiful example of a rails to trails project that many Missourians and others from all over the world enjoy annually. The economic contribution to Missouri is substantial and sustainable.

I live in Pleasant Hill, Mo where the Rock Island currently begins the journey eastward to Windsor where there is a connection to the Katy Trail. We have seen much economic development already happening in Pleasant Hill and other communities along the Rock Island Trail. The completion of the trail would once again put Missouri at the forefront of trail enthusiasts across the nation. A 500 mile trail loop through some of Missouri most beautiful countryside is not only easily marketable and profitable, but doable and necessary for outdoor enjoyment. We are on the cusp of a historic project. To abandon this project would be tragic and a gut wrenching disappointment for so many communities in its path. Many thousands of others would be disappointed at the prospect of never riding the Rock Island Trail.

As an outdoor enthusiast and average cyclist, I urge you to support the Rock Island Trail project. You would continue your good work at bringing more jobs to Missouri. Business

development is a natural result of these projects. My wife and I are considering several projects that are a direct result of the Rock Island Trail in Pleasant Hill.

Governor Greitens, I urge you to be historic and heroic and support the completion of the Rock Island Trail. I humbly invite you and your beautiful family to Pleasant Hill to ride the beginning of the Rock Island Trail just as your predecessor, Governor Jay Nixon, did when he cut the ribbon opening this new state park.

Thanks for your support,



I wholeheartedly support this additional trail.

It will be great for citizens, both as a recreational opportunity for the citizens and for it's ability to bring in visitors from out of state (which brings in business and tax revenue).

I moved to Missouri from a neighboring state partly because of Missouri being a strong supporter of trails and state parks. I live in Joplin and frequent all the trails in this area as well as in the state. The great success of the Katy trail should make this decision even easier. It truly would enhance what is already a destination trail. People come from all over the country to experience it. I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

I strongly support the development of the Rock Island Trail. I love to ride my bike on trails. I live at the Lake of the Ozarks and there aren't many safe (or flat) areas to ride here. I prefer trails. I ride frequently on the Katy Trail but access to the Rock Island Trail would be closer to access for me.

I live in Lake Ozark. Two years ago I had a hip replacement and can't run anymore. I've replaced running with cycling, but there simply isn't any safe place to ride around the Lake. Having access to this type of trail 10 minutes away in Eldon would be immensely beneficial..... I can't speak to the economic impact of such a trail, but I ride the Katy once a week and have met people from all over world on a regular basis. I don't see another trail as a redundancy at all, but as just another reason for trail riders to want to come to Missouri.

All for Rails To Trails / similar projects. Love them and use them.

My family and I have enjoyed the Katy Trail for years and have personally seen what great tourist it brings to our state. I support the Interim-Trail use agreement.

I strongly support the efforts to complete the Rock Island Trail project. It is an opportunity to create a unique recreational system for the state of Missouri. It would make a huge stretch of land that once had a productive use once again useful. Its recreational possibilities would be of great interest to huge numbers of people far beyond the State of Missouri and would have a beneficial economic impact on the many small communities that lie along the trail.

The corridor should be preserved whether as a trail or a railroad. If future traffic projections are correct the current

corridors across the state will be at max capacity by 2050. Another corridor maybe needed then. This corridor is not in a major river flood plan. Reconstruction will be expensive but with right marketing team to generate new business the profits from new businesses if planned right could recover the expense of reconstruction in a few years. As a side note the BNSF line from Saint Louis to Memphis was being discussed for sale or abandonment acct there was not enough local business to support it but had lots of thru freight business for the BNSF to reconsider their decision.

I strongly support to immediate construction of the Rock Island trail. I will use it and spend hundreds of dollars at local businesses each year.

This week I rode the Katy trail from Clinton to Jefferson City and spent about \$500 at local hotels and restaurants.

Rails to trails is important to small town growth, healthier lifestyles for people and provide safer ways to bicycle versus the roads. It will bring tourists to the trails and help Missouri's economy.

Please, please continue the effort to develop the Rock Island Trail. We live outside of Rolla, and drive to the Katy Trail to enjoy the ride without cars!!! We are beyond excited to think we will only have to drive as far as Belle to access the Rock Island Trail. And we foresee lots of people from this area doing the same! YES.....please develop the trail!

The completion of this trail is essential to building tourist use for the longest bike trail in the country. This project should have Missouri's full support

Please support conversion of the former Rock Island Railroad corridor to recreational use. The KATY trail has been such a tremendous resource for our state. So many people visit from out of state to use it and spend money in towns along the trail. I have hundreds of friends that make use of it frequently and most of them had never bicycled much before that. Keep our state citizens happy and healthy with this opportunity!

This is an outstanding project!

I hope that the trail use becomes available as soon as it's transferred later this year. I plan on using the trail for many health related activities with family and friends. I think that MO will highly benefit from the opening of the 144 mile corridor. Please get this going as soon as it's feasible!

Can see no reason that this is not a great idea for health, wellness, families, community organizations, and economic benefit to connected towns. This project has my full support!
U

My wife and I are from Harrisonville. We enjoy riding the Katy trail so much that we bought a property in Windsor and put a cabin on it. We are very close to where the two existing trails meet. We have been on the new Rock Island spur several times and very much look forward to being able to ride a 400 mile loop through Missouri. We also have friends who love to use our cabin for family rides/weekends. Thanks for your help.

I think the bike trail is a great idea. It gets people outside whether it be on bikes, running or walking; it's getting people active. It also brings revenue in the small towns along the trails. I think it would be a huge mistake to not go forward with the transformation. I fully support it.

This trail will be a boon to the communities that it runs through and a huge tourism draw to our fair state. I highly endorse the use of this long vacant and abandoned rail corridor as the next Missouri State park trail.

I am strongly in support of this project. I am a frequent rider of the Katy trail and have ridden across the entire state twice. This is a valuable resource for our citizens and communities. Every time I ride the Katy I meet people from outside of Missouri. The tourism dollars that this trail is good for these small towns and for other parts of the state as people explore parts of the state they've never traveled before. Please please support this project.

Building this trail is money well spent. It helps diversify the parks system and will bring money to the small towns along the route.

Let's move forward! This project has so much potential for the communities along the trail including economic development and better health for the citizens. It will attract users from all across Missouri, the nation, and the world, just as the Katy Trail has done.

I fully support this project!

I am an area cyclist. I have enjoyed Mo trails. I think it is critical for the health, well being, and development of our region that the Rock Island Trail be completed. It is a benefit not only to local MO community residents but of the entire region. It is critical to complete the cross state link of our two major cities.

We live in Barnett Mo and would love to have the trail so close! It would provide recreation for us as well as a safer route for the local Mennonites to travel.

I strongly support this trail. It will bring tourist dollars to small towns that desperately need it, and will provide space for recreation and exercise.

Rail to trail conversions are a valuable investment in tourism and economic redevelopment of rural communities along the corridor. Trail amenities in our state will bring additional tourism to the state aside from the needed investment in recreational amenities for Missouri residents. Do not squander this opportunity. This trail is vital.

I rode the completed portion of the Rock Island Trail from Pleasant Hill to Windsor and then the Katy to Sedalia. It was beautiful and combines with the Katy to make one of Missouri's greatest assets. I consider the Rock Island Trail an expansion of the Katy Trail, allowing riders to complete a loop across the state. It needs the funding to be completed. It will attract visitors like myself to small towns along the route and allow us to see some of the beauty this state has to offer.

I believe that it is in the best interest of the State of Missouri to enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement because the State will then be the only State to have over 400 miles of Rail Trails. It will help these small towns a chance to revive there economy, with new business.

Trail is a great idea. Me and my family are looking forward to exploring missouri on this new project. Can't wait for the project to happen!

I support the creation of the MORIT. It will bring much needed business and development to many towns along the trail.

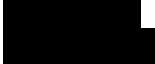
This project needs to proceed on schedule without further political interference. Cities along the route are in favor of the project (including a number who have already invested public monies into improvements) and private investors are already making plans to fund improvements (and/or new businesses) in anticipation of increased tourism this new trail will bring. If you are honest about wanting to grow the state's economy, then there is nothing to be gained by opposing this project as seems to be the case. Just because the project was conceived by people who don't share your political philosophies doesn't mean you and members of your party should try and kill it.

As someone who grew up in Eldon in the 70s and 80s and watched the vitality of our town drop in the area around the railroad tracks when the trains moved away, I'm in support of the new Rock Island Trail Project. I now reside in the suburban west St Louis County area and have seen how the trails have been a windfall for areas like Augusta and around the state as well.

I am in support of bringing an important historical part of Eldon and other communities like it back to life.

Please Governor Greitens support these trails. We are using the Katy Trail for the first time this fall and biking from Clinton to St. Charles. We are staying at Bed and Breakfasts along the way. We are doing this ride for 7 days and will spend several thousand dollars At all the local towns along the trail. So please I ask that you support all of the trails and their expansion.

Thank you,



The Rock Island Trail will be the perfect complement to the wildly successful, and nationally recognized KATY trail. This trail will be an economic driver for the small railroad towns along the route that have declined in prosperity and population since the line was abandoned. I look forward to hiking and biking the RIT and writing about the communities that it passes through for www.population91.com

Yes, DNR should enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement with the Missouri Central Railroad to develop the Rock Island Trail. The trail will be an asset for the state of Missouri. Yes, the development and management of the trail will take time and resources, but the overall economic and social impact of the trail will be well worth the investment. A strong

partnership with the state, the communities along the corridor, other government agencies, not for profits and the private sector should be enhanced further to assure support and resources required for the development and long term management of the trail. What a wonderful recreational, natural and historic resource and positive economic benefit this trail will be for our great state when it is complete!

You have parks I used enjoy in disrepair. Now you want to add more??? Why don't DNR take care of what it has first.

I've traveled the Katy Trail many times, as well as the Rock Island Spur, and look forward to being able to do the same on the Rock Island Trail. What a great opportunity for Missouri! I suggest that the MDNR enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement, and begin building out the trail as soon as possible. I have family in central Missouri, and folks there are very excited to see the opportunities that the trail will bring.

Being a resident of Owensville and avid cyclist I would greatly enjoy the life it would bring back to our town. This feeling was reforced this weekend during 123 mile charity ride I did on the Katy Trail. During our 10 hour ride we encountered 4 couples from other states that were bike packing the trail. I would love to see, and host, groups like this in our town.

You should connect this trail all the way into Kansas City. The more you can connect to the MA RC metro green plan the better. My friends and I are already planning an overnight bike ride that includes food, drink, supplies and lodging along the trail. Touring ia getting more and more popular.

I think that the sooner folks can use the trail, the sooner we can help the towns along the trail see the potential economic impact. Users are anxious to access the trail. If the interim agreement allows cities and towns to share in development costs, that should expand available resources.

The Rock Island Trail is giving a loot of people in my community (Belle/Bland) a lot to look forward to. We will get some more economic activity in our small farm towns and there are already people gearing up for it and investing in our communities. I look forward to the day my family of four can walk down the trail together and enjoy the beautiful scenic views (really looking forward to the Gasconde Bridge). Please support the trail and all of the little communities that will benefit so much from it.

Make the trail. I thought it was a done deal but I see politics got in the way. The trails are very nice in that you don't have to worry about traffic and you can get to new areas. I know I have spent money going to them, B&B's, food, travel, shopping. I don't think some of the towns have enough services especially water! So much fun to ride at differs times of the year. Just do like me and do a little at a time.

I am a frequent user of the Katy Trail, the completion of the Rock Island Trail would enhance it, allowing the riders to do a complete loop on the two trails. It would bring more tourism dollars and activity to the towns near the trail.

I am a bicycle rider. So is my husband. We have 4 bikes each and ride over 2000 miles per year. We travel the world with our bikes, spending money for air fare, hotels, food etc for up to 2 weeks of bike vacations per year. Being out of St Louis, the Katy and Rock Island trail are home trails for us, but anything from Columbia on require a night or two in hotel rooms to get a couple days riding done. We have already this year spend Easter Weekend staying in Warrensburg and riding the Rock Island Spur. These trails are important to us and we need more to provide local variety as well as bring more tourist into the state. If the Rock Island does not open, the time and money we would spend riding that trail will go to other states or other countries. Bike riders as a group are older and generally more affluent tourists. Montana refers to us as Wallets on Wheels. I'm ok with that. How can Missouri not want part of that money?

I support 100% the DNR entering into a Trail Use Agreement with MCR to continue the development of the Rock Island Trail Project and complete the 144 mile recreational trail system.

Please enter into the use agreement. The Rock Island trail will benefit all Missourians for decades.

DNR should absolutely enter into an agreement for the Rock Island Trail project. This trail will benefit a number of Missouri communities by bringing tourists to those towns. All over the country, trails are big economic assets. I have ridden in Iowa, Minnesota, North Carolina, Arkansas, and Utah because they have trails. We have stayed in hotels and eaten in restaurants everywhere. Missouri towns should not be left out!

I [REDACTED] support the conversion of the old rail corridor into a trail.

I support the full involvement of the Mo-Dept of Natural Resources to accomplish this effort.

This project can financially benefit these trail-side communities and provide health benefits along the way. It would be nice for the Legislature to provide money for this. Thanks,

[REDACTED]

For years I've seen small towns suffer and the thought of something of this nature coming to so many small communities is so very much needed. Not only for a shot in the arm for local economies but even giving local folks such a great place for walking, biking, etc. is a huge plus. My spouse & I walk county roads & lettered routes with crazy people/kids zooming past us. Looking forward to its completion so we can feel safer!

I think this is a wonderful project that can help improve not only the health and wellness of Missourians but can also help spur economic development and tourism.

Fully support. Just look to the Katy Trail as the same exact situation and the benefits it is provided for the state. Those that are expressing their concerns should look to the Katy Trail to see if those concerns are truly founded. This is a beneficial project. It should go forward.

I am eagerly anticipating the opening of the Rock Island Trail so I can explore more of Missouri on my bicycle with overnight trips visiting the towns along the trail route.

I think that this bike trail would be a great addition to our state and a great way to see it!

I'm very excited for the trail. It will provide a great recreation opportunity as well as revitalize nearby economies.

Please complete this trail. Missouri needs to be known for something great in this country other than the meth capital of the country.

I am very much in favor of this project, it will be a tourist draw and a wonderful addition to our park system.

Please continue this project. It may not provide much but these towns are struggling and practically on life support. Any outside notice may well lead to future economic development.

The Katty Trail is fabulous this would be a great addition to our state and all of our great State Park

The Rock Island Trail would be a great addition to Missouri and a MONEY GENERATOR for the towns along it's length. Please consider this a statement in SUPPORT of the Rock Island Trail. Thank you.

Do enter into the Trail Use Agreement. The KATY Trail State Park faced similar opposition years ago when visionaries first suggested it's reuse. Do not be encumbered with short term budget thinking. The Rock Island Trail Project will bring tourism dollars to the rail corridor just as the KATY Trail State Park has. Ask the cities of Defiance, Augusta, Rocheport, Franklin... how the KATY project has helped them to survive and develop B&Bs, wineries, restaurants and trail services sectors of their economies. Say yes to the long term development of the Rock Island Corridor. Cyclist tourists throughout the country are watching and awaiting it's development.

Please make trail accessible to equestrian use throughout the entire length of the Rock Island Trail.

As a long time resident and property owner in Stover I am convinced the Rock Island Trail is a huge benefit for the community. The trail represents an opportunity for an influx of tourists and their dollars that will revitalize Stover and all the old rail towns along the line. The example of the Katy Trail makes it obvious that there is nothing the state could ever do for Stover that would compare with development of the Rock Island Trail.

This is a must do. This was being counted on as a great new resource and Econ development opportunity to bring tourism for biking, hiking, etc. for Missouri and rural areas. This was hard fought to get, and is very disconcerting that it is being reconsidered after all the work to get this plan in place. Please proceed to complete this trail. Thanks!

Great asset for the state. Tourist dollars are important.
Business development will follow the trail.

What a wonderful idea, I cycle all over the USA using trails when ever possible for safety and a better cycling experience ..This trail would also help the community that travels by horse and buggy again wonderful ... when I cycle the Katy trail I spend around 150.00 a weekend in the towns to help support them Again its a win win

I rode from my home in west county to the end of the Katy trail in Clinton with my son. We would love if the Rock Island Trail Project provided us another challenge to ride across our beloved state of Missouri.

Please send my support for this initiative.

██████████

So I think this is a great idea. One of the primary things i look at whenever I travel is the access to recreational trails. I like bike trail the best but also take full advantage of hiking/ walking trails as well.

I believe this is an opportunity that can not be passed up. Now is the time to take advantage of this and put something in place for this generation and those up and coming

Please do everything in your power to support the development of this trail. Rails to Trails projects such as the MKT trail are a tremendous asset to the citizens of Missouri. I use them regularly for biking and running.

This area has Nothing for our citizens to enjoy. We were so happy to hear that finally something enjoyable would be coming.

The Katy trail did not have this delay in production. Please complete the project as agreed asap

When thinking thru the trail- Plan for rest stops and multiple bicycles& riders at a time.. As an estension from raytown to Lees Summit will be very busy.

Provide easy emergency access locations and Cell phone signals. Video record the Tunnels to make sure no campers try to stay all night on the trail

PI

The trail project not only benefits users but the towns along the route, however the most important benefit is the banking of the rail bed for possible future use. We should always be ready for the future.

I think it would be a great addition to our area and our state. It will open up rural counties for many opportunities and even small businesses. This should be a no-brainer! Thanks

I think it is a wonderful idea! This is a great attraction for our state and will add so much to the small towns it intersects. I just got home from riding 30 miles on the Katy trail and it was packed today. The longer the trail the more interest there will be in drawing commerce to these communities--no other state has and will have such an amazing trail that goes from one side of the state to the other. I have ridden the entire Katy trail and have met many people along the way that are doing the same!

The trail project is essential to the state. Not only for residents but for all the individuals who will come to the state. Each one of the cities on the trail will benefit from the commerce the trail will create.

Great idea! I'm in favor.

What a great way to preserve a piece of Missouri history. As a kid I remember watching the Rock Island trains rolling between Summerfield Mo. to the great tressel across the Osage river. Trains will never run on these right a ways any more. I can't think of a better use for this land than a bike trail through the beautiful Missouri county side.

The State of Missouri is finally willing to doing something to make wonderful recreational use of the old Rock Island line that bisects the State from St. Louis to KC. And it is now in jeopardy? The Missouri Farm Bureau was against the KATY trail as well---really now? "The Rock Island Line is a mighty good road " (Did anybody ever write a song about the KATY Line?) and was a boon to small, impoverished areas that relied only on river traffic or no commercial transport at all around the turn of the 20th century. As children, my sister and I loved to play on a lawn glider purchased by an elderly man who, as a young parent, was able to take his family from Spring Garden, MO to the St. Louis Exposition in 1904 on the Rock Island. He placed an order for the glider there and it was soon delivered at the Rock Island depot at the brand new town of Eugene.

Suddenly, and amazingly, people isolated on small farms through a large swath of Missouri well south of the Missouri River could hop on the Rock Island and not only go to the World's Fair in St. Louis but ship their farm produce to markets in KC and St. Louisi. Now, with an oppourtuny to open up some of the most beautiful scenery in Missouri and just maybe encourage some renewed commerce along the way---we wish to hesitate? For example, I can imagine locals reopening for public viewing and enjoyment the fabulous natural bridge in the bluffs overlooking the gorgeous vistas of the Osage River near the Rock Island bridge at Hoeker. This is an oppourtuny that may never come again. My thanks to Ameren for buying this property in the first place and now making it available for public use! State of Missouri Accept the right of way and build the trail!

██████████. I knew and worked with Ted Jones, the prime mover in securing and developing the KATY Trail. When the KATY Trail was devastated by a flood soon after opening, my partners and I donated a large sum to repair it. I believe that Ted Jones would be a strong supporter of this trail as well, making possible a fabulous scenic loop across and back along both the Missouri and the Osage and Gasconade Rivers!

Rails to Trails is a worthy project for the good of all Missourians. Please support this endeavor.

I think this is a great idea. It is a once in a lifetime chance to do this and I support it completely. This is a great chance for our state to continue making the entire state be able to enjoy the experience of state trails.

Rode Windsor to Leeton today. Beautiful stretch! Have ridden about half of the Katy trail in the past few years. Just recreational (aka slow) riders in our 50s. Do this for health fresh air and fun. Have visited many communities and spent \$ in each we wouldn't have done otherwise. So glad to see this project go forward. Will increase tourism \$, and contribute positively in many ways. Would be open to a small yearly usage fee, displayable via stickers on bikes. Could also be voluntary .

I am 100% in favor of this agreement with Missouri Central Railroad and support the conversion into 144.3 miles of recreational trail for the people of the great state of Missouri.

I believe this project will be very beneficial to all the communities along the trail; both as an economic growth tool and also as a way for the citizens to get some exercise and fresh air. I sincerely hope the state signs off on this.

Please develop the Rock Island Trail as promised. It will be a great attraction for Central Missouri. Look at how popular the Katy Trail has been.

The RIT/KATY is drawing more and more people from all over the USA and other countries, that are thrilled to ride on this fantastic corridor. To have it all a contiguous trail from point A to point B, would be the biggest ace in the hole. To ride from Windsor to Beaufort is a win-win for the small towns along the corridor. Stayed in Windsor last fall from a ride on the KATY, would love to visit/stay in other towns along the route if it is completed. GO FOR IT!

This is a program/expense the state just doesn't need. Take care of the parks we have now.

Our family is looking forward to the completion of the trail. We live near Eldon and will be glad when we no longer have to drive to Jefferson City to get on a trail (though we love the Katy!). All of these affected towns need the economic boost the Rock Island trail will bring.

The Rock Island Trail Project is an important amenity for Missouri cyclists as well as a key economic driver for the surrounding communities and the state as a whole.

An extensive trail network provides more opportunity for local cyclists, and attracts riders from outside the state who bring money when they come. Moreover, the trailside communities have suffered from the loss of the railroad. The trail would provide a replacement opportunity.

For more than 25 years, I have done week-long cycling vacations every year with two or three other riders. Each of these trips represents about 15 room-nights in motels along the trail as well as purchases of food, beverages and sundries. Each year, we spend at least \$1,500 along our chosen route. Our destinations are chosen based on the availability of long bicycle trails, sufficient for a multi-day tour.

Wisconsin's extensive trail network has drawn the most of our trips. Two of these trips have followed the existing Katy Trail. The Rock Island Trail would create another attractive destination ride.

If you look at county economic data, Interstate 70 creates a "belt of prosperity" across Missouri, enriching every county

through which it passes. Bicycle trails offer their own economic impact, at a much lower cost.

It would be a tragedy if Missouri misses this opportunity to enhance recreation and exercise for its residents, and provide economic opportunity for the communities along the trail.

I love the Katy Trail, but have not had an opportunity to ride the Rock Island. I think this is such a big thing for Missouri. I grew up in Leeton and I can only see this as being a great asset to that little community. I hope as it is developed, camping or lodging facilities are made available. I would love to ride KC to Owensville, where my in-laws live.

As a Missourian, I support the Rock Island Trail project. Economic opportunities for small communities (I was born in Bland, on the Rock Island). Cafes, rentals, lodging, other trail side services.

Opportunity to give outdoor biking/hiking enthusiasts yet another Missouri venue - which equates to tourism dollars.

There are many towns along this trail that could use the stimulus of this trail in their town. A perfect example of a town is Leeton, MO. To see increased traffic in towns that once survived by the railroad and have all but closed down. This is an opportunity for tourists to come through these towns on a trail bring money generate sales tax revenue from this visitors. Not finishing construction and completing this trail would be a broke promise to Missourians, and a failure of this Governor to help the people that need it most, small town residents of the state of Missouri.

My hometown of Eldon is excited and planning the future of the town around the Rock Island Trail project. The past 15 years has seen our community lose hundreds of factory jobs and we are struggling. The trail will be a big boost to our town bringing many visitors. We have made improvements to encourage healthy living and the trail will be wonderful to continue that idea. Eldon has a strong history as a railroad community and we would love to tie that into the proposed trail use. Please give serious consideration to the completion of this project. Our town's future depends on it!

It's such a wonderful plan to convert the old rail line into another trail much like the Katy Trail. I know that several communities along the way would benefit from such things as marathons, events and tourists. I myself would love to get some miles in. I know it will take at least a few years to get the trail up and running and maybe more to completely finish it, but I wholeheartedly look forward to it when it's ready to go!

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail. It is an excellent recreational opportunity for all Missourians, young and old, and an economic boon for the communities it passes through.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the state of Missouri and the people that live in and around the small communities that this trail will impact.

I support the the trail and look forward to using it!

Very much in favor of seeing the development of the Rock Island Trail move forward. It's been proven that the KATY and others like it are a unique and sustainable form of economic development for rural Missouri communities. Beyond the specific benefits of health, economic opportunity, sustainability and beyond, anything that connects our fractured state and creates bridges (literal and figurative) between rural and urban areas is a plus, in my opinion. I wholeheartedly support bringing this project to life and not losing this incredible opportunity.

The Katy Trail is a wonderful state park with many people visiting the many towns along the trail and enjoying the businesses in these towns. Please develop this trail. Thank you.

I'm in favor! How do you put a cost-benefit analysis on quality of life issues? I return regularly to Missouri not only to visit family but to share riding on the Katy Trail (almost daily) with them. 3 generations of our family enjoy spending time together riding and visiting the small towns along the way. With technology driving us indoors and apart, it's absolutely important to have outdoor, healthy family bonding experiences like a trail ride (without having to dodge texting drivers on the roadways). The land is free, the supporters and volunteers to maintain it are endless. Just look at the Katy and the growing numbers of trails in other states! This should be a no-brainer.

YES this project is very important to our state/cities. It will increase economic development, promote well-being in our community, call attention to our environmental issues. Eldon is involved in building up our little city and this project helps us all be connected to each other and our county as a whole!

Our State can not afford this. We still owe Missouri Citizens income tax refunds we can't pay. We have streets, bridges & highways crumbling beneath our feet that we can't afford to repair. We don't have funds to build simple things like sidewalks on State Roads within City Limits. It's using eminent domain to redistribute land & property to the government. It's redistribution of wealth. It's going to give one of the wealthiest corporations in the State a massive tax break that Missourians can not afford. DNR, Parks & Rec can't maintain what they have & are laying people off. And what is the cost? Estimates of half a billion dollars to develop???

MISSOURI CAN'T AFFORD THIS!

This is a much-needed resource for the surrounding communities, not only for tourism dollars but also for the health of its citizens and here in Owensville, will provide a safe travel route for the children who want to walk to the school. It will also bring some beautification to the communities and surrounding areas by getting rid of the eyesore that is a deserted run-down railroad track. Please consider the Interim Trail Use Agreement.

Please do it. The Katy Trail has been a wonderful thing. We live near Beaufort how nice if we had something like that in this side of the river. Some of these little towns would get a boost with riders coming to the area. It is such a pretty area it would be wonderful to have bike trails.

The Katy Trail is one of the best trails in the nation, having a second trail of the same caliber would simply put Missouri into an elite class of cycling destinations, please make this happen!

I fully support developing another lengthy trail on the Rock Island RR. This can only be good for the health and prosperity of Missourians. I am tired of the backward, crabbed thinking that pervades Jefferson City right now. Look up once in awhile and think ahead. By the way, I also fully support the new state parks that Gov. Nixon acquired and am outraged at the thought that they might be sold off.

The Rock Island Trail Project is an important way we can bring people and jobs to the communities along the path of this former rail corridor. The opportunity to help out our fellow Missourians by bringing this trail project to fruition is once in a generation and needs to be done.

I retired from DNR with over 28 years of service. I had a very successful career which included an 18 month stint as Acting Director of DEQ. I spent my entire career protecting the environment, responding to disasters and emergencies (including the lead project manager for the Tatum Saul Disaster) and I enjoy our state parks.

However, I am against this trail for a variety of reasons. First this state has many priorities that need state funding such as better roads/bridges, education, public safety, pay raises for state employees, etc.

Second, DNR only can expect a certain amount of revenue from the Parks and Soils Tax. This trail is much older than when it accepted the Katy Trail. Many of the numerous bridges and culverts are in poor condition and will cost a significant amount of money to repair. Also DNR will need to hire additional staff, equipment and resources to maintain the upkeep. Where does all these "extras" come from? How does DNR pay for it and does it "water down" the experiences we will encounter at our existing state parks? I recall a specific conversation I had with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who expressed concern to me about the water and wastewater infrastructure that existed within the park system and was at a loss on how they would meet those needs.

There are other concerns as well including unknown environmental studies from all the creosote ties that remain, the draining of wetlands from the sloughs that have developed along the rail due to rail culverts being clogged by beaver dams and/or debris. Also I have concerns about how the project impacts (or could) impact the Indiana Gray Bat. Our property adjoins the rail line and also the MDC Bat Cave Conservation Area in Miller County. I know the bats utilize the tunnels at Henley and near Argyle, MO. Will further human encroachment threaten this species? A scientific study should at least be considered to examine this and not just rely on the opinion of a few biologists with an interest in seeing the trail be developed. DNR should be fully aware of what this project will cost the taxpayers of Missouri and how they will pay for it. My vote is to concentrate on maintaining and improving our existing parks and not take on more than what the agency can handle.

Also many of the local landowners in our area feel that Ameren has been promised a big "tax credit" for donating their liability to the state of Missouri. Please don't let that happen. Thanks

The Rock Island Trail needs to be finished. Connecting Kansas City to the cross state trail systems will greatly enhance the already overwhelming economic impact of tourism on the trail that so many other small communities along the Katy trail have enjoyed. Further more this will connect the growing Kansas trails into the Missouri trail system. More tourism, more cyclists & pedestrians, more money spent along the trails. They have proven they value, let's embrace this resource.

Would love to have somewhere close to safely ride my bike, other than on a road. Also feel it would help bring more tourist monies to our small town.
We love the Katy trail but have to travel some distance to get on it. This would bring it to our back door.

We need this trail. Our community has worked hard to make it healthier but this trail would provide a safe place for all types of exercise for young and old. As an runner I was hit by a car 4 years ago, even though I made a complete recovery this trail would have provided me a safe place to exercise with out the fear of traffic. It's also a great revenue source for our town. It will bring runners, walkers and bike riders right through Eldon. We have worked too hard for this not to happen.

I'd like to express my hope that the State counties to move ahead with plans to develop another great rail trail in the state. The opportunity for positive economic impacts to many small, rural towns along the corridor is huge! Hope in these small towns that they have not had for several decades. It also gives Missouri a chance to showcase the state to people from all over the world who will use the trail as evidenced by the Katy Trail. Trail systems also contribute to the overall health of a population by providing a safe, low impact option to exercise. So, I ask that everyone involved continue this important work that will reap benefits at numerous levels for years to come. Thank you!

These trails are a benefit to the communities as well as the people utilizing them for fitness and fun.

I would like to see the entire corridor completed as a trail. This would place Missouri as a premier destination for rails to trails travel. As tourism is one our greatest assets, we need to not only maintain, but improve our tourist opportunities. As a native of out state, I and my family regularly use the Katy Trail, and are eager to utilize the new Rock Island portion of the trails system as well.

Please complete this project. My family and many friends and neighbors love biking on trails rather than the road. We sometimes drive an hour to the Madison county trails in Illinois.

Best thing for MO...
Jobs to build and maintain...promoting healthy activities...
I will certainly vote for politicians who support this!

The Rock Island Trail would be an economic asset to the great State of Missouri. I ride the Katy Trail nearly every weekend and have met people from around the world! Japan, the Netherlands, Germany, England, etc., not to mention from all over the United States. This weekend I met people from Indiana and Colorado. Last weekend I met people from Connecticut and California. The Rock Island Trail would connect the Katy Trail and can you just imagine what a draw that would be! The possibilities would be endless for vacationing cycling & hiking enthusiasts! We truly have a wonderful state parks and the rails to trails are a great way to stay in shape while enjoying Mother Nature.

I strongly encourage the state of Missouri to develop the Rock Island trail. I have ridden the Katy Trail several times, and believe it to be one of Missouri's best attractions. It is an excellent way to see rural Missouri and some of the state's smaller cities. And, it has proven to be a great draw of out-of-state visitors. Every time that I am on the trail, I meet people from other states, who are spending their dollars in Missouri, who are stunned by the beauty of trail. Missouri would greatly benefit from the development of a second trail, which would show off more of the state, attract more visitors, and spur further economic activity.

This would be a great benefit and asset for communities. It will promote healthy lifestyles, encourage exercise, and bring revenue into the smaller communities along the trail. I live 1 block from the trail site in Eldon and out would be much appreciated. Thank you!!!

I cannot wait for this trail. It will help people in rural towns be able to get healthier right in their own community instead of having to drive so far to exercise. It will bring in more business. I only wish it were happening sooner. I am SOOOOO ready!!!!

Great opportunity to explore more of Missouri, and probably be a boon to some rural towns. Missouri is beautiful, and improving the tourist infrastructure in this case is definitely taking advantage of that asset.

I am a big supporter of the proposed Rock Island Trail! I am and avid runner and biker who regularly accesses the Katy Trail at various locations along its path through the state of Missouri. The proposed Rock Island Trail also goes through my farm. I am not worrying about trail users vandalizing or stealing from properties adjacent to the trail. I have only met honest, trustworthy people who are health-conscious. I've met individuals, couple, & groups from all over the US and even from London, England! The new trail will have a positive economic impact in all of the small towns through which it passes. Entrepreneurs will profit from the many new small businesses which will spring up along the trail. It will also offer relatively inexpensive recreation, physical activity, and exercise to everyone promoting healthy communities.

I say we cannot afford to let this opportunity to expand our state parks slip through our fingers!

I think the trail will be awesome for the wellness of Missourians and will also have a positive economic impact for the economy in a lot of the towns it goes through.

I believe the State of Missouri should proceed with the development of the full Rock Island Trail. As a bicyclist and nature lover, I know that others as well as myself enjoy getting out into the country to enjoy both the exercise and nature. not only does the trail draw users, but economic development as well. bed & Breakfasts, hotels, restaurants, shops and services all benefit the local economy.

Last weekend I visited Hannibal, MO. While not on the trail itself, I will say that if not for the tourism the Mark Twain sites draw, Hannibal would be very poor. Having those sites and the tourists make the difference. I think the trail has brought significant money from visitors and trade to Missouri that would not be near as great were the state not to proceed. This is a great project, but as a businessman, I also see the benefits to the people and merchants of the state - especially the outlying regions. They need the economic boost this can give them.

Even though I live out of state, this will cause me to visit Missouri more often and expand my horizons. Thank you for reading my contribution.

I would like to see the DNR acquire this property and put it to use as a rails to trails greenway. The more such projects the state has, the more appealing a destination we are to those wishing to experience mid-America at a slower pace. After traveling extensively the past few years in WI, MI, IA, and NE, among shorter visits to other adjoining states, any reason we can create for people to check out MO outdoors amenities is a good thing. And anything that would promote better health via exercise, we should all be for.

I support the development of the Rock Island trail. As a regular user of the Katy Trail, it has been amazing to see all the businesses that have opened up in the small towns along the trail. Bike shops, restaurants, wineries, bed & breakfasts and more!

I know the Rock Island trail would do the same for the small towns along the route. Please make sure this project gets done!

I think it is a great idea! We need more opportunities to enjoy the wonderful outdoors in Missouri.

The trail would be a great addition to Missouri trail system. It would provide outdoor tourism opportunities.

I would love to have this trail. With B&B's along the way, I would spend vacation dollars here in Missouri. Please continue this project.

Building more bicycle trails is a wonderful idea.

I want DNR to enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project. I think this trail will have a much needed positive effect on many of the small towns along the trail by bringing recreational users into the towns they wouldn't normally go to. Towns like Rosebud, Owensville and Bland would see increases in tourism money by users of the trail.

I strongly urge DNR to accelerate the development of the RI Trail Project. I am actually moving this week from Florida back to Missouri (my home state), so I can ride the existing Katy trail on a daily basis.

My decision to relocate to Washington, MO is DIRECTLY linked to the fact that I can drive across the Hwy 47 bridge and be on the Katy Trail in minutes.

My family have all moved from STL County to Rosebud, and we are all eager to ride the RI Trail by rolling up Cedar Street and getting on the trail at Rosebud. We have mountain bikes and would be able to ride the existing gravel bed today.

I have ridden rail trails all over the country, and I cannot stress the positive economic impact and revival of the rail towns along these corridors that occurs when they are converted to rail trails.

Talk to the Great Allegheny Passage folks about what their trail has meant to the impoverished, dormant rail towns along its 150 mile path. <https://gaptrail.org/>

I think the Rock Island Trail is a great idea. The towns along the Katy Trail are currently thriving. They have come back from sleepy little boroughs to become active communities again. I have traveled to Michigan several times and they have many rail trails. They just keep building them because they are such a good tourist draw. I have been on some of their trails and they are great. Many are even paved. We have a dedicated tax to pay for state parks. I would even support a larger tax for our state parks, because I love our system of parks. Our parks and trails are consistently rated as some of the best in the country. Our parks and trails are some of the top notch I have ever seen. They bring in billions of tourist dollars a year. Expansion of our parks and their upkeep is only common sense.

I am always looking for a new place to go for an adventure. Having a trail like the Rock Island Trail would be great because it would create a way to go across the entire state. It would be new scenery and a bucket list type of a ride for many bicyclists.

The health benefits are also a good thing. The obesity rate in Missouri is high. This would give people a good way to exercise in that area where there are few trails.

I don't just want to keep Missouri near the top of the list in parks and trails. I want to make Missouri the number one in Parks and tourism. I would like Missouri to be on the lips of everyone I meet in other states. We have a wonderful ecosystem and I want to keep the environment pristine.

I hear some landowners are in opposition of Rock Island Trail. There were many people opposed to the Katy Trail before it's inception but there are no complaints now. When everyone sees how much business it brings in they change their minds.

Thanks for the good work you do.

This is a great tourism opportunity, not to mention family bonding and recreational experiences.

I am against this project. The money spent on developing this project should be used to repair and update our existing parks.

Our parks are an important piece of Missouri's value and beauty within the region. If this project can be done in a financially responsible manner, and with a positive impact on the communities it will traverse, then it should move forward

I absolutely support the state's development of this project. It will continue our lead as having an extensive bicycle/ped touring network of trails in the country, and encourage more tourism to these parts of the state. The Katy Trail has proven to be a boon for such travelers.

Thank You for suggesting this survey. Every morning my dog (SAM) and I take to both the Katy and Rock Island trails here in Windsor. We walk a 5 mile loop. It is absolutely wonderful how the State has constructed this part of the trail here in Windsor and surrounding area. I think there should be incentives the State of Missouri should offer to offset any costs in further development for the trail. Maybe have patrons and towns donate funds and have signs along the Trail that would indicate there contributions (much the same way as our highways do). Encourage business's to build close to the Trails i.e. bike shops, small diners etc. I inquired some months back about putting a diner at the old station here in Windsor (Across from Sonic Drive In) they told me that the land was not for sale because it was owned by the State. I have complete confidence in Mayor Greitens (I did Vote for him) to do the right thing. There are many things that are probably more important to accomplish for this state than this Trail expansion but I think letting the Market decide if its feasible or not. "If we Build it, Will They Come?"

I live next to the Rock Island Trail and am so excited and can't wait to enjoy it. Please make it happen!

I would like to see this built. I have many family members who have said many times that it is going in and they cant wait to use it regularly. These trails help our community have another outlet to get in better shape. Please make this happen.

I strongly support the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. Our state government has a vital role in taking the initiative to expand, maintain and protect natural and recreational lands within our state. Beyond the enjoyment that we Missourians derive from access to areas like this proposed trail, expanded business opportunities are additional important benefits. In some circumstances, this type of state investment has saved rural communities economically.

This project is not only important to the communities involved, giving renewed life and economic growth but it is also important to the national biking community which is looking forward to the completion of this "leg" of the circle route from St. Louis to Kansas City and back. What a coup for the State of Missouri to have such an attraction for the biking world.

I believe that the Rock Island Trail would make Missouri a destination for bikers and hikers from all over the country and beyond. Communities would benefit as those along the Katy have, with more demand for overnight accommodations

because many would want to ride both the Katy and the Rock Island. I'm not sure how farming would be impeded. Maybe the winery's around Augusta could speak to that.

I think this is a great idea for a trail, the katy trail is known nationally as a great trail and this trail would add to it. The katy trail attracts tourism and adding to it would boost the local economies of the towns that go through it.

Yes please

Please develop the Rock Island Trail Project. It will provide jobs and recreation.

THIS IS A NO BRAINER
WE MUST PROMOTE THIS TRAIL FOR THE SMALL TOWNS THAT ARE ALONG THIS TRAIL
THIS WILL HELP A LITTLE TO KEEP SMALL TOWNS ALIVE
I AM AN AVID BIKER AND HIKER

As a frequent, long-time user of the Katy Trail, it is hard to imagine why this donation/transfer would not be accepted. When would there be another opportunity equivalent to this that provides both recreation and economic re-vitalization benefiting communities across the state? It would be very short-sighted to squander this opportunity.

I am an avid bike rider. I love riding the many trails that we have in Missouri. I especially like being able to take a long ride on the Katy Trail. I feel The Rock Island Trail project, would be a great edition to Missouri's Trail System. Viewing the Economic Development along the Katy Trail, is a good indication how much of an impact this system could have on Missouri. This Trail could help make Missouri even more of a tourist destination for visitors looking for a long biking trip. This is the type of thing that Missouri needs to spend Money on.

- 1) Please accept the generous Ameren donation of the Rock Island Trail.
- 2) Please develop the trail in a similar manner as the Katy Trail.
- 3) Don't allow Gov. Greitens to miss this opportunity to acquire and develop a great Missouri resource that will benefit all of the people in the entire Midwest region.

History speaks loudly and clearly. The KATY Trail, the Grant Trail and practically every other rail trail in Missouri faced "Chicken Little" predictions during their formation. Now, they and many other recreational trails in Missouri provide added income to nearby communities, spur growth, and provide safe, healthy options for young and old alike. Even so, given the politically inclined machinations of our current governor, I'm not the least bit surprised that he is using a smoke screen to attempt to "derail" a project that has such great benefits to Missouri citizens. I STRONGLY support the proposed Rock Island rail trail.

I strongly support the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. In small communities all along the Rock Island Trail, people are planning for the development by buying property to open businesses and working in their towns to develop bicycle trails to connect to the main trail. The Rock Island Trail will help communities develop small businesses which we greatly need. Our group has been studying the impact that the Katy Trail has had in Missouri and the opportunities for our small towns are notable. We need this new trail badly! In Maries County, one of the main trail use points will be the Gascondy Bridge and tunnels.

In our community, we have already mapped out a trail through our town to connect to the main trail as we believe we can attract trail users to stop and enjoy our town. Business will improve notably!!

My family and I, along with a number of our friends are looking forward to the use of the Rock Island Trail. Here in the area of Lake of the Ozarks there are so many hills, it's difficult for smaller children or older adults to find a place to ride bicycles. This would be a wonderful, family oriented addition to the communities that we've all been looking forward to.

We also feel that it would be an economic booster for the many small towns like Eldon, Versailles and others that don't gain the benefit from the Lake. Having been in business for many years I understand doing a cost/benefit analysis. Part of that analysis should be the quality of life that you would be enhancing by going forward with this project.

I think it is a good idea to develop the trail as it will bring visitors to the area. It will also provide a great exercise option for people living in the area.

YES to the RI Trail Project. MO needs more goodwill endeavors.

As a multiple time user of the current Katy Trail and as a Missouri taxpayer I totally support the involvement of the state in development and support of the Rock Island Trail Project. I see potential economic and recreational benefits to the citizens of this state in its development and would look forward to cycling on the trail.

This asset may help give recreational exercise to areas that don't have trails. Things that bring up quality of life should be valued for their contributions for future generations.

I remember well, the opposition to the acquisition and development of the MKT railbed into the KATY Trail State Park. Fortunately for Missourians, politicians stood up to the naysayers and the state has a premier resource for its citizens who benefit year in and year out, from this success. The benefits are significant to the communities and entrepreneurs along the route, who have derived strong economic benefit from the Park. As well, the public has had benefit of recreation and green space experience from using the trail. I am fortunate to have had that use over the course of many years. The cost to maintain the KATY has been substantial when flood damage eroded sections, but in those incidents, the trail provided an important emergency access where roads were flooded and unavailable. The Rock Island crosses differing terrain and

risks, but having this resource may prove just as valuable. A separate matter is the longstanding support of the sales tax for parks and recreation Missourians have provided over decades of re-authorization at the voting booth. Please proceed with this important initiative.

This is a great idea. I love the KATY trail. I rode the entire trail 13 years ago and still have fond and vivid memories of it. Since then I've rode sections and I hope to take my kids on it. Having another connecting trail would be great for our state residents and tourists alike.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

I urge the DNR and Governor Greitens to move ahead with plans to accept the land from Ameren for development of the Rock Island Trail. It will be a wonderful complement to the existing Katy Trail which attracts visitors from throughout the United States. The Katy (and hopefully soon the Rock Island Trail) is a world-class asset that distinguishes Missouri. Linking the Rock Island Trail with the Katy will create an outstanding attraction.

Hello,

I am a supporter of safe places to ride bicycles. I am a 69 year old male with a numb left foot due to a Sciatic nerve. It is difficult for me to run and uncomfortable to walk long enough distances to exercise, but enjoyable for me to ride my bicycle. The trails provide a safe place away from vehicle traffic. I can "wobble" a bit and not fall in front of a vehicle. Recently I rode 23 miles on the Katy trail, which I often ride on. It provided needed exercise, it provided comrade, and peace. In return I happily spent money in the local communities of Clinton and Sedalia.

The State Park just sponsored a Katy Trail ride with more than 300 participants paying \$400.00 to do so. I talked to some of these people, 5-riders from Pennsylvania, 1 from Houston, Texas and many from all over the State of Missouri. Many of these riders brought friends and/or family members with them. They stayed in our local towns, spent money at local restaurants and perhaps more important, learned to love our State.

I am from Owensville, MO which the Rock Island Trail travels through. Business are being built in anticipation of the Rock Island Trail, including two new restaurants and a bed/breakfast bicycle shop in anticipation of the Rock Island Trail. My town and others prospered in part due to the Rock Island Trail, starting in the early 1900's. However it has not provided economic improvement, since it abandonment more than 30-years ago. It now has the opportunity to revive many of our small towns. In addition, in Owensville it will provide both a way to walk or ride bicycles to the middle and high schools, as well as provide safe and healthy recreation opportunities.

I grew up on a farm, many of my friends and family are farmers. I understand their concerns. We need to address them, but not by shutting down the Rock Island Trail. By providing fencing and education to the farmers and trail users. The trail is an excellent opportunity for farmers and trail users to come together for a common good. Farmers often complain that "city folks" don't understand or even know where their

milk, beef and other food comes from. What an excellent opportunities for each to learn from each other while bringing economic opportunities to their small communities, a win, win situation.

I understand there are costs, there is for everything. We as taxpayers support farmers, I am not complaining. Our farmers contribute greatly to our standard of living in Missouri and benefits all Missourians, just as supporting our roads do. And so it is with the Missouri Rock Island Trail, the benefits will more than outweigh the costs.

It is my wish that the Rock Island become a part of the Missouri State Park System.

Thank You.

The trail will be of great economic importance to the communities of Versailles and Eldon. It also gives people in the area a safe place to ride. Our roads are very hilly and there are no shoulders. My husband and I have to go at least an hours drive to ride the Katy trail. We would certainly ride this trail at least we weekly.

I support developing Rock Island Trail Project because it will benefit Missouri in the form of increased spending in the state by tourist and residents. It will provide an area to exercise for millions of people. It will make a name for Missouri in the world or bicycling because of how impressive this trail will be when connected to the existing KATY trail.

Why doesn't the survey accurately reflect the fact that the entire trail will be longer than 144.3 miles?

Why isn't there more specific questions in this survey?

I am a resident of Missouri and I fully support the use of my tax dollars to build and maintain the Rock Island trail project. I say to the NIMBY's opposing the project, you should consider that this is currently Ameren's property/right of way. You may like their other potential uses even less. Considering you once had trains rumbling through your back yard, you shouldn't complain. This will benefit the whole state in that it expands public park land for recreational use. We need this trail. Additionally, many of the small communities along the trail stand to benefit economically from visitors using the trail.

I think this would be a great asset to the State. I fully support it. It would be extremely short-sighted and narrow minded to pass up this opportunity.

My wife and I ride parts of the Katy trail at least 3 times a week. We have ridden short day rides numerous times over the past 8 years from Machens (east end) to Bluffton so far, and are making are way west to see the entire length. We always stop and eat lunch in one of the small towns along the trail. Afterwards find antique stores in the area and shop. This is a fantastic way to support the small local businesses that have sprouted up along the Katy trail. The Rock Island trail would give another part of the state an opportunity to see this kind of economic growth. Have any of the people making this decision ever rode the Katy trail? Try it sometime on a weekend between St Charles and Augusta and you will see hundreds of people riding bikes or walking along the trail. During the week we have met people along the trail from all over the US who have come to Missouri to ride the Katy trail.

To have an opportunity like this does not come along very often.

I believe the Rock Island Trail to be a huge benefit to the entire state of Missouri and should be endorsed and moved forward by the DNR. I believe that it has proven that there are NO detrimental affects to local land owners, only positive benefits, and many of the small towns receive increased revenue by embracing these linear trail parks. Given that the trail/park land is being offered as a donation and much of the preparation of the trail (removal of rails and railroad ties) are also included in the donation, the cost to complete and maintain will be efficient and good use of taxpayer money. Once a trail corridor like this is lost, it can never be regained. Look at what these trails have done to help tourism and recreation in other states like Wisconsin, Minnesota, etc.

As an avid trail user (esp Katy trail) - I think the state should NOT pursue the Rock Island Trail. It would be a great project if the state had unlimited resources. This trail would be somewhat redundant with the Katy. Instead the state should focus resources on Katy trail improvements and connecting existing state trails. Just my opinion.

I think the Rock Island Trail Project is a great idea. My wife and I are avid cyclists and use rails to trails routes all the time. Though we currently live in Chicago, my wife is from Owensville, one of the towns on the proposed route, and would definitely use the trail--and patronize businesses along the trail--during our frequent visits.

The state should establish this as a trail as soon as it can. This trail has many features (tunnels, large bridges) that complement the KATY's mostly riverine setting. Local businesses have started and grown along the KATY Trail, and the same can happen along the Rock Island. None of the fears of local landowners along the KATY have come to pass, and it provides a great outdoor experience for residents and visitors alike. The state should also figure out how to connect the trail at Beaufort to other eastern terminals to better support tourism. The state should also get out of the way of communities that want to improved this asset as a local resource - the state could not ask for better steward than those who live along it!

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

I absolutely SUPPORT the Missouri DNR entering into this agreement. This project brings additional value to our state park system, adds quality of life for our citizens, creates tourism, and generates a local revenue.

YES to the Rock Island Trail Project!!

We lived in Beaufort for 20yrs until just recently moving to Gerald a little over a month ago. In that time I've seen both towns remain healthy, but both would also benefit from the revitalization, tourism and exposure the new trail would bring. If it turns out anything like the Katy trail then I'd expect all the small towns along the old rail route to flourish amongst the national and international exposure. I can't think of a better investment by DNR to both expose residents to further opportunities and expand Missouri's exposure across the world.

Missouri most of the citizens that have expressed a opinion on this subject is very much in favor of seeing the State parks gain control of the rails from Ameren and to see if developed into a walking/biking trail. Our community seems so in favor of the ideal of developing the trail, that we have had discussions about trying to get approval if and when the State gains control of developing the trail per State Parks specs ourselves. Since we have 3 plus miles running thru our town, and because i goes thru the middle of our City and would give easy access to our down town area, parks and business district we could see it adding economic development down the road. Personally, as Mayor i am highly in favor of the State gaining control of this. I encourage DNR to listening to the voice of the people and not special interest groups!

As a Missouri resident and avid bike rider I urge the state of Missouri to develop the trail. I have rode the Katy trail and participated in a cross state bike ride last year (Big Bam). From these experiences I have visited parts of the state that most people have forgotten. I see the small towns that have directly benefited from the influx of travelers along the routes. I understated that it is a long an expensive process but the trail will benefit generations of not only Missourians but bike riders from around the world. The possibility of a 400-500 mile trail loop around the state will make Missouri s world class biking destination. Overall the long term benefits to the local and state economy will outweigh the sort term cost of building the trail.

I believe having a bike and hiking trail replacing the Rock Island Railroad is not just a good idea but instead it is a great idea. The economic impact it is already having around the completed part of the trail from K.C. to Windsor is quite encouraging and is yet in its early part of the changeover. When more people have something that draws them to an area that has something to do that they enjoy doing they will come and do this and also tell their friends and family about the wonderful time they had it snowballs into something major as an attraction more people will want to have fun doing. Along with more people comes a larger economic impact created by all these people riding/hiking the trail along with looking for lodging and things to do in each of the towns as they ride through them. This has the potential to become a major shot in the arm for these small railroad towns along the trail and even some that are close to the trail.

Please continue the efforts to develop this trail. As a family, we enjoy the opportunity to use the Katy Trail and would appreciate the growth. In addition to our personal preferences, this could be a huge attraction for the state. Although they are hard to measure, the Katy Trail has spurred new job and sales opportunities and could do the same for the communities along the Rock Island line. For an anecdotal measure, just look at the Capitol Plaza Hotel for touring bicyclists.

I strongly support the State accepting the donation and operating the trail for the good of the public. Public recreational trails, such as the proposed Rock Island Trails

Project, provide rare opportunities for Missourians of all classes, urban and rural alike, to get needed exercise and increase their appreciation for this great State. This trail in particular would provide a rare opportunity for city dwellers to get out and see the wonderful farmland that feeds our State and nation. Many city dwellers get accustomed to buying their food at a grocery store and can forget where it comes for. By providing a way for all Missourians to cycle, hike, walk, or run alongside the farms that sustain them, the State can promote wellness and at the same time support agriculture. Agriturism is a growing trend nationwide as more and more farmers and states see the benefits of a greater percentage of the population understanding what goes on in agriculture. Please continue to develop this project so we can grow the number of heathy Missourians who appreciate and take pride in our vital farmers and farmlands.

I fully support the trail being created. The Katy trail is already a huge attraction to our state. The addition and creation of the rock island trail would only make bigger. In addition, this trail would boost a lot of local economies along its route.

I think the trail has been a great addition to the State. The amount of use that I have seen in the Cass County area has shown that people from all over like the trail and will use it.

The trail will be a benefit to all and an asset to the communities along it and the state. We travel the U.S. just to ride trails like this dropping dollars the entire way. Have traveled from out of state to ride on the KATY several times.

the success of Missouri's KATY trail is recognized nationally. an opportunity to double the foot print is a once in a lifetime opportunity that can not be squandered. the recognized economic benefits for this land use clearly out way the minor and misplaced views of the FB. the KATY trail being exhibit A. give these historic small towns the opportunity. there aren't many others.

This will be so good economically for these small towns. I support the Rock Island Trail Project. Please enter into this agreement! Good for my town of Owensville...and good for Missouri!

Please accept the donation from Ameren and construct a hike and bike trail with asphalt or concrete. As a recreational cyclist I enjoy cycling the Katy Trail with my significant other. We spend money at restaurants and stores in the towns along the Katy Trail. I believe the parallel Rock Island Railroad trail would also benefit the communities along it with economic development. This trail would be a valuable resource to Missourians.

Please develop the Rock Island Trail. I just rode the length of the Katy and back and met lots of people doing the same thing and many of them were from out of state. The Katy brings lots of money to Missouri businesses and Rock Island will do the same. There will be lots of people doing the entire loop when its finished, all eating, drinking, and spending money in Missouri. I, for one, cant wait to ride the entire loop. Thank you,

Recreational trails, especially the Rock Island Trail Project slated for Missouri.

These types of trails provide an outlet for outdoor communities to flourish and encourage involvement. Pairing the use of old, existing, rail path with modern trail conveniences, all ages and athletic abilities can enjoy the Rock Island Trail Project for many years to come. With any defined trail system also comes a plethora of opportunity for events, such as running/bike races, fun runs and the like, to utilize an existing trail and in turn support the communities that touch the trail by bringing in participants to stimulate the economies and contribute to charitable funds. Loyal trail users are a neat breed of humans, with a compassionate heart for nature, health, and enjoying life. The Rock Island Trail would be a gift to those that do and care the most in our communities.

I am excited to finally see the Katy Trail more complete and lengthy with the addition of the Rock Island section. I rode the Katy Trail as a kid, and completed a few overnights on it as I got older. I moved away from Missouri then. After being gone 12 years, part of why I came back a year ago is because of the increase in public trail systems and conservation. If you're born a Missourian you love nature in my experience. I think trails like this will bring a lot of people to the state, and let's be honest we all know we need the tax base that more people bring. I'm writing to support the Rock Island trail that is currently being reviewed.

I visit MO from CO every year to see my brother and friends in Columbia and St Louis. My friends and I always ride or walk sections of the KT Trail during my stay. We enjoy visiting, shopping, dining, and camping in the many small MO towns along the trail. To me, turning the KT into a huge loop by adding the 144 miles of the Rock Island RR bed would make the longer trail system even more of a draw for tourists and locals. The small towns along the proposed trail would get a much needed economic boost and I would have another 144 miles of trail and countryside to explore. MO has been a leader in the rail-trail movement over the past decades. Please remain in the forefront by including the RIRR corridor in the MO state parks system and by supporting further development of MO's recreational trails system for bikers, hikers, and equestrians.

Thanks,

Yes! Complete the Rock Island Trail and bring more tourism to Missouri. I will be traveling there this fall, from my home in Baltimore, Md., to ride on the Katy Trail. I will be staying for six or seven nights in Missouri hotels, and buying a week's worth of meals. Also having my bike unpacked and assembled at a bike shop in St. Charles, and disassembled and boxed at a bike shop in Sedalia. One more note: I heard there's going to be a connection between trails in Washington State and Idaho, and the resulting trail system would make it the longest trail system in the U.S., longer than the Katy Trail. If I understand correctly, Missouri could keep that title with the completion of the Rock Island Trail. That will attract the attention of bicycling tourists all over the world.

The Katy trail has provided travelers with the opportunity to see some of the wonderful parts of Missouri that would otherwise go unnoticed. Local residents, tourists, and business owners have all benefited from the investments made in the trail. I believe the investments made in the Rock Island Spur would be a cost effective way to help the state stay competitive with nearby states that have made these investments like Colorado, Arkansas, and Minnesota. The DNR needs to keep its commitment to the project so that it can provide another great way for its residents and tourists to enjoy the great outdoors and provide an economic benefit as a result.

I think the Rock Island Trail Project would be a great asset to the State of Missouri. DNR should expedite the process of developing the trail.

I support the Rock Island Trail Project

Please please accept the trail gift. It would bring positive change and impact to these communities.

I support the Rock Island Trail project.

Move forward with this land acquisition for the sake of Missouri.

I am a cyclist and utilize trails for my past-time. When I travel to ride my bike through different areas I spend money at local businesses. Trails like the Rock Island Trail, the Katy Trail, the Frisco Highline trail, and many others intrigue me enough to travel to use them. Driving an hour or more to ride through someone's neighborhood or local highway do not. I know that my feelings are shared by many others. Thank you!

We live in Leslie, Mo and my family of 6 are avid hikers/runners and can't wait for this trail to be completed that will be .5 miles from our house. We would love to see people stop by Leslie depot for lunch as well. We may be near the end of this trail but sure am very excited to see it completed.. we have a 7 month old and it would be great to teach her how to ride her bike on this trail when she is older and just make great memories. We are looking forward to it being completed and hopefully soon.

There is no downside to this. The Towns will benefit from the business. Tourism will skyrocket in these areas. Missourians will be able to enjoy more healthy, family oriented recreation. Please accept it

I'm so excited that we'll have a walking, biking trail through Eldon, mo! I enjoying biking on the Katy trail but I have to drive to Jefferson city to do that so I don't get to go very often. The Rock islan trail will allow me to go when ever I want.

To whom it may concern,
The development of the Rock Island Trail would be a great benefit to the many communities it touches along the trail. It would provide economic opportunities, recreation opportunities, and improved health to the many citizens along the trail that so desperately need it. One need not look any further than the Katy Trail, and the \$18.5 million in annual

economic benefit as well as other unquantified benefits that have occurred for communities along the trail.

One perhaps overlooked benefit is the improved safety that the trail would offer to citizens in the communities. Frequently on the narrow, hilly roads that parallel the proposed trail one will encounter pedestrians, bicyclist, and equestrian. Frequently these are members of the Mennonite and Amish communities. Moving this traffic to the trail will improve safety for them as well as motorist in the area of the trail.

For the entire 29 years of my life the Rock Island rail bed in the Versailles area has sat in a state of overgrowth, disrepair, and unuse. In that state it is an eyesore that provides absolutely no benefit to the communities. The development of the trail would bring new life and opportunity to the corridor. It would rejuvenate the area and bring new jobs to an area of the state with high unemployment and high poverty rate. The development of the trail also provides one additional benefit. The possibility of a future. By converting the line to a trail and rail-banking, rather than abandonment, there is a possibility to at some point in the future convert the line back to rail track to further benefit local economies. Abandonment would be the final knife in the back of any potential future benefit to these Missouri communities.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Please please please complete this trail. It will be a big help to our area economically and an amazing addition to the lake areas tourism attraction.

Just rode the trail from Windser to Leeton and back yesterday (June 25). Love the trail and can't wait to ride the rest of it many, many times. Any further expansion would be much welcome. This type of investment is much needed in our society today.

I fully support developing the Rock Island Trail project.

I think it will be a great investment for the communities. It will allow people to get to see the beautiful countryside of the small town living in Missouri. I live in Cole Camp and the trail would literally go right by my house so I am excited to take the kids and go right on the trail. I hope it happens!

I support the Rock Island Trail project (a conversion of railroad to trail). Outdoor recreation, trails and parks contribute greatly to the Missouri economy, and the Rock Island Trail project should be completed. Citizen support for Missouri State Parks and outdoor recreation is demonstrated by the large support for the Parks, Soil & Water Sales tax. The tax was first approved by voters in 1984, and has since been reapproved by voters three times in 1988, 1996, 2006 and 2016. At least two-thirds of voters approved the tax the last four times, showing how much Missouri voters support their state park system. The Rock Island Trail project should become an asset of Missouri State Parks and the residents and visitors to the state of Missouri.

My grandparents live in Owensville, MO and a trail that goes through there would be awesome to ride on with entire family. I also think that it would be awesome if it connected with

Grant's Trail in St. Louis, MO and passed through Webster Groves.

Please continue the walk/bicycle path. Make America Great Again. Safer from vehicles on highways. Gives us good clean fun family physical activity. For me personally I don't like any other activity as much as this one. Gets me off my sofa and out living with others. When I Retire I hope to do a lot more than I have been. Please keep this going.

<https://blog.gaijinpot.com/riding-shimanami-kaido/> Catch the dream for a Healthier America. God bless you all.

Hello,

My wife and I, two brother-in-laws and a few others have used the Katy Trail dozens of times over the past 20+ years. A group of six (6) or more have also ridden across the entire Katy Trail three (3) times over the past two (2) decades. These Rail to Trail rides are Great and anytime someone offers you the opportunity to continue something which has been Extremely popular, you have to take advantage of it for your citizens and lifelong taxpayers who would benefit from the use of this type of activity. We ask you to please look at ALL the details and continue to invest in the outdoors in the State of Missouri. Please contact me if you need additional info for this exciting New opportunity.

Sincerely, [REDACTED] in South St. Louis County, MO

Please let this happen! I found my love of walking 2 years ago after a health scare that very nearly ended my life. Since that time I've logged over 1,000 miles on our trail system here in Missouri. This is a good thing! This trail issue is bipartisan and good for both sides there. In fact if they both got out and walked on our trails through some of these congressional sessions I bet they'd get along better and fine less to fight about! If you want to look at it from a health point of view it's a very low cost idea that would generate huge health benefits for almost no moneys. PR would be very nice wouldn't it? In the end it's a good thing all the way around for all Missourians!

Ameren Corporation is giving Missouri 144 miles of high impact property late this year. Twenty towns will benefit. Please accept this gift. It will not only benefit monetary-wise but will beautify and provide health and safety benefits to the citizens of these towns and many others. This is wanted and needed!

I think it would be a huge benefit to the state and all of the small towns along the trail. I have people coming from Colorado just to ride our bike trails.

Please fund this trail and let the project move forward! Many benefits from the use of this trail.

This is a fantastic idea that will make Missouri a premier biking destination that will increase much needed tourism revenue for rural communities in our state. This is a worthy investment that will pay dividends.

I think the increase mileage will be important to develop Missouri as a nationwide or international outdoor destination. We can't compete with Colorado, California, etc. based on

other resources but having a statewide trail system would be a major draw.

Developing a trail on the former Rock Island would greatly benefit the public. The trail would provide access to some of the best natural scenery that the state has to offer.

My wife and I recently returned from a vacation in Vermont. One of the highlights of that trip was the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. We rented bikes and visited two restaurants near the trail. We are from Florida, and have a rail trail a few miles away, which is usually busy with bike-riders, runners, walkers, and horse-riders. So the question becomes a simple one: Does Missouri want tourists to consider their state as a visitor-friendly destination, or are they going to capitulate to farm groups who think that recreational use of the trail will threaten their livelihood more than rumbling trains.

Recreation is more revenue. Don't be silly accept this and make it happen. These towns will not find a better source of income.

I support the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. This is a great project for Missouri (and surrounding states) citizens to access for healthy outdoor activities, and will be a great benefit to communities located on or near the trail.

Yes, yes, yes! My hope is that the Rock Island Trail will be complete while I'm still young enough to ride it.

I think it should happen and could provide some new life to the towns that pretty much died when the railroad stopped running.

I think we need this trail to draw more people to this area. I think it would be an asset to the area. I'm all for it.

From my personal observations during the last 14 years of living and owning a business on the Katy Trail, there isn't enough traffic on the current Katy Trail to warrant opening a new competing trail across Missouri. It is very difficult for Katy Trail related businesses to stay in business now; that's why it is difficult to have adequate cyclist services (food, lodging, bike shops/repair, etc.) along the Katy.

I thought the long-term goal was to link the Katy Trail with the Kansas City and St. Louis metro trail systems so there would be a true border-to-border cycling trail. The Rock Island spur from Windsor to Pleasant Hill is part of reaching that goal, but to develop south of Windsor is not a wise use of limited DNR/State Park funds in my opinion. Focus on properly maintaining and promoting the Katy Trail as the best trail in the country to attract more out-of-state users spending their tourism dollars in our state.

I understand purchasing the land/right of way now since it has been offered, but think development of the trail surfaces/trailhead infrastructure should be tabled for better economic times, hopefully in our future. When the state doesn't have tax dollars to repair/improve our highway system, how can we justify adding another recreational trail? I don't see the benefits of creating a new trail outweighing the cost of development and ongoing maintenance.

I use and support the trails - I would use the Rock Island Trail - please support and maintain it. Thank.

We need a trail in the lake area (Miller, Morgan, Camden) There is nothing here for our local families to enjoy when they want to bike but not do an Iron Man.

It would be an important addition for the quality of life of those in and around the new Rock Island Trail Project

Yes!! Please! Please add the Rock Island Trail to the Missouri Parks System. The Katy trail is a much utilized park in Missouri and I think this trail system would also be extremely beneficial for the State of Missouri.

Not sure why this would be reconsidered. There is no political bias one way or another. The trails cost minimal in the grand scheme of things to build and maintain. Ameren has given the property for this use so no purchase cost. The trails create business for many who are along the trail routes and for others who supply gear for use on the trails. How can this be a bad thing?

Let me add these are the kinds of things, pure partisan politics, that are helping my spouse and I to seriously consider moving from Missouri as we are now retired. We have made three exploratory visits to other states and have a couple of more to go. Unless things change and the government starts caring about everyone not just there party we are out of here.

I really hope this project happens. Great for tourism, health and economic driver.

I'm a fair weather backpacker and paddler (who lives in the metro-east, and I think Missouri has some of the best --if not -- the best recreational areas in the midwest. This trail will only add to the state's great outdoor attractions.

As an aside, it looks to me like it would be easy to offer even more recreational possibilities, if the trail was connected to the river -- thereby creating a loop which could offer a variety of racing competitions.

Don't lose this opportunity! I have friends coming from as far away as Ca. and Europe to ride the Katy Trail in tour groups. The Rock Island route is so scenic. We need to make this happen!

The Rock Island Trail Project is one that will last for many years to come for the benefit of all young and old. What greater gift can anyone leave for our future generations to come! This has been exciting for those who love the outdoors and wish to venture by walking or riding these trails with enthusiasm of knowing it once was a train route that created pathways between cities, states and helped shape America. This is a project worth investing in.

I am in strong support of the Rock Island Trail Project. As the Katy Trail has proven, such trails bring an economic boost to the communities along the trail and make tourism events like the Katy Trail Ride and the Pedaler's Jamboree possible. The Pedaler's Jamboree draws over 3,000 riders and the Katy Trail Ride this year drew riders from 29 states. Trails also provide an excellent recreational opportunity and promote a healthy lifestyle for Missourians. I take my kids riding on the Katy

Trail at least once a month, and look forward to taking them riding on the Rock Island Trail as well. It's hard to see any downside when the upside is a donated asset, a healthier economy and healthier people.

My thoughts on the rock island trail are that there any more priorities that need to be taken care of in Missouri rather then a bike trail for the community. We have many of bridges and roads that need to be repaired along with major highways that aren't in the best condition. My thought is to delay the process of the trail until all bridges and roadways are up to standards.

I think it would be a huge waste of time and money developing another bike trail. Especially when our state roads and bridges need more attention to maintain and resurface.

This is a win all round for the state of Missouri. The people of Missouri get a new rec trail and the little towns along it will see an increase for their small businesses. As for farming opposition, look to the Katy Trail for example. The trail is not farmable, the same roads crossing the trail will still be there for access to farm land and hopefully the farmers little towns will become more prosperous.

Roads an bridges are more important than a bike trail we have the Katy trail that enough right now most of the local roads around central missouri are pretty poor

Don't really see the need for it and plenty of other things to spend our tax money on...like roads, reimbursing the counties for housing state prisoners, etc.

Green spaces and natural areas contribute to the physical and emotional health of Missourians, which ultimately results in a stronger, more productive community. They also make Missouri more attractive for the kinds of businesses and professionals we would like to attract to or keep in Missouri. We may not be able to compete with Seattle or Denver for mountains, but we can compete with beautiful trails and rivers!

I believe the trail is unnecessary money should be spent more on roads and bridges

I would like to see it happen. We live near the trail and would love to be able to run, bike, hike the trail with the fam.

I live in Stover and I think this is a very good idea. The potential of income coming into our town and the ability to have a great place to walk. Please accept this gift.

I am in great support of developing the Rock Island Trail Project is an excellent idea. The economic impact of the Katy Trail is already tremendous and the Rock Island Trail would only contribute to the State's great trail system and tourism. The citizens of Missouri would be greatly let down if we let this opportunity pass.

Go for it! This will be a great asset for Missouri and the DNR.

Please enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad. I love being able to ride my bike

and not have to worry about being hit by a car which is what these trails allow.

The rails to trails projects have made available many miles of safe areas to hike, bike and in some areas horseback ride. I use the Katy trail weekly. I have met some of the nicest people on the trail. Please see that the rock island trail is completed. Thank you.

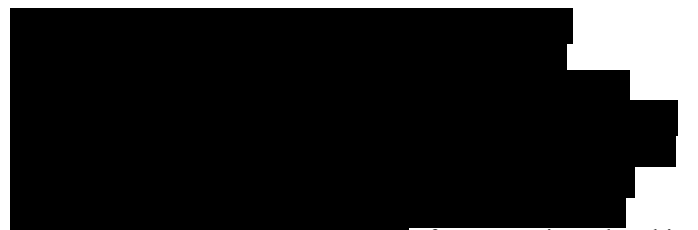
Many of us Kansas cyclists have already ridden from Windsor to Pleasant Hill and look forward to also riding to Beaufort. Wish Kansas trails were this nice. Thank you!

I support DNR entering into agreement to create the Rock Island Trail. I think this will be an improvement to our state.

I can't wait for the completion in Versailles. There are no safe trails at the Lake of the Ozarks to ride bikes. This will be a great addition to the lake generating more revenue for the smaller communities such as Versailles, Stover and Eldon. We'll now be viewed as being on the map.

Absolutely a must! This will help tourism in Missouri!

No further tax dollars should be used to purchase planned recreational properties. There is an abundance of parks, trails and recreational facilities in MO as evidenced by some being closed or plans to close and many are poorly maintained. Finally a move toward fiscal responsibility in State Government.

 If you question what this trail can do for the state and communities involved just look at the Katy Trail, enough said. But if DNR is willing to do what the governor will not let the state parks and the effected communities do, well then have at it. Someone needs to keep this thing alive. That is all.

As a resident of the state of Missouri and registered voter I am in full support of the Rock Island Trail Project: Developing the Rock Island railroad track into Rock Island Trail. I feel like the tourism dollars generated by this development far out weigh money brought into the state via other recently publicized changes.

I will only comment about one legal/financial aspects of the project. Adding the Rock Island Line to Missouri's Rail Bank will keep the easements from reverting to the original land owners--a legal process that would cost the state millions of dollars and decades of lawsuits and trials. If this process were to occur, a rail line could not be easily reestablished on the line. It may be hard to see, but this "interim trail" might actually save the state money.

Please allow this project to go forward. I believe it would be a great benefit for the people of Missouri and the communities along the path of this proposed trail.

The land is Owned by the landowner.the landowners borrowed the land to the railroad to be used by the railroad. Give the land back to the people who actually own it! I'm strongly opposed to this new park! It's stealing from the land owners! Where is the money to build AND maintain this going to come from? I think our roads and bridges should come first!

I am in full support of DNR entering into an Interim trail use agreement with MCR to develop the trail!! Would be a wonderful thing. :)

DNR should enter into an Interim Trial Use Agreement for the purpose of completing the Rock Island Trial Project. If DNR does not then it would be a greatly missed oppertunity for Missouri and the communities along the trail.

My husband and I are so grateful that we live in a state that promotes the outdoors and all the outside activities that are available in this beautiful state. We have bicycled different parts of the Katy Trail and even road the whole trail back in 2010.

We no longer have quick access to the Katy due to a move last year and have been waiting anxiously for the Rock Island Trail to be completed since we are now living in the Kansas City area.

From our experience the many small towns along the Katy Trail have benefit from the trail and I believe it would be the same for the towns along the Rock Island trail.

Thank you DNR for all that you have done for Missouri!!

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is one of the finest agencies in the country. Its praise-worthy history has created our state's exceptional recreation/tourism assets which are internationally loved and catalysts of the rural economy - scenic Ozark riverways, the great Missouri and Mississippi rivers, the Katy Trail, Route 66 destinations. It is in the state's interest that DNR take necessary steps forward to convert the Rock Island Railroad corridor into 144.3 mile long recreation trail from Windsor, Mo to Beaufort, Mo.

I believe this trail would be a significant addition to the State Park system, much like it's sister State Park, KATY Trail State Park.

I fully support the proposed Rock Island Trail Project. I am and avid bicyclist and walker/hiker and believe that developing this project would bring great benefits to our great state. Of course, I have a self-interest because I anticipate using this Rock Island Trail frequently, just as I frequently use the Katy Trail. Nonetheless, I believe that developing the proposed Rock Island Trail would put Missouri front and center among states that offer these kinds of recreational opportunities. I believe that Missouri would receive an abundance of recreational tourists from all over the country and the world as a result of the development of the Rock Island Trail Project.

My friends and I just rode the Rock Island trail two weeks ago on a trip that connected us to the Katy trail. 314 miles in all. We spent money all along the trail that until now got no additional spending at all. We spent our money at private businesses along the Rock Island trail. The fledgling businesses were happy to see us and agreed that the trail was a bonus to the community. We stayed at newly built cabins in Windsor, MO because the Rock Island trail has made it a destination rather than a just another trail head along the way to St Charles.

In the 80's farmers [REDACTED] about how the KATY trail was going to undue farming and invite hooligans and ruffians into their villages and farm fields... None of that has happened.

Every time we ride the KATY Trail we meet people from throughout the US and the world who come here to ride that trail and they spend money too. Opening another 147 miles of continuous trail will encourage more tourism.

Each tourist is tax dollars in MO's coffers....

Don't cancel the Rock Island trail because of partisan MO politics. You will hurt rural Missourians which include MO farmers. Just look at the economic development along the trail in communities that have trail heads.

When the KATY was an overgrown eyesore there was no money spent there at all.

Give the poor rural towns a chance with the Rock Island. Call me. I have no problem speaking as a Missouri citizen, veteran, taxpayer and voter.

I have rode over 500 miles on the KATY and Rock Island trail so far this year and have spent money all along the way.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

Our state's trails have already established that we, as a state, are committed to the health and well-being of our residents and tourism that is nature and fitness oriented is a great benefit to our state. Please allow us to continue to grow our opportunities to build trails throughout our state using rail infrastructure. Trails create a sense of community, a connection to nature, and promote families spending quality time together. Let us continue to build a rail-to-trail culture in Missouri.

I support the development of more trails for recreational purposes. I am an avid bicycle rider & use the Katy Trail regulatly. Trails such as the one proposed provide more opportunity for Missouri individuals & families to engage in healthy activities. It also encourages people to make Missouri a destination & spend money in our state.

A professional with a Master's Degree from University of Missouri, one of the major reason I choose to stay in Missouri is the Katy Trail system. I literally ride the MKT Trail system on a daily basis, and believe the trail add to the quality of life myself, for those fortunate enough to live close to such trails, and for those who utilize them. Please support the "Windsor to Beaufort" rails to trails project. I have no doubt decade from now and into the future citizens will be thanking those who make this trail a reality, just like I thank those who made the MKT trail a reality.

Yes!! The gift should be accepted to create a world class trail. What an economic benefit to all towns along the trail. I have ridden almost the entire Katy trail and I have seen how this trail has been a win for our state, the communities, wildlife and plants, and those who ride the trail both from our state and outside of it. SHOW ME that we can do this, Missouri!

MO is ahead of other states w/Katy & RIT. I now drive from Texas every yr & ride the KATY trail w/brother & 2 nephews in 5 days. We're including newly opened section of RIT west of Windsor this yr. B&Bs, hotels, & restaurants all along route benefit from our trip. Plus I stay in MO motels along I-44 before & after trip. Last yr during our annual ride in late Sept., there were two larger groups of riders from OH making the same trip & visiting the same number of businesses for their food & rest. Additionally we almost every yr, spend \$ at bike shops for repairs & tires.

My strong recommendation is to look at the new proposed 144-mile RIT add in the most positive way to keep MO as a must go-to state for tourist & for the recreation of MO residents.

This would be an added extension to the Katy Trail and would improve tourism in Missouri. Go do it MO!!!

I cannot wait until this trail is complete, it will make a fabulous loop across the state!!

Please accept the trail, the scenery along the trail is unmatched and it would be a tragedy not to open this up to the public to see and enjoy.

thanks

Money would be more widely used on other needs such as roads, bridges, education.

Get the trail open as soon as possible! Completion of the trail will create many green jobs and business opportunities in the middle of Missouri. Start working to link Beaufort, MO (Eastern end) to Washington, MO city park bike trail. Washington will be linked to the KATI once the new Highway 47 bridge is completed. Visitors from around the world will come to Missouri to ride the KATI / Rock Island trail. Great for business along the routes and in the KC and STL areas.

With the rising obesity epidemic, we simply cannot stress enough the importance of getting active and getting outside. Biking and running are wonderful family friendly activity but a safe place is needed for them. There simply cannot be enough trails. Also, getting out has been shown to reduce stress and anxiety levels. Please approve these trails!!!!

I think that DNR should consider this, Things they should demand is that Missouri Central Railroad, (Ameren Mo.) should be required to clean up those right of ways. This includes old ties trees and other items. In Eldon mo, I feel that they have an obligation to bring it up to city ordinances. We want the trail, but these items cost money to correct. I feel they want to get out of their responsibility and pass the buck to all parties they can. I want this trail to help improve our city tourism and growth.

In a time when obesity continues to be a all too common health problems for about one-third of Missourians, I would hope that this trail will be established. The Katy Trail and other trail systems in the metropolitan St. Louis area makes it possible for people to safely walk and bike, getting health-promoting exercise. I weekly walk a portion of the Katy Trail. This exercise helps me keep my weight in check and provides other health benefits. My brother recently used the trail systems in St. Louis County to bike here to St. Charles to visit me. He has been able to lose more than 10 pounds by cycling trips such as this. I'm sure many other people could provide similar testimonials. I strongly urge DNR to make the Rock Island Trail a reality for Missourians.

Missouri needs this Trail. It promotes physical activity for residences and tourism. I live near the Katy Trail and use it daily- walking. The trail crosses over our drivewayI see many people using the trail. My husband is a cyclist. He rides the trail at least 4 times a week. He meets people from different states and even other countries. Last summer he rode the entire trail on his touring bike. (There and back) I enjoy listening to him talk about his rides. We love the rails to trails. It provides a safe place for cyclist.

I am all for this idea. It will be people from all over the country and world to ride this trail along with the Katy. This would be great for Tourism dollars for the State.

Benton County, Benton County Tourism & Recreation Corporation and our trails management and promotion group, Osage Lakes Greenway Corporation, urge DNR to enter into the interim trail use agreement with Missouri Central Railroad. Our proximity to the Katy Trail and the fact that the Rock Island traverses through the northern portion of our County are prime reasons for our extreme interest in the Rock Island Trail moving forward. But beyond that we see the Rock Island as the next step in creating a much larger trail system connecting the Rock Island and Katy Trail with the Frisco Highland Trail to our south. In fact, we have been in conversations with the trail management group in Springfield concerning this very aspect. When you look at the east/west Rock Island trail you see an area of Missouri that needs a boost economically. Small towns, currently without major tourism or destination attractions could benefit greatly by the Trail.

Benton County is home to "where Missouri's Great Lakes Meet" with Lake of the Ozarks meeting Truman Lake in Warsaw at the dam. Truman is Missouri's largest lake (59th largest in the United States), Lake of the Ozarks its second largest. Not only these lakes but also Pomme de Terre, Stockton and Taneycomo have the potential to be connected via a major trail system. We foresee the Rock Island trail as a massive catalysis to bring more tourist from the major metro areas and outside the state to our area to enjoy our natural beauty for years to come.

The Rock Island Trail is a bold initiative for Missouri. So was the Katy Trail so many years ago. Most would agree that the Katy Trail has had a significant positive impact on our State. Imagine how much impact we could have if the Rock Island, joining the Katy, became the gateway to Missouri's great lakes system. For the sake of our regional economic futures, we urge DNR to enter into the interim trail agreement.

I think this would be one of the best things for Tourism in Missouri. Small towns such as Eldon would once again have something to be very proud of! Please do the right thing and move forward on this wonderful project for the state of Missouri! And as someone who has been working on a childhood obesity grant for Miller County through the Missouri Foundation for Health this would be one more way to promote health and wellness in our community!! We have revitalized Rock Island Park and we would love to have the trail and Depot opened and inviting people to get out and enjoy our community. Please support this amazing project!

I was visiting Gasconade river this weekend with family members. We made a point of stopping in Belle on the way home to give that rr strip of land a look. I've heard some smaller towns have long standing issues with DNR.... But i'm guessing other locals might enjoy the extra \$\$ coming into those towns along the Rock Island Railroad. Tourism can equal \$\$\$,etc..

We asked one woman for directions there in Belle. She was nice helpful & nice.....she mentioned she was from there and had recently moved back. Viva la Belle Missouri....

Boone County Mo

I highly encourage you to accept and support this trail development.

We live in Quincy, IL and have now made 3 trips to the area to ride sections of the Katy Trail over the past 12 mos., spending money for fuel, food and entertainment each time. The trail is the sole reason for us spending money and visiting these small towns and feel happy to contribute. Additional trail options would only increase our trips and expand our spending to these new trail towns.

as a stay at home vacationer, I enjoy our state parks. a trail south of the Missouri river would serve locals and out of towners well. biking is a great way to get out of town and enjoy nature.

In 2012, Missouri State Parks conducted a study to determine the economic impact of Katy Trail State Park based on user spending and found the trail had a direct impact of \$18.5 million per year. Roughly three dozen towns along the trail welcome trail users to their restaurants, shops, bed-and-breakfast inns and other businesses, and thousands of trail users plan mini-vacations each year that take advantage of these establishments.

I have personally observed the entrepreneurship that resulted from the Katy Trail. The small towns along the proposed Rock Island Trail could benefit greatly from the economic opportunities the trail would offer.

After Just spending the weekend riding the Katy Trail with my brothers. I am looking forward to the addition of the new Rock Island Trail. I was amazed how many people we met from out of state that were traveling the trail. I was impressed with the amount of people we saw on the trail over the weekend. Please consider this for the residents of Missouri and the rest of the world as future generation can enjoy the beauty of Missouri.

We love the Katy Trail and would be in favor of any agreement that would convert the rail corridor into a biking/trail route. It is good for tourism and would be a trail we would use. This is a good use of DNR funds in my opinion.

I think the DNR should definitely enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project. The Rock Island Trail will be long enough to entice many bicyclists to come to Missouri; furthermore, in combination with the Katy Trail the attraction will be unlike any other place in the US consisting of a long distance "loop" trail. I just finished a trip on the Katy Trail and I would come to Missouri again to do a trip on the Rock Island.

Many people are currently using the KATY Trail as a means to ride bikes, walk, run, nature viewing, picture taking , etc. So many useful healthy ways for people in Missouri to stay healthy. I love the fact I live 3 miles from the trail. Extending the trail into the Rick Island will benefit so many new and previous Users if our beautiful parks. Let's encourage more people in Missouri to get or stay healthy by providing another location for healthiness.

I like the idea of making it a permanent trail use agreement. Property owners are giving up their right of ways to establish this trail for use by the public, it should at least be a permanent agreement.

I strongly support the addition of this trail to Missouri's network of trails. The Katy Trail is Missouri's most popular state park and has proven itself to be an economic boon and a tourism draw. When Ameren is willing to donate property to the state for a valuable asset, Missouri should take advantage of the opportunity.

I think this wonderful outdoor adventures can be an boom for Missouri. People will travel not only inside Missouri but from outside to use this trail.

I think that this trail would be a great addition to Missouri's trail system.

Please please please build this state park!!! We need more things like the beautiful Katy trail to attract tourists and locals alike. Please!!!

I support the DNR entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement and I fully support developing the Rock Island Trail Project

This is trail is a great opportunity for residents and tourists of Missouri. What a privelege to be able to encourage our communities to get outdoors and help attract tourism to Missouri.

Hi. I just want to say that I love riding the Katy Trail and look forward to seeing the Rock Island finished, preferably before I'm to old to ride it LOL! Seriously the Katy Trail does so much for every town it goes through. Just this summer when I ride to Windsor Mo from Clinton the people I see on bikes around town that have either rode there from Pleasant Hill or

just came to ride the Rock Island is amazing! And when ever I see someone loaded down with gear and know that they are either just starting out or just finishing I always ask where they are from. And the answer is from all over the country and sometimes a different country! I meet people that are doing the Trans America that come to cross the state of Missouri to get away from cars for awhile and just to see the beautiful country side. With all the distracted driving these days its nice to be able to ride and not worry so much about a car coming up behind you and hitting you. I hope things keep moving forward to get the rest of it finished because I so look forward to riding it and want to see Missouri keep its reputation of having the best trail in the country and lets just keep adding to it!

We are excited about the trail, we have already had friends enjoy riding horses on it.

I am the head of 7 member family and we all enjoy trails in Missouri. We ride and run throughout the state. We'd even support increasing taxes to maintain the proposed Rock Island Trail. Thanks!

Please support the continued development of the Rock Island Trail. Dedicated biking trails allow the citizens of our state to safely exercise. The trail will also bring much needed business to the small towns along the trail.

I'm a long time cyclist and have ridden the Katy trail end to end on several occasions. I have met many people from all over the country and recently several from the UK that are traveling the trail. Visitors to MO love the Katy and everyone I have met on the trail marvels at the beauty of the trail.

I fully support the Rock Island Trail project and look forward to a time when I can take the trail from St Louis to Kansas City and travel this new section of trail.

I live in Windsor, and we love what the trails have done for our town! It's brought in new businesses and is helping keep the town alive. I imagine it will do much the same for every town it passes through. I saw a group of about 10 bikers on the trail just last week.

Trails like this make Missouri a cycling destination. There's not a better way to see our great state than from the seat of a bicycle. These trails would also provide a safe way to use the most efficient form of human Transportation ever devised. The low cost of obtaining- operating a bicycle could liberate thousands of people

Yes this is a great idea and should be pursued.

Although it may take a bit of time, I really think this trail could be a huge asset to the state of Missouri, not only financially but also in the health of Missouri's residents, which in turn would have financial benefits. As a frequent user of Missouri's State parks, I see this one as being a true diamond in the rough, a crown jewel!!! One other point this corridor is basically now clear, the sooner you allow usage the better. With the cost of these projects, please don't wait years and allow it to grow up again, as re-clearing would only add an unnecessary cost, probably in the millions, and would allow

the state to reap the benefits sooner rather than later!!! Thank you, [REDACTED] ...

As a resident of Missouri, I completely support the conversion of the former Rick Island Railroad corridor into a recreational trail from Windsor to Beaufort, Missouri. This project will create recreational and tourism opportunities. The Katy Trail State Park has demonstrated the value of "rails-to-trails" projects in Missouri. DNR has done a fantastic job of maintaining and operating the Katy Trail and I expect that DNR will do the same for the Rock Island Trail Project. I encourage the State of Missouri to proceed with the Rock Island Trail Project.

This is a wonderful deal that will do so much for this area! I've been on the Katy Trail and I have seen all the classy development that has come from that trail, and I believe our area could have a real revitalization if this trail comes through. There is NO negatives as far as I can tell.

The Rock Island trail is a great idea. My spouse and I regularly ride the KATY and we spend several weekends each year in towns along the trail so that we can ride the parts that are not near where we live. The Rock Island will create a super attraction to our great state. We have met so many people even from other states and Canada that have come to Missouri to ride the KATY. Imagine how much impact this will have on the communities along the Rock Island. Please support this plan it will be a huge boon to our state and just a super addition to our wonderful park system.

I fully support project and urge the department to proceed as quickly as possible.

I feel it is another important step in preserving our natural beauty, offering another alternative to healthy lifestyle and bringing economic opportunities to rural areas of the state that the railroads abandoned. I have been to other states and have seen the impact the trails have in the local communities, including our own KATY trail. I vote for accepting the gift!

Please please make this happen it will help small towns across missouri. It will give people the chance to visit the railroad towns in missouri that help make missouri what it is today.

Thank you

I think this will round out the Katy trail nicely and provide more opportunities to a wider area of people. All for it. Love the Katy trail!

I highly support the trail.

1) would provide a world class trail

2) protection to a green corridor across the state

3) give people from around to stop in Missouri rather than pass through it

4) open opportunities for economic development for some of Missouri'most disadvantaged towns

5) health benifits for a very unhealthy state

I have met many people from around all over the states and even Europe on the Katy Trail. While we have this amazing trail, adding the RIT expansion makes the trail system a world

class trail in the US and the rest of the world. This is a opportunity to leave a lasting legacy to our children. Missouri is not known for fitness and health especially in rural areas. What analysis can show the long term benefits especially in rural areas. On each the land and opportunity is lost it is doubtful it can ever be regained.

I think the Rock Island Trail Project is a great idea. Missouri is known for having the best trails in the U.S. I just returned from the 237 mile Katy Ride and people come from all over the U.S. and parts of Canada to ride it. This is perfect for tourism - people spend money when they go through these towns. The same will happen with the Rock Island Trail. More opportunities for people to use the trails equals more revenue from tourism.

What a wonderful opportunity for Missouri. A boost for tourism, health, the environment. It is a win win opportunity. I looking forward to riding Rock Island Spur off the Katy Trail this summer. More instate vacation getaways for long weekends. How much are the farmers off the Katy Trail bothered by bikers and hikers? Thanks

This project would defiantly become and asset, not a liability, for the State of Missouri. Folks already come from out side of the state and country to ride the Katy Trail. I believe even more cycling enthusiasts would travel to Missouri given the availability of two trails which form a large loop across the state.

I have seen first hand cyclists spending money at businesses along the trail. Some of these businesses were started because of the Katy Trail and other businesses have customers they would not have seen with the trail being opened. I believe that small businesses in small towns along the Rock Island Trail would bring revenue to the citizens of towns and more tax revenue for the state.

Going forward, Missouri would be known for its cross state trails and not just rivers, baseball, beer and wine. It would been seen as a state to explore though physical activity. It would been seen as a place to have an adventure.

I'm sure there would be some folks that would not want to see the trail built. They may not want DMR to spend money on another park/trail when we already have one in place. Others want the land to go to the farmers along the rail line. But right now the state has a golden opportunity to add another asset. If we let this opportunity pass, we may never have it again.

I live in Osage Beach at the Lake of the Ozarks, and over the last dozen years or so have ridden several thousand miles on the Katy Trail, mostly between Jefferson City and Rocheport. I would ride it even more except for the fact that the Jefferson City trailhead is 60 miles from my home, and the long drive makes it impractical to do anything other than a long ride on the trail, and only occasionally at that.

The prospect of being able to drive to Eldon—which is only 20 minutes away—and ride the proposed Rock Island Trail is of great interest to me. I have no doubt that I'd log hundreds of miles a year on it.

I personally know many other cyclists and runners who would also use the trail, in addition to the many tourists who vacation here at the Lake. The Lake area is very hilly, and virtually all of our trails are too steep or too rugged for most cyclists and

runners. They're also completely unusable by children. Over the years, I've been asked many times by tourists where they can safely ride their bikes with their children in the Lake area, and I reluctantly always have to say, "Nowhere". The Rock Island Trail would be a safe, nearby place for everyone in the family to ride, run or walk.

Cities along the proposed trail, such as Eldon and Versailles, have suffered economically over the last twenty years from manufacturing plant closures. They are very much in need of an economic boost, and the proposed Rock Island Trail would help them. I know that every time I go to ride the Katy Trail, I buy Gatorade, chips, etc., at locations along the trail (and fuel to get to the trail and back), and I'd be doing the very same thing along the Rock Island Trail. Multiply my spending by that of thousands of other people who would use the Rock Island Trail near Eldon and Versailles each year, and it could really make a difference to these communities.

The Katy Trail is an incredible asset to our state. We are so fortunate that our leaders and trail supporters at the time had the vision and determination to make it a reality. I think that, 10 or 20 years from now, we'll look back and say the same thing about the completed Rock Island Trail. We would have missed out on a great opportunity to build another valuable asset for our state had we simply abandoned the idea.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts, and for your consideration.

██████████
Osage Beach, Missouri

Yes, please! I am a very frequent user of the Katy Trail. I've ridden the length of it 6 times, with many more hundreds of miles over various sections. I've met people from all over the world on the Katy who can't say enough good things about our trail system in Missouri. Having yet another trail, and one that connects with the Katy, will be a wonderful addition to tourism, the economy, and the health of all Missourians.

I believe the Dept. of Natural Resource should enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement with Mo. Central Railroad. This type of project has repeatedly shown benefits to the areas where they exist and to the greater Missouri population in terms of tourism, economic development and public health.

The old Rock Island Railroad corridor has stood vacant and dormant for too many years. The various railroads that operate in the greater Kansas City area have not accepted the responsibility of taking over the Rock Island Railroad lines for their use. As a result, the land and tracks around the Rock Island Railroad lines have become dilapidated and an eye sore for the communities they run through. I am very supportive of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources entering into an agreement to take over the Rock Island Railroad properties to expand the Katy Trail Project. This assumption of responsibility will greatly broaden the recreational areas in Missouri and allow these lands to become actively useful instead of their current state of dilapidation.

This is so exciting! The trail at Belle, Bland, Owensville and Gerald is already tempting to hike or mountain bike. I look forward to it being a state park next year. It's a short drive to Belle where we will have a choice of at least three restaurants after using the trail. At Freeburg we will be able to go through

the tunnel to have a meal at Argyle or go the other way to view the Gasconade River bridge. No trail surface improvement is needed for it to be hiked or mountain biked.

Only a small portion of the trail can be used for horse back riding. I'd like to see the trail opened up completely for horses just as it is for hikers & cyclist.

Yes, please do it! The Katy Trail is wonderful. I'm excited to have another long distance biking option for myself and for out of state friends who visit.

I live close to the trail and I can only see good things coming from the trails completion.

I live in Oklahoma, but urge support for the Rock Island trail. Myself and a number of fellow Oklahomans come to ride the KATY (and spend money on hotels, restaurants, and other places) along the KATY each year. The rock island will add to the communities along the trail and bring more people and money to the area and state

Thank you

Edmond, Oklahoma

Yes, I strongly support the Rock Island Trail Project. It would bring wonderful recreational opportunities for the citizens of Missouri and others who visit our state. It would further enhance our state's trail system and positively impact the towns along the route.

Over the years, in many states, conversion of railroad lines to public use trails has been a huge boon for communities, not to mention a way for governments to fairly easily and inexpensively support healthy outdoor activities.

I live in Washington State but I have bicycled the Katy trail in Missouri several times. While on the trail, I have observed the beauty and diversity of Missouri across the entire state. I know of NO community that has regretted the conversion of rail lines to multi-use trails. I urge leaders in Missouri to capitalize on this opportunity and partner with the private sector and local communities to further build on its progress toward this valuable goal by developing the Rock Island Rail Corridor. Thank you.

I support this!!!

As a frequent user of the Katy Trail and a resident of Drake Missouri I would like to see this Project come to fruition. I think it will provide economic growth to many communities that border the trail. It's a great way to promote health and fitness and show off great communities to residents of Missouri as well as visitors from other states.

The existing railroad was an eyesore and the new trail will breathe new life into an old eyesore. I see new businesses springing up to take advantage of the influx of out of area guests providing for new growth and business excitement in a region stuck in decline.

Tourism is important to MO. This trail will attract many tourists. It will also be a boon to those of us who live in the state and use an active lifestyle to keep ourselves healthy.

Finally, it will be of economic benefit to the many small towns along the proposed trail.

We live in Morgan County, Missouri and we strongly support the Rock Island Trail. It has long been a dream, please make it a reality.

This is obviously a great deal for Missouri. The Katy trail provides a great deal business to the shop I work at, and the Rock Island Trail will only add to this economic benefit. In fact, the additional mileage will probably draw more users to both trails. Missouri would be foolish to say the least to pass up an opportunity such as this.

We need this trail. I live in Eldon just miles from the Lake of The Ozarks. Eldon could benefit greatly from the trail coming through our community. We have been making preparations for years for when the trail comes through. A alumni of Eldon High School has donated \$150,000 for the restoration of our depot to make a visitors center for those passing through on the trail. Rock Island Retirement Center has been built in hopes to use the trail. Several new businesses have shown interest of moving to our community once the trail is established. Eldon is my home and will be due to my husband running a family business. I hope to bring the recreation benefits and pleasure of the trial so that my kids want to continue to live in Eldon and we can attract new residents as well.

I support this rails to trails project. Trails like this provide recreational/fitness opportunities for many people. They also bring in tourists and are something that attracts people to move/work in the area.

A great opportunity for Missouri businesses along the trail as well as recreational activities for Missourians.

I believe this is a great project with enormous potential. I really hope Missouri can create this trail

I'm from Pleasant Hill and love that the trail is extending! Please move forward with the project so the Katy trail can keep growing. It'd be amazing if one could bike from one side of Missouri to the other via a trail on an old railway!

I support the DNR entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement and I fully support developing the Rock Island Trail Project.

I for finishing the trials. The use of the trail can't impact the farms as much as it's use for trains. They really just want free use of the land without having to pay for anything. .

Outdoor recreational opportunities are always a positive thing. Strongly support this endeavor. Please maintain the Multiple Use concept some the greatest number of people may utilize the resources

My family and I love riding, please keep this going!!

I fully support the development of the Rock Island trail. It is a great opportunity for business and recreation in Missouri.

I support this Trail Use Agreement. I have family in Bolivar and Eldon. Both communities have suffered significantly economically the last few years. Eldon seems poised to try to capitalize on the trail already with a planned railroad depot welcome center. I think this could be a helpful shot to a community that desperately needs one. Bolivar would benefit from proposed expansions up to Rock Island from the Frisco Highline trail. I visit the Frisco Highline several times a year as I visit family in Bolivar and consider it a real asset to the community.

I think the Katy Trail is one of the best tourist resources in the State of MO. I meet so many folks from out of state using our trails and spending money in Missouri. The addition of the Rock Island Trail is just another clean source of income for our state. It also provides another opportunity for folks along the trail to exercise and improve their health. Please consider accepting the land for developing another trail.

Thank You!

Please continue to develop the Rock island trail. My family currently uses the Katy trail and would enjoy the new trail.

I ride my bicycle every day and it is because of the wonderful trails that our state and local government have made available for all. The health and economic benefits to our state are beyond measure. Please consider giving strong consideration to developing Rock Island Trail Project.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail development. Trails add to much to the community: family friendly recreation, safe alternative travel, and revenue!

I'm a cyclist originally from Warrensburg, MO. The Rock Island Trail will bring significant financial benefits to the communities it connects. Every time I ride the KATY trail, I'm amazed at how many locals I see enjoying the trail... so the health benefits are great, too!

This new trail will be wonderful for anyone in MO or traveling to MO. I plan to use it as an alternative to the beautiful MKT trail. This will make our state so attractive to live in or visit!!!

Completion of this trail will create an economic windfall for all cities along the trail and will be an draw to cyclist all across America and international. It will create a cottage industry catering to cyclist and create jobs.

I think it would be great and give a great opportunity to explore outside to a large number of people.

After the unbelievable success of the KATY Trail park development this would seem to be a "no brainer" for a state looking for any kind of extra revenue. Look at the rate of return - 18 to 1. We would be stupid to not make that investment.

I truly hope that DNR is able to complete this project and I fully support it. As a current Katy trail user who takes advantage of amenities offered by communities along the trail, I know that the Rock Island trail would be a great boon to the communities along the future trail. It would allow people in those communities a place to recreate and exercise, and allow long-distance cyclists another trail option across a portion of the state (and give them a chance to purchase goods and services in those communities along the trail).

I do hope that work on the trail can move forward and be completed as planned. It would be a shame to postpone or abandon such a project.

I ride the katy trail all the time. I've met people from different states, France, Ireland, Germany and China riding the trail. They come from all over to ride the trail or passing through using it. It has a tremendous economic effect on communities and the state. I've ridden the Rock Island from Pleasant Hill to Medford with a group. We had money to spend and no where to spend it. Facilities and development will come. It would be mistake not to further the Rock Island. Small communities would benefit tremendously, bringing tax dollars and jobs.

I think this is a great idea. Provides opportunity for people to enjoy the outdoor activities the trail provides. I also believe the trails use boosts the economy of cities and towns located along the trail. I also support 100% use for equestrian activity on all such trails in Missouri.

I'm just one voice but speaking for millions of people from the United States and all over the world. I'm so excited about the Rock Island Railroad possibly becoming a hiking and biking trail. I'm originally from Koeltztown, MO a farming community and loved hiking and biking all my life. From our farm I would ride over county roads and black tops to Koeltztown and Argyle. My sister would ride her bike along T hwy every evening by Koeltztown. Just ask people around there, how many times did you almost hit her or me? I can't wait for the day Argyle will have the trail open. Argyle, MO would be the CROWN JEWEL along this trail. It's close to the Freeburg and Koeltztown tunnels and the bridges on the Big Maries creek, Gasconade River and Osage River. I used to watch the train go through Argyle on that track after church on Sunday mornings and never in my wildest dreams ever thought I might be hiking or biking on it someday. Argyle wasn't originally settled where it is today. It was about 8 miles from where it is now but the church burned and about that time the railroad was coming through and being developed. So, they built a new church where it stands today in Argyle all because of this railroad. This railroad track brought this town alive back then and hopefully will bring life back to Argyle and all small towns along the way. I now live in Vienna, MO on a farm. Farmers DO have FUN! I would work my boys cutting spouts, picking up rocks, hoe thistles in the morning and then I'd take them and my nieces ALL the way to the Katy Trail in JC, 45 miles, just to have a safe place to bike ride. I tried riding on highways with them but you know boys, NOT a safe place for them. It was a treat for them to ride on the Katy Trail and they LOVED it and still do. My brother lives on the family farm and farms the land and you would never think that he LOVES bike riding. He, his 4 children and wife took an old beat up van all the way to Breckenridge, Colorado

to bike ride (can't believe they made it there and back LOL). They have almost 10 miles of bike trails through the woods on the farm to bike ride on that they developed because of their passion for riding. I know a lot of farmers around that area. They are against it and understand where they are coming from. It does go through their farms and disturbs their piece but wouldn't they like to see and hear children laughing and enjoying the outdoors like mine did? Go to the towns along the trail and see what brings people to their town. The town of Argyle has 2 bars. Take look at the black marks on their streets. Ask Argyle town's people if that's the kind of people they want their town to continue attracting. Ask the Mayor of Argyle, [REDACTED], how many people complain to him about tires squalling at 3:00 AM in the morning and loud music. Bike tires aren't that loud when squalled and won't leave much of a mark and it for sure won't be at 3:00 AM! Argyle also has a church and church functions to bring people to town to help raise money. Why not have trail events to raise money? People opposed to the trail need to go to the weeklong Katy trail ride in June, the peddlers Jamboree in May and Rocheport on Sunday mornings after church and see how many people are just walking the Katy trail in their Sunday best! I, my boys and family enjoy these Katy Trail events every year. These are families with children from babies to 90+ year olds on this trail that love the outdoors. What kind of people do they think this new trail is going to bring to their town anyway? They need to get out of their turtle shell they are living in and realize that CHANGE WILL make this happen. I would like for someone to ask these people opposing the trail just one question, WHAT DO or have you DONE for fun with your children? Their face will go blank and will have no answer!

I also ride horses so it would be great if sections of the trail were open for horse riding (especially Argyle, MO area). I love kayaking on the Big Maries, Gasconade and the Osage River and float under these bridges the trail will cross. I have played in the tunnels by Freeburg and Koeltztown. I see this trail everywhere on my adventures hiking, biking, horse riding and kayaking and would love to see it come ALIVE to enjoy! I'll be there opening day! I just bought my 2 year old grandson a new bike and purchased one for myself also so I'm ready to wear it out and if not in Missouri then I'll see ya in another state! I haul my bike all over the United States to bike beautiful trails and hike. I can't wait until this amazing trail brings people from other states to see what our state has to offer. You have no IDEA how big this trail will be unless you are a true hiker or biker.....it's peoples passion, addiction and enjoyment! It will get young kids off their cell phones and outside. What more to say, that said it all.....get the YOUNG generations and everyone OUTSIDE on a SAFE trail.

Maybe bike shops / companies should build along and invest in parts of the trail. Town's people should turn their bars into bike shops; B&B's and purchase parts of the trail! What will it take? We send people to the moon but can't develop a 144 mile trail for EVERYONE to enjoy? People or whatever's out there will come from outer space to enjoy this trail someday.don't laugh, if you build it they will come, maybe not in our lifetime but generations to come!

Like I said, I'm just one voice but there are millions of stories like mine that people are wanting to tell to wake this trail up! The outdoors is my passion, addiction and enjoyment so help it become so many more people's enjoyment in life.

Name withheld..... but if you are from any of the small surrounding towns of Koeltztown you know my family and me. I've given enough clues for you to know who I am.....if not, see if you can come find me and join me in the great outdoors, you just might like it, [REDACTED]

This section need to address the equine community. Tickets, and bikers are taking out trails, so it's only fair that we get more miles of trails to ride on here.

We equestrians keep getting pushed out of ours. . Those of us who live a far distance from the other section of. Horse friendly part of tbs trail, need additional trails further out.

Preserving resources like the Rock Island Trail for public access should be a high priority of the State of Missouri. I hope the DNR will pursue this opportunity.

I have seen a video of a flyover of this portion of the Rock Island Trail. This route passes through some of the most spectacular landscape in Missouri. A trail on this route would be a national (even international) tourist destination and a great economic boon to small rural towns in the area. It would complement the other attractions such as the wineries, etc. I support the acceptance of the donation of this right of way.

I use the MKT trail about 4 times a month and see what a draw it is to tourism as I meet and talk with riders and walkers from all over the country. This is an unique opportunity for Missouri to expand its successful trail system. Please don't let this opportunity slip by.

Please, please, please go forward with the Rock Island Trail Project. Nothing could have a more positive impact on health and revenue for those small, local towns along the trail. Rail-Trails statewide have been an enormous success and Missouri should keep that momentum going with the Rock Island Trail.

I am wholeheartedly in favor of this project. I live in Illinois and have biked the KATY Trail in Missouri numerous times. When biking the KATY Trail, we always meet people not only from Missouri, but from all over the country who come to ride it. I think this new trail would bring additional people to your beautiful state.

Please proceed. This is a wonderful plan. I use the Katy trail a lot, and I have even driven down to the Eldon area to observe the work in progress. I live off 54 between the trails. I can't wait for it to open.

I am writing to urge support for the Rock Island Trail project. I have been a user of the cross state Katy trail since it opened, taking my children as they learned to ride bikes and now as adults. Trails such as these offer a unique setting for relaxed riding, seeing nature up close and fitness for those who chose more challenging trip lengths. The offer from Ameren to donate this corridor offers a one time chance to add a unique piece of recreation to our parks system. I urge our legislators and Governor not to be penny wise and pound foolish. If this opportunity is missed, I doubt there will be a second chance to obtain a path of this magnitude. If there is any doubt as to the positive economic impact this could generate, I urge our Governor and legislators to visit the towns of Rocheport or

Hartsburg on a Sunday afternoon. Take a look at what is becoming one of the biggest cycle tourist events in the Midwest, the Peddlers Jamboree. Last year there was a thoroughly ill conceived bill proposed in the Missouri House of Representatives that would have required all cyclists to display a 15ft. flag when riding on lettered county roads. Clearly, this was an attempt to discourage bike riding as a form of convenient recreation. Trails such as these please both sides by allowing a bikes only place that reduce car/bike friction. Please do not miss this opportunity to develop this unique park for the people of Missouri.

I support the creation of the Rock Island Trail. I may never use it but it is good for Missouri to have trails like this one.

I think this would be a great asset to the state. Adding the Rock Island to the Katy could potentially bring in significant tourism and income to the state and the rural communities that it would connect.

I believe that the return on investment will be worth completing the trail. I use the Katy Trail almost every day, and have seen how small towns around it have benefitted. I have watched the businesses grow and see the money that events utilizing the trail bring into our communities. I would use the trail every chance that I have, and I know that it would draw tourism from outside of Missouri.
Thank you for your time!

[REDACTED] urges the DNR to enthusiastically support all efforts to develop and operationalize the Rock Island Trail project.

When complete, the 144 mile long recreational trail will enable extraordinary economic opportunities for the communities along the route and will demonstrate Missouri's commitment to the health and well being of its citizens.

I would definitely use this trail. I ride the Katy Trail frequently and would like some new places to go. My experience on the Katy Trail is that only in recent years are people beginning to realize the economic benefit of this recreational trail with restaurants, shopping, and places to stay, and there is lots of opportunity. I love Missouri's small towns and would love to find a way to spend more time in them.

I live in Columbia Missouri. Initially, people opposed the Katy Trail conversion as well. It has become a cherished resource for Missouri and has helped rejuvenate small towns along the trail.

I would strongly urge that the Rock Island Trail Project be completed. It's a valuable resource that will be used by Missourians and tourists for many years to come. Denial of the trail would be very shortsighted. Let's not let this wonderful opportunity go to waste!

[REDACTED]

I am an avid user and supporter of the KATY and MKT trail systems and I strongly support the future addition of the Rock Island Line. These trail systems are a valuable resource for the people of Missouri and they are attractions for our of state

visitors. Please move forward with the entry into the Interim Trail Use agreement.

I would love to see this trail developed and hope you will allow equestrian users to enjoy it too. Since it goes through more rural countryside, it would be a great alternative for us to be able to ride from town to town safely.

Based on the public reporting available, I think these long distance rail-trail conversions have been very successful everywhere they have been tried. They provide economic benefits for the communities along the trail and a tremendous recreational opportunity for our citizens. It looks like the community of Belle, Missouri has taken a great first step in showing us how to move the project forward. Look for grants and private money to add to the public financing of the construction and maintenance of this valuable gift. This looks like exactly the kind of public/private partnership everyone in government seems to be searching for today. If the State doesn't have the funding to build the facilities at this time then at least accept the gift so the property is not lost. The trails can then be built in sections when funds are available.

Please keep this project alive. Destination vacations for bicycle riding are growing nationwide, and this project makes Missouri a leader in this category. I am a frequent user of the Katy Trail and a trail eventually connecting St Louis and KC would be a real benefit to the state. It is unclear to me how this negatively impacts farmers. There is already a right of way in place, and I am not aware of concrete evidence that the existing Katy Trail impacts contiguous farms.

I 100% disapprove of the Rock Island Trail Project. This land should have been turned over to the land owner, as originally was promised, when the rail road became inactive. Also this project allows total strangers access to your property, unless at great expense to the tax paying landowners to put up fences to keep trespassers off your property. Let alone the dangers during legal hunting times. Bottom line is the money used on this project could go to far better uses of upgrading, and repairs to our already decaying infrastructure. I hope the Government can see that this is total waste of money, that will generate little to no return.

The City of Warsaw with persistent commitment has developed a waterfront high quality trail system for visitors and residents. The goal has always been to extend our trail system to the KATY Trail in Sedalia. With the possibility of the Rock Island going through out county, we believe we can extend our trail system to the northern part of the county with a connection to the Rock Island and then on to Sedalia and the Katy Trail. This would greatly diversify bicycling opportunities for both major east west trail systems across Missouri. Additionally, we see an opportunity to extend our trail system south the Bolivar and connecting to the Frisco Highline trail to Springfield. This connection would create a major north south trail route that further diversifies bicycling opportunities. By using Warsaw as the hub that connects these three major trail systems, we believe it opens up tourism opportunities not only for ourselves, but also all counties that the network of trails will go through. Currently, the KATY is nationally and worldwide known. Imagine what would happen

to our state if all three trails linked. The benefit could vastly increase tourism revenues for all the communities, counties and the state. We have to look at the bigger picture and realize that the Rock Island is critical to making our state the place to not only bicycle, but also combine other recreation activities that can attract nationwide visitors.

I would so appreciate turning the rail system into a trail . Great for all trail riders.

i am strongly in favor of this project. if the use of the katy trail by in-state and out-of-state people is any indication of the success this could be , it seems like a no brainer. Tourism dollars and another reason to visit missouri!

I live in Columbia MO and our MKT trail and access to the Katy trail is an asset to our town. It serves as a commuter trail, a site for events, or simply for exercise and pleasure. Please develop the Rock Island Trail. I would like other MO towns to have the same opportunities.

The more multi use trails the state has, the better for our residents and tourism! Please allow horses on this trail. My husband and I specifically moved to Missouri because of the number of trails in this state. Horse trails allow people who may not be physically able to walk or bicycle long distances, to be able to enjoy the beauty of this state!

I am fully supportive of the Rock Island Trail. The following reasons are some of my arguments in support of the Rock Island Trail:

1) Economic development. The Katy Trail generates an 18:1 return-on-investment to the state's economy, with 400,000 annual users. The Rock Island goes through the middle of towns so it will have greater daily usage and economic impact per mile.

2) International tourist destination. When completed, the Rock Island and Katy Trails will form a 459-mile world class trail loop unlike any other.

3) Transportation safety and efficiency. An estimated 30 miles of the next section of the trail are within the city limits of small towns, so local residents will be able to use the trail for transportation and recreation on a daily basis. Planners are considering allowing horses and buggies on the trail in the Versailles area, to accommodate local Mennonites who are currently forced to ride on a two-lane highway.

4) Safe Routes to School. In Owensville, the schools are just east of the highway and the town is mostly to the west, so students are not allowed to walk or bicycle to school for safety reasons. That will change as the completed trail will pass under the highway, creating a safe route to school for local children.

5) Local community support. Many of the towns along the Rock Island corridor are already making plans on how to use the trail to strengthen their communities. Belle plans to renovate its former MFA as a welcome center, with wraparound decking and other inviting spaces. Eldon plans to take advantage of the trail as a new community asset for transportation, recreation and exercise for clients at local medical and assisted living facilities. Eldon has already received \$150,000 in matching money to rebuild a former railroad depot as a welcome center, museum and offices for

their Chamber of Commerce. Springfield wants to connect their 35-mile Frisco Highline Trail ending at Bolivar to the Rock Island Trail, including Warsaw's trail network. Jefferson City is discussing connections between the Katy and Rock Island Trails at Eugene or Eldon.

Please consider my comments and full support of this for the state of Missouri. The state of Missouri needs this!

The Katy Trail continues to amaze me with how well known it is nationwide and even internationally. I live near the trail and have met people from several states and a few other countries that came to Missouri for the sole purpose of traveling the Katy Trail.

Adding this additional trail, forming almost a loop would have an effect far beyond just the extra miles of trail.

I am certain we will never regret making this trail happen and would absolutely regret not doing it.

we need more trails for kids to explore with there familys.we need more biking areas for bikers to be more safer riding then on the hwys.let it get done for the history and show people the past

I strongly urge you to move ahead with the Rock Island Trail. I am a regular user of the KATY Trail, and would love to have even more opportunities to ride. The KATY Trail is already a national treasure, and adding the RIT to make a near-complete loop of more than 250 miles would make Missouri a major destination of long-distance cyclists.

From an economic perspective, I might add that I buy lunch at a trailside restaurant almost every time I ride the KATY Trail, and now that I am retired I will be making longer trips and staying at bed and breakfasts along the route. I would love to do the same on the RIT.

Sincerely,



The Trail has the potential to boost tourism in small communities, helping with local businesses, and providing a new stream of income they wouldn't normally have access to. It's a great way for families to do something together that costs little to nothing. It also provides a great way for exercise.

I think that it is great that our state is able to continue the rails to trails project and I hope to see more in the future, like in the Steelville and Cherryville areas. This brings more people to our state for recreation and that means more tax dollars to use. Keep up the good work!

I support this project!!

Please support the development of the Rock Island trail project! My husband and I are retired school teachers on a limited budget. We bike on DNR trails almost daily. We encounter many people from out of state using these trails and they provide economic stimulus to these small towns and leave with positive impressions of our state. Furthermore, the people of the state of Missouri have consistently supported their parks with their votes. Having green spaces and long travel corridors makes Missouri a unique gem. What other state will be able to advertise that you can travel almost from one end to the other on a safe, green trail?

Hello, My name is [REDACTED] and I live in Maries County, just 7 miles south of Belle, and I am an outdoor adventure enthusiast that fully supports this trail for the health benefits and economical benefits it would bring to our local communities. This trail would bring in more industry and growth for our local towns and inspire individuals to be more healthy & fit with the opportunities this trail will bring for biking and walking. Area business's would become more profitable and other new business would aspire to open, such as myself. I want to start a B&B on my beautiful property & offer a shuttle service to pick up individuals and families interested in staying along the trail. This trail is located in a beautiful part of the state and will bring in tourism from other states. I met a lady, while rafting the Colorado river in May, named [REDACTED] who is considering a biking tour on the Katy trail with an outfitter that specializes in bike rides and camping this fall. She's an electrical engineer from New Jersey, a professional, who enjoys the great outdoors and travels to a different state each year. This trail would attract many professionals who care about the environment and want to enjoy the beauty of our beautiful state. We need and deserve the opportunity to have a trail of this size to impact our communities and state in a positive way financially and also bring people together as a community and family. I would frequent this trail often as I cannot ride on Hwy 42 or Hwy Z (also through beautiful country) because we don't have special bike lanes like so many other states do and I will not take the risk of getting hit by a car or truck who doesn't see me in time. I would be happy to volunteer and donate my personal time to help finish this trail in whatever capacity is needed. Please support this trail!! Thank you, [REDACTED]

This is a multi-generational legacy project and this is the one and only time in history that it can be started. It would be extremely selfish and short-sighted for the State of Missouri to decline the AmerenUE donation of this ROW and fail to enter an Interim Trail Use Agreement.

Like the Katy Trail which has received world wide acclaim and continues to grow in use and popularity, the Rock Island Trail will take several years and government administrations to develop and reach its full economic and quality of life benefits. The route goes through several small and economically struggling communities which have already recognized the value of this long term asset and even with their limited resources have begun localized development of the trail as a first step to realizing the long term goals of revitalizing and sustaining their communities through eventual connection to a world class statewide trail system.

Aside from any potential ROW underlying ownership issues, as a practical reality no current living adjacent landowner has ever had any legal use of the ROW surface. Conversion from railroad to trail use is not taking away any use of the ROW which they have had during their lifetime. Procedures to determine just compensation for the underlying value of the land are long established and available for use as may be necessary.

I was responsible for the first Rails to Trails conversion project in Missouri, the Columbia MKT Parkway, and for the acquisition and development of the Jefferson City Greenway Trail System both of which now connect to the Katy Trail State Park. Many of the same opposing arguments were made

to discourage those projects but a long term vision and persistence created these trails which are among our state's most heavily used public facilities and are enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of Missouri citizens, out of state and international visitors. Being connected to a Katy/Rock Island Trail system loop holds incredible long term economic and improved quality of life potential.

I strongly urge Governor Greitens and DNR to support the continuation of this project.

This would be a huge mistake not to take advantage of this opportunity presented to us now. The benefits for the state of Missouri are unlimited. This is not a project that has to be completed in a short time, however not taking advantage of the gift would be very shortsighted. Generations of Missourians and out of state family's would enjoy this project. Please think of the future of what Missouri has to offer and not the current budget battle. Once this is gone, it is lost forever. Thanks for you time.

This would be a great biking route!!

That sounds like an awesome trail! As an avid cyclist in Columbia & regular user of the Katy Trail I would love to see more trails put it & check them out.

I would love to see Columbia do this!

We are definitely in support of the Rock Island Trail project. We have crossed Missouri on the Katy Trail and see the economic impact it has on small Missouri towns along the way. Our state needs the tourism dollars this will generate. Plus, it is just good to our own citizens to have a way to appreciate the beauty of our state.

They encourage healthy living and give people another outlet to exercise and enjoy nature! Not everyone enjoys going to a gym and there are so many ways in can boost the local economy.

This is a great idea. We need more reasons to be outside.

I would like to be able to ride my horse on this trail.

As an equestrian, I would really like the Rock Island Trail to include our interests also. I am unable to make the meetings due to locations and work. But would like to show my support.

I think the trail would be an amazing opportunity for the state and local communities. I would hate to see this not go through.

I strongly support the DNR supporting the rock island trail.

On behalf of PedNet Coalition and the 7,000 members we represent in central Missouri, I strongly urge you to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail rail corridor, and complete the development of the trail.

Why support the Rock Island Trail?

Economic development. The Katy Trail generates an 18:1 return-on-investment to the state's economy, with 400,000 annual users. The Rock Island goes through the middle of

towns so it will have greater daily usage and economic impact per mile.

International tourist destination. When completed, the Rock Island and Katy Trails will form a 459-mile world class trail loop unlike any other.

Transportation safety and efficiency. An estimated 30 miles of the next section of the trail are within the city limits of small towns, so local residents will be able to use the trail for transportation and recreation on a daily basis. Planners are considering allowing horses and buggies on the trail in the Versailles area, to accommodate local Mennonites who are currently forced to ride on a two-lane highway.

Safe Routes to School. In Owensville, the schools are just east of the highway and the town is mostly to the west, so students are not allowed to walk or bicycle to school for safety reasons.

That will change as the completed trail will pass under the highway, creating a safe route to school for local children.

Local community support. Many of the towns along the Rock Island corridor are already making plans on how to use the trail to strengthen their communities. Belle plans to renovate its former MFA as a welcome center, with wraparound decking and other inviting spaces. Eldon plans to take advantage of the trail as a new community asset for transportation, recreation and exercise for clients at local medical and assisted living facilities. Eldon has already received \$150,000 in matching money to rebuild a former railroad depot as a welcome center, museum and offices for their Chamber of Commerce. Springfield wants to connect their 35-mile Frisco Highline Trail ending at Bolivar to the Rock Island Trail, including Warsaw's trail network. Jefferson City is discussing connections between the Katy and Rock Island Trails at Eugene or Eldon.

The development of the Rock Island Trail is an enormous opportunity for the State of Missouri, and one we should not allow to slip away.

The development of the Rock Island Trail is an enormous opportunity for the State of Missouri, and one we should not allow to slip away.

[REDACTED]
PedNet Coalition
Columbia, MO

The trail will be great recreational and economic asset to the State of Missouri and the communities passes through. Trail tourism can boost local economies. Trail users and local farmers can co-exist in harmony.

I think it is a great deal if it is going to be opened up to everyone including horseback riders. If not then the land should be returned to the land owners.

Yes! The trail will be an asset to the health and welfare of the people of Missouri and promote tourism and travel to, and within, our State.

Please do not pull funding for this project. It is a positive program for the state of Missouri and its residents.

This will provide excellent recreational use for my family. We live in Rosebud, MO and look forward to being able to access the trail. We work in Owensville and have family in Gerald. We could regularly ride bikes between these two cities and around Rosebud

I would love to see this project continue. Some of my family grew up in the Gerald/Beaufort area, and I have long thought that to be the prettiest part of the state. I recall seeing the trains on the Rock Island line when I was a youngster, but the old lines have grown to be an eyesore since they were abandoned. I believe converting the old rail line into trails would be a great way to beautify the areas along the line, bring tourists (and their spending money) into the areas, and would allow the residents of Missouri to enjoy the beauty of their state that they normally would not get a chance to see. I use the Katy Trail and have many friends who do as well. I have seen the small communities along the Katy Trail benefit greatly, both economically and culturally, from having trail tourism. As a physician, I frequently prescribe exercise to my patients. Many of my rural patients state they don't have anywhere good to go exercise. Having the Rock Island Trail would provide access to rural patients to a fantastic exercise area, where they could walk, bike, or run. And although my family no longer lives in the areas along the old railroad, I would most definitely return with a bike to ride along the Rock Island Trail and revisit the areas I so fondly loved as a kid.

Re-purposing the Rock island railroad corridor into a recreational trail would be a great benefit to the state Missouri, enriching the lives of local residents, providing revenue to local communities and showcasing the wonderful state of Missouri.

Support this initiative

This trail will be good for local economies through increased tourism and good for local people through increased opportunities for recreation. I know I'll be a frequent user and shopper!

I see only positive outcomes from this program. We are avid Katy trail users and Missouri's trail system is much safer for biking and for walking. It also helps promote Missouri as a destination for living and visiting. Please do move forward with this!

This is a fantastic idea. Trails are great for public health, education, nature conservation, tourism jobs and just plain cool. As a life-long resident of Missouri, I support the Rock Island Trail Project 100%.

It is a very nice place to ride a bike and it is friendly place and scene is good

Please do! We spend hundreds of dollars each year at various points along the State's current rails to trails. We are looking forward to exploring the miles on the Rock Island trail as well.

Please keep trail project. Our family loves to explore trails walking and biking.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

The Trail is an amazing public-private partnership, with Ameren donating property worth millions of dollars and private and local donors lined up to contribute millions of

dollars to the success of the project. But we need Missouri State Parks to take the necessary steps to make all of this private investment possible--that is the "public" part of the public-private partnership.

The Katy Trail is an amazing national example of how successful and important trails can be to the economies of rural communities. History shows that the Katy Trail has been good neighbor and the Rock Island Trail will be as well.

I believe the appeal of Columbia Missouri is not only MIZZOU but the enthusiastic nature and mindset of the town. The trails here in Columbia and our to Rocheport and beyond are seriously utilized. They are full with people at all times of the day and provide safety from traffic and the shade in most parts is a welcome relief for runners during the summer. I truly believe these trail systems like the Rock Island Trail is a major asset to our state and shows that we put the thought, effort and funds into the health of our state.

Please don't abandon the Rock Island Trail project. Keep it in place and move forward.

I would love to see expansion of the trails to trails program. Giving new uses to underused rights of way in this particular way is a fantastic way to boost the state's quality of life and tourism appeal. The Katy Trail is already famous nation-wide and internationally and it would be lovely to see this expanded to new trails. Neighboring communities are often revived and property values enhanced by trails. Everyone wins!

I strongly support the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. It will be a benefit to both the economy and the health of Missourians.

I frequently ride my bike on the Katy Trail, and am delighted to support the businesses along the way. Last year I biked the entire Katy Trail, staying at B&Bs and eating at several trail-side restaurants.

The Katy Trail has proven to be an economic driver in the adjacent communities, and I am certain that the Rock Island Trail will offer the same benefit to the rural towns that dot Missouri's countryside along the proposed trail route. In fact, the Rock Island Trail may INCREASE the use of the Katy, as it will offer an opportunity to do a loop instead of an out-and-back experience.

Finally, anything we can do to support active lifestyles among Missourians will contribute to the public health of our state in both direct and indirect ways. It is good to promote health in its own right. In addition, it offers the potential to save health care costs related to chronic conditions related to inactivity, such as diabetes and heart disease.

Hundreds of people come in from other states to use the KATY Trail in Missouri increasing the State economy. Individuals and families who live on and near the KATY Trail use this outdoor recreation site in ever increasing numbers (refer to KATY Trail use counts). The trail offers significant opportunity to education the general population about State conservation initiatives: native trees and plants, a variety of different eco-systems, water, reptiles, birds (i.e. Eagle Bluffs overlook), "carry-out-what-you-carry-in," the history of the railway system development in the State, the history of each trail project, etc. The same will true of the Rock Island Trail Project. The Trails Projects are an invaluable asset to the

State--economy, recreation, education, involvement, etc. This State will prosper as a result of entering into this Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project. Please vote yes on behalf of your constituents.

I think it's a wonderful idea. Would love to someday own/run a business along the trail system

I think this would be great for the communities surrounding the trail by bringing in revenue to the local businesses and for people who love the great outdoors! It's good for everyone!

I am responding to this request for comment as it was brought to my attention with the note that the current administration is considering refusal of the donation of the rail corridor to construct this trail. I urge the Department of Natural Resources and the State of Missouri continue forward with the project and work toward the completion of what would be a massive resource for the state.

The Katy is already nationally recognized and brings an estimated \$18 million of revenue annually to the State. There are communities along the proposed route that are waiting and in need of the tourism and opportunities the trail will bring. I work with grant funded afterschool programs across the state. I have spoken with colleagues in Eldon who have already begun planning how they can provide services and opportunities to youth that relate to this trail and are eagerly awaiting its completion through there community.

I strongly encourage the State of Missouri to no make a short sighted decision with opportunity costs that are not being fully realized for the State as a whole and the communities along the proposed corridor.

Warm Regards,

██████████
Columbia, MO

I think the Rock Island Trail is a great idea, and should be completed. I believe it will make Missouri a destination for cyclists from all over the country and all over the world; any cycling website or cycling group knows that the Katy Trail is an amazing asset. I would love to see even more folks come as tourists to our state because they'd like to spend many many days riding the two trails and spending their hard-earned money in the small towns that dot their way. As a native Missourian, I am planning on taking a vacation to ride the entire length of the Katy Trail and would love to be able to ride a second trail in the future. I frequently ride the Little Blue Trace Trail near my home in Independence, MO, and would love to see it connect to a vast system of trails that will happen if the RIT is approved.

I urge you strongly to please continue the efforts to add another amazing trail system to our state - I know that it will be worth it in the end!

I am an avid user of the MKT and Katy trail systems and turkey believe that my life is greatly enriched by having this resource nearby. I also travel throughout rural mo for my job and see that many of the communities could reap both economic and public health benefits from a nearby trail system. Help keep the heart of mo alive and accept this generous offer from Ameren and build the trail. Thank you.

██████████

This would be a great asset to the local area residents and communities through which it passes. Great opportunity for creating jobs on the local level and to expand the tourist attractions in the state of Missouri.

I support this project.

The rock island trail project is a wise investment for the state of Missouri. This project invest in both the wellness and tourist opportunities for the entire state. Living in Sedalia, we use the Katy trail often. The expansion of our trail systems creating a circular route will promote wellness in rural communities and also offer a source of tourism income. I urge you to support the trail conversion.

I would like to see the Rock Island Trail Project move forward. It is a potential asset for the state by bringing cycling recreation and the dollars that follow to a new area of the state.

I live in Franklin County and am an avid cyclist and ultra long-distance runner. Unfortunately, there are no trails in this county and the roads for the most part do not have shoulders, making it hazardous to run or bike. My only option is the shoulder along Highway 50, which is very dangerous. I am just a couple of miles from the Rock Island corridor. I would love to see this trail developed.

There has been a degree of excitement in Eldon that has not been for a long time. Businesses are starting up, blighted properties that back up to the trail have been purchased and turned in beautiful additions to our community. We have been given a match grant of \$150,000 to restore the old depot into a Welcome Center and Chamber of Commerce office. Our Rock Island Park has been transformed into an area any small city would envy. Directional signs are going up all over town to inform visitors where points of interest are located. Business owner on our Main Street are revitalizing their properties. Young people in their 20's to 40's are working together to make a things happen. We have been introducing healthy eating in our schools, at the pool, at sports events for the past 4 years and can't wait to walk our three miles of track!

We strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

Like many Missouri families, we enjoy outdoor activities and use the Katy Trail several times per year. The Katy is an incredible resource, a national gem, that continues to shine a spotlight on Missouri. Few other states have anything close to this, and it attracts visitors and travel and tourism dollars from visitors from across the country.

We were delighted to hear of the potential Rock Island Trail a few months ago, as this would further expand the benefits of tourism and recreation to Missouri. We believe there is a "multiplier effect" where it would not be additive - Katy or Rock Island alone - but rather, an increased number of visitors would come to use the totality of it.

Please do not decline this incredible opportunity for our state. This will be a terrific trail which can be part of your legacy. Finally, Missouri continues to lag national statistics in health status and physical activity. We need to create greater

opportunities for our children, not fewer. Trails like the Rock Island and Katy are ideal because they can be used at no user cost and very little cost to the state, making them truly an equal opportunity resource for all.

Please support the Rock Island Trail.

I support the conversion of the former Rock Island Railroad corridor to recreational trail.

DO NOT let the Governor stop this project!!! The KATY Trail is a treasure and this addition would greatly enhance the experience. Make the Rock Island Project happen!!!

I am in favor of the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. Investing in the trail will help bolster the economies of the several small towns located along the trail by creating a world-class trail system in the state.

Please accept the donation and develop the trail, if Missouri is going down the road of reducing health care for its citizens, we should make sure we're helping people stay fit and healthy. Also, we need to protect our natural resources. The opportunity to enjoy Missouri's natural beauty is the only thing that keeps me in the state. Its a constant fight against economic and political interests, but worth it.

The Rock Island Trail Project would be an excellent addition to communities through Missouri. it would provide safe travel for horse and buggies as well as great exercise for families and individuals.

There should be an emphasis on trail development in our state, as the increase of alternative transportation options would increase the strength of local economies through keeping our dollars from oil companies and go straight into our communities here at home.

Saying yes to the Rock Island Trail Project is a 'yes' for our communities and its' inhabitants.

I love this idea. Go for it!

I am a daily commuter of 35+ years and a strong bicycling advocate. Linear parks like the Katy Trail are a fantastic addition to our state parks system. They allow folks to enjoy our wonderful state and travel by bicycle without the worry of traffic.

To pass up the opportunity to have a nearly 500 mile continuous trail is hard to imagine, and would be harder to forgive!

My wish would be to accept the Rock Island corridor and develop as soon as practical. I retire next year and will want to ride the Katy/Rock Island loop!

This would be wonderful. Whatever we can do to provide access for people to get outside and experience our beautiful state. Not to mention what it does bringing in cyclist who come here just to bike our trails!

Opportunities to recreate outdoors benefit all Missourians. We live increasingly sedentary lives which causes increased disease and ill health. Trails such as these are always a positive contribution to quality of life.

Please open all the trail systems to equestrians. I and my friends ride horses. We trailride at almost every private and public trail available in this state and others. The State of Missouri is one of the largest producers of horses in the United States-Texas and Oklahoma being the two largest. Horseback riding and events are family oriented activities. Having the trails open from Pleasant Hill to Windsor and then to Sedalia is a great start, but the trail needs to be open across the state. It is an opportunity for the communities along the trail to provide food, lodging and other services to those using the trail. I personally know people considering a restaurant along the trail and can think of 3 ways to create new businesses from trail use. Please open the trails and expand them to provide additional recreational space for equestrians.

We can never have too many trail or opportunities for Missourians to get out and enjoy their wonderful state. The Katy Trail has been an economic, cultural, natural, and recreational treasure and it would be further enhanced by adding a second southern connecting trail that would bring these same opportunities to new communities.

I ride the Katy Trail at least once a week throughout most of the year. I am looking forward to also riding the Rock Island Trail east of Windsor a few times per month once the salvage is complete and the new trail surface is installed. I'm disappointed to hear that the State/DNR/Governor might change their mind and not accept the generous donation of the trail corridor. Having both the Katy and Rock Island trails will provide such a huge interest in bike trail riders from all over the USA. I'm from Clinton and I see license plates from several states each week in the long term parking lot at the trailhead. Being able to make a round trip, for example riding out the Katy and back on the Rock Island, will be such an important advantage for a Missouri trail system to draw even more trail riders.

I support the interim trail use agreement with Missouri Central Railroad for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project, coupled with support for completing the Rock Island Spur of the KATY into the Pleasant Hill Trailhead. The City of Pleasant Hill has seen great interest in the recently opened Rock Island Spur of the KATY. The opening of this trail has breathed new life into our community and I hope that this 144 mile section will do the same to many other communities along its path. This section will only elevate the allure of the trail system with a KATY/Rock Island Loop.

I also support the completion of the Rock Island Spur of the KATY into Pleasant Hill, which currently has a 1/4 mile of on-road "share the road" section immediately past the trailhead. Many trail riders have noted the inconvenience of this workaround which is viewed by many to be less than handicap accessible and dangerous for family riders.

My husband and I rode the Rock Island Trail in November, started at Chillhowee and went as far west as we could go. There were little to no amenities at that time. After the trail officially opened, new businesses have sprung up. These towns are looking forward to seeing the Rock Island come through. Please do your best to see that it happens.

I thoroughly support the Rock Island Trail project and would definitely be a user of this trail when it becomes operational. I have run and biked on the Katy trail over a dozen times and would welcome a similar trail much closer to my home in Camdenton. I urge you to approve this project and provide an economic boost for the communities along the proposed trail and to improve the fitness of Missouri's population.

I fully support State of Missouri's DNR accepting this gift from Ameren and developing this 144.3 mile railroad corridor into a trail. Trails such as these, including most significantly the nearly 245 mile (nearly 300 with the extension into near KC) Katy Trail have proven to be great resources for the state of people in terms of economic development, tourism, etc.. It would be a great lost to the state to not execute this plan. Also, it has been noted that nearly 80% of Missourians support parks, wild areas, and conservation areas. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

I full support this effort and the possible income and recreational values it brings to our state. I hope that once the assessments necessary are made we can move forward with this.

Many of our parks and our Katy trail bring much quality of life and tourism to Missouri.

The Rock Island Trail will provide a much needed boost to the local economy along the old line, as the Katy Trail did north of the river. Also, it will provide a new opportunity for recreational activity for everyone in the area. This should be a regional priority for sure.

I support the Rock Island Bicycle trail to be completed as soon as possible.

Give the ground to the farmers and towns along the right-of-way and let them make good use of it. The state has a east-west bike trail with people abusing the private property rights already.

I think this is a great project for the benefit of the communities that will be located alongside it. I think community members will enjoy better health and more quality time to walk/run/bike outside in a safe location. I would be willing to help provide for this project to help out another community.

[REDACTED]

Thank you for considering this project. I believe this project will help provide an economic development opportunity for the State of Missouri, especially given the declining state revenue. It will also make our state more of a destination for tourists looking to explore our trail system and will provide towns along the route with economic growth. It will also assist in helping with transportation safety and efficiency. I believe it will be an asset like the Katy trail to encourage Missourians to get out and exercise. We have lots of beautiful places in our state and I'd like to see more people inspired by them -- thank you for the consideration.

This trail will expand the opportunities for Missourians to safely exercise and enjoy the outdoors, while also increasing tourism.

I wholeheartedly support the DNR converting the old Rock Island railroad line to a bicycle/pedestrian trail. I would definitely use it.

I've lived in Missouri most of my life and been a cyclist on and off for several years. Having recently gotten back into cycling and started using Missouri's state park system, in particular the Katy Trail State Park, I've realized Missouri has one of the nations best trail systems out there. This is an amazing opportunity to have in our great state, and from what I can tell, it's often underappreciated. This year my fiance and I are taking weekend trips to ride the entire Katy trail system, the new extension would be a great addition to the trail and would give greater access to view Missouri's beautiful scenery.

The Rock Island Trail Project is a long term investment in small, rural communities in Missouri, and the beautiful countryside that is the State of Missouri. I live out of state now, but Missouri is home! And the Katy Trail brings me back home to Missouri! So will the Rock Island Trail! In addition it will be an investment in the future health and quality of life for residents in communities along the new proposed Trail. People get out to walk and ride on the trails that would not due to lack of access or opportunity. I encounter young parents out on Katy Trail enjoying a walk or ride with family, or elderly couples enjoying their time with each other and getting some exercise in with each other, that would be much less likely if the trails were not available.

I support the Rock Island Trail.

Wow, what a great idea. I'm all for it. I live at Lake of the Ozarks and the nearest really safe trail is all the way to Jefferson City. To have one as close as Eldon with access to further trails would be terrific.

We love our state trails, and have traveled every inch of them since their inception. This traveling also includes buying food and drink in the trailside and nearby towns, and an occasional stay at a hotel or bed & breakfast. It appears just to the eye that the visitors to the trails have caused a significant economic boost to Missouri. As a volunteer in the Katy Trail Coordinators office, I receive calls regularly from people planning trips to Missouri to visit and ride on the trail. Now those calls include people wanting to see the new Rock Island Spur (from Windsor to Pleasant Hill) as well. I have spoken to Missourians also in some of the small towns along the "future" Rock Island Trail, and they are excited about the tourism it will bring to their areas. Some are even planning to register with "Airbnb" so they can earn income by housing trail visitors. Others are planning cafes small food establishments of one kind or another. I cannot imagine a significant downside to further developing this trail system

As an avid cyclist I cannot support this proposal strongly enough! Simply look at the success of the Katy Trail to see the enormous potential for recreation and tourism (and the

accompanying economic benefits) that would be gained by completing this trail. The Rock Island Corridor is arguably better than the Katy from a recreation standpoint as well. I cannot wait to see this completed!

This is just one more opportunity to make us a healthier state here in Missouri. Trails like this provide great opportunities to enjoy nature too. I live near Rocheport, MO and am always amazed at the number of people of all ages I see on the trail. Please give this a chance.

I support the transfer of the Rock Island Trail to the State of Missouri as previously announced/planned.

I believe the Rock Island Trail Project will be a wonderful addition to our parks system.

One needs to look no further than the Katy Trail to realize its advantages. The Katy continues to benefit communities all along it, bringing revenue and people to places that really need it. It is one of the most positive things for which our state is recognized.

The Rock Island Trail is a no-brainer. Rail to trail projects like the Katy Trail are an economic boon for rural communities. Dozens of small towns, languishing after the closure of the Rock Island rail line, would be revived should this trail go through. Not to mention that rural Missouri counties have some of the highest rates of obesity and chronic illness due to poor access to physical activity. The Rock Island Trail would provide a new option for outdoor recreation and active transportation.

Missouri has the opportunity to reclaim its status as a national leader in rail to trails with this project. Let's make it happen!

I am part of a community that has benefited from the Katy Trail and am excited to see the Rock Island Trail Project moving forward. It's a great asset to the communities that surround it and will make cycling in Missouri even better than it already is

I would love to see the Rock Island Trail go forward. I believe it would be a great thing

Please continue to expand the trail!! The Rock Island Trail is lovely. We rode 40 miles this past weekend.

One small thing ---Some of the temporary signage to get from the parking lot by the fair grounds in Pleasant Hill to the trail head is missing. Some more long term signs on sign posts should be installed if even only for a short time.

This is a huge win for the state of Missouri benefiting tourism throughout the state. And like other states that have parks/fishing/hunting fees for day or year use, I know that I as a cyclist and hiker, I could support that as well. I just did the Rock Island Spur trail this past week.

"Many of the towns along the Rock Island corridor are already making plans on how to use the trail to strengthen their communities." I think this sentiment says it all. The economic impact this development will have strengthens the local towns and grows the economy of the entire State of Missouri.

I cannot wait for this to be completed. This is an amazing opportunity our state would be foolish to pass up!

Would love to see this project come to light. What a wonderful resource for our community and surrounding areas. The trail would not only provide recreation but also revenue to the small towns along its corridor.

Missouri is one of the leaders in Trail projects and completed trails. I have had the pleasure of riding on the Kate Trail twice. I look forward to riding the Rock Island Trail or parts of Kate and the Rock Island trails together, in the future. Being from Nebraska, I can categorically state, in an unbiased manner, that Missouri is a leader in trails. The benefits Missouri gets from the trail are tremendous. The trails are a big tourism draw. On my rides on the Kate Trail, I meet riders from both coasts and 5 states besides me from Nebraska. One of our nations biggest health problems is inactivity. The trails are a direct answer to that problem. Thank you for the actions of the people of Missouri for these needed and wonderful resources.

Terrific idea. This is a project that looks to the future of the states recreation needs. More and more people want to be active this will complement the Katy Trail and add to Missouri's diverse opportunities to attract tourist dollars. It will also provide great opportunities for the development of small business along the route. The prime uses will be people who have and are willing to spend money for quality outdoor experiences.

Sounds like an amazing idea! Green space+ trails+nature+exercise= mentally and physically healthy kids and adults!

My family and friends enjoy spending our free time and disposable income on riding bicycles on trails and camping. The more developed the network of trail the better. If Missouri were to back out of the Rock island opportunity we might be more inclined to explore Nebraskas cowboy trail or trail surrounding Omaha and Lincoln. Please recognize this golden opportunity for what it is.

We have here an opportunity that other states would die for. We cannot do nothing and let it pass by. It won't come again.

I support the development of the Rock Island Trail. I think the state will benefit from having another trail like the Katy Trail. Over Memorial Day weekend, my husband and I participated in a 60 mile ride on the Katy Trail over two days. I have been a Missouri resident for most of my life and was happy to visit towns that I'd never seen. I supported local businesses located along the trail and made plans to return. I think that bicycle tourism could be very good for the state, in particular the small towns. I know that the annual ride across Iowa brings business to the state and that towns compete in order to have the bike ride come through their community. I would love to see that kind of commerce in Missouri.

I believe that the Rock Island trail would help cement a growing bicycle tourism boom.

Please do this. The Katy is great but adding the Rock Island makes more trail accessible to more people. I'm 60 miles away from the nearest Katy point but less than half that to RIT.

This trail is something to bring families together and show our children the history of the area. Please move forward with completing this project, will be good for the economy of the towns it passes through and for the physical and mental health of all able to enjoy the journey.

The rails to trails is central to economic development of the little towns along the trail. I cycle quite a bit and spend money in towns I typically would not drive to in my car.

Cycling is a wholesome and family activity to promote. It also promote mental and physical health and well-being that reduces costs associated to health.

Missouri is such a beautiful state. Let's provide people an avenue to see it.

Every time I am on the Katy Trail, I meet someone from another state and many times from another country. I am looking forward to riding the Rock Island later this summer.

I would love to have another trail like the Katy! I believe that people from all around the country would come just for the Rock Island Trail.

I am in support of developing the Rock Island Trail. This trail, like the Katy will open up new avenues and economic growth for the small towns that are connected to the trail. In addition it will add more revenue from the ever growing outdoor industry to the state of Missouri.

This trail will also bring with it serenity and peace to all that use the trail. The trail systems in Missouri are very important to the economic growth, and peaceful tranquility to all Missourians.

The Rock Island Trail Project is a worthwhile project to give the small communities along the trail some hope for the future. I am looking forward to the coming of the trail. I see only a positive result to the completion of the trail. The community will benefit from the use of the trail by stop overs and purchases of food, drink and lodging.

My family loves being out doors. We love biking running and hiking. We spend a lot of time on the al foster trail, Katy trail and all the other wonderful conservation areas Missouri has to offer! We would love another trail that is similar to the Katy trail. From the beautiful images I've seen of this one I am looking forward to exploring this trail and hope you enter into an interim trail use agreement so that this trail becomes a reality!

Please include equestrians in your plans. I've ridden the multi-use Blue River Trail system for over a decade. Horses, bicyclists and pedestrians can use the same trails!!! Our trail system is a prime example of a successful combination of different kind of users. And equestrians are a particularly tight-knit community who take trail safety and maintenance seriously! We aggressively clear and maintain our Blue River Trail system every year!!! The bicyclists are awesome volunteers too! We often work together. And we can all share the trail. If there is a cement area of the trail, PLEASE

LEAVE CLEARANCE FOR THE HORSES TO THE SIDE OF THE TRAIL ON THE BARE GROUND. The great thing about horses, is they can single-track beautifully through tight areas! And equestrians often own large tracts of land and are paying a lot in property taxes...don't forget about us, your taxpayers! Thank you!

Great idea for the state! Will be used by many cyclists!

As an avid cyclist, the possibility of having the nation's premier rails-to-trails trail network in my area is very exciting. For that reason, I encourage progress on the Rock Island Trail. As a business person and civic leader in a city adjacent to the Katy Trail I recognize the economic impact that seemingly simple path of crushed limestone has. Just last week I spoke to a mother and her two daughters that travelled from Minneapolis to ride a section of the trail. They stopped at 3 shops while here. I have family that lives in a small town on the Rock Island Trail where the job market and personal income is depressed. The prospect of a revitalized Rock Island Trail has my family ready to open a BBQ stand. They have friends that will offer camping and improve buildings to enhance economic opportunities. For that reason, I encourage progress on the Rock Island Trail.

As a father, I value outdoor recreation opportunities for my children. My daughter loves to ride her bike. However, at 3 years old her ability to navigate hills and traffic limits those opportunities. My 8 year old son has fewer obstacles but is enamored by the snakes, turtles, birds, and plant varieties we see on the Katy Trail. More kids need similar opportunities. For that reason, I encourage progress on the Rock Island Trail. As a lifelong Missourian, I am proud of our state's longstanding connection to nature and outdoor heritage. We live in one of the most beautiful states in our nation due to our diverse weather, karst topography, and waterway resources. We are viewed as flyover country until on the ground. Only at that point is it recognized we are a state that should be experienced more slowly. We are a state that should be toured by bike, hiked, photographed, and absorbed with all our senses. For that reason, I encourage progress on the Rock Island Trail.

I think the trail brings a large amount of opportunity to the areas in which it is going through. The trail brings a great opportunity for Missourians to get out and be active. The Katy trail is a great trail and this trail would be just as great and provide even more Missourians they opportunity to use.

I have wanted this railroad to become part of the trail since I moved to Versailles from Columbia. I used to run on the MKT when I was a student at Mizzou and I miss it. Missouri has wonderful trails and it is an amazing opportunity to link together the existing trail and have it cross the state. What an accomplishment that would be and a legacy to leave behind! What better way to increase health and wellness in our state while giving a huge business/financial boost to the cities that this trail will go through! Bike/Repair shops, B&Bs, eateries with bike racks out front catering to the cyclists going through these small towns. My husband and I have loaded up our bikes and traveled to different areas of the state, stayed at B&Bs, biked before breakfast, came back to eat, went back out for more miles before lunch, came back for lunch...went back out.

It's a fun weekend getaway that incorporates health and sight seeing all in one. Great way to experience our state. I highly recommend we move forward with this corridor to connect the existing trails. Each city can put \$ in to assist what is inside their city limits and reaching out further if approved or needed. I am the owner of Versailles Total Fitness. I have a running group that has members from new runners training for their first 5k to an ultra marathoner and everything in between. This trail would go through right behind my Fitness Center and also cross just down the street from my house. There is a large group of us as runners and cyclists that have been chomping at the bit for this to happen. We are more than willing to volunteer our time to help in any way possible for the trail to come through the city of Versailles! Please help us make this happen!

I have been using the Katy Trail and it is an awesome place for me to run, bike and bring friends. Please continue this tremendous resource with the Rock Island Trail that attracts many visitors. Great for the economy. A true asset for our state.

The use of railroad right of way has been successful in Missouri and many other states. Despite worries about everything from noise to crime, the trail has brought prosperity and rave reviews from hikers and trail neighbors alike. The proposed additional trail will cost very little to build and maintain, but will provide healthy exercise and business opportunities for landowners.

I would advise that DNR move forward on the Rock Island Trail Project. One need only look to the success of the KATY trail to understand the benefits to be realized. Additionally if the KATY trail could be connected to the Rock Island Trail, the state of Missouri would have a unique trail system like no other in the entire world.

I would also recommend that DNR devote some effort as to inform the citizens of Missouri to the proposed plan as well as this comment board.

I am strongly in favor of DNR and the State of Missouri entering in to a Trail Use Agreement and developing the Rock Island Trail Project. This type of project will provide recreational opportunities for people of all abilities; it will create jobs and foster economic development in the towns on the trail; it will be a tourist destination; it will provide a safe means of transportation within and between the small towns on its route; and it will showcase the Missouri spirit - letting all who visit know that Missouri is a state that cherishes the outdoors and makes its natural amenities accessible to all.

The Rock Island Trail Project would greatly benefit our area! Not only would it provide an awesome trail for runners, bikers, and walkers in our area it would also provide a safer route for kids to walk to school. I sincerely hope the Department of Natural Resources decides to enter into the interim. Thank you!

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail Project. Forward thinking projects such as this incredibly benefit future generations, and quality of life for the residents of Missouri.

I think we should build the trail!

Please finish this ! Missouri needs something good to talk about and better our way of life. We are the trail state.

As a fan of the Katy trail I think it would be a wonderful addition and would promote more tourism in Missouri

Yes! We WANT the trail here in Franklin County. Franklin County is a Republican stronghold which need economic developmen and is trail conscious. I'm working on the Pacific River Walk Trail Project. Washington has a riverfront trail and is working on feeder trails. The central corridor where the Rock Island trackage is desperately needs people to come and fill the empty shells of buildings. Drive Hwy. 50 sometime and look at the towns in need of rejuvenation. Then drive Hwy. 94 is St. Charles and see what has happened there. And Franklin County is flatter.

We WANT this trail. Do not go back to the 19th century Finalize the Rock Island Trail!

Please support our trail system. It is a great way to enjoy nature and get in shape. Keep moving forward!!!

I live in Columbia, MO. I returned to regular recreational bicycling 9 years ago at age 62 and bike between 3,000 and 4,800 miles a year. I am lucky to live on one of the many city trails that connect to the MKT trail and ultimately to the KATY Trail. I have ridden from my home to St. Charles and back on the KATY. When I first resumed riding, I found myself oftentimes screaming with glee as I barreled along the roadways and trails. Biking for me is just plain fun and I urge everyone I come in contact with to try it out. When riding on the trails, there is the added fun of being in nature, touching the earth itself, seeing the wildlife, marveling at the many shades of green of the surrounding foliage. One cannot help but be relaxed, even cleansed by being in nature. And with a bike, one can get to a whole lot more of it and quicker. "Man's heart away from nature becomes hard." -- Standing Bear, Native American Ponca Chief.

So, I urge you to enter into the Trail Use Agreement with the Missouri Central Railroad for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project. It will allow thousands of mid-state Missourians, and countless numbers of other states' visitors, to enjoy and benefit from the beauty and abundance and inspiration of our fair State, just as I do. We are already renowned because of our trail system. Imagine, more than doubling that reputation with this second, almost-state wide trail. Out of State guests will spend even more time here on vacation because of the riches of our trail system. Because those other state visitors -- they'll be bring their wallets.

[REDACTED]

Please continue the support for the Rock Island!!

I have family in Oregon that are asking about the trail because they want to ride it when it's finished. They were very disappointed when I told them I didn't know if it would happen. We are just one family along the trail but the idea has traveled all the way to the west coast. I hope the State of

Missouri doesn't lose this opportunity to bring visitors to the state.

Let's make Missouri the premier trail state in the Midwest!

Please do this! A 144 mile long recreational trail state park though the heart of Missouri would be a huge boon to tourism and the state's economy. We already have visitors come here from all over the world to use the Katy Trail and this will only accelerate that trend.

We must keep and develop this trail as a state park for public use!

Thank You

Thank you for this opportunity.

Last year we rode the Katy Trail from St. Charles to Sedalia in conjunction with the Missouri State parks Association. We camped out each night in the city parks, ate at the local restaurants, swam in the city pools and had a great time meeting people from all of the United States and Canada. The scenery along the trail was absolutely beautiful and the local people that we visited along they way were incredibly nice. The completion of the Rock Island Trail project would be an added boon to the tourism for Missouri and a health benefit for residents of this beautiful state.

wonderful idea.. I would use it!!

YES! DNR should definitely proceed with the RIT project. Small towns along the corridor are already gearing up for the trail, getting grants for trail development, planning for future economic development. Residents and visitors alike are excited about the recreational possibilities the RIT will offer. The entire country will take notice of the incredible trail system that the Katy Trail and the RIT together will offer. No other state will have anything that can compete with it. The railroad tracks and ties have already been pulled up, and the corridor is ready for development. Why on earth would DNR even consider backing out of this opportunity now? I thought it was already a done deal. PLEASE move forward on making the RIT a reality. It is in the state's best interests.

I fully support the DNR entering into an agreement to use the Old Rock Island Railroad bed as a trail. Missouri is known nation wide as having wonderful trails for biking and hiking. This will continue in that tradition. Look at all the studies that show the great economic benefit of the Katy Trail. We do not want to lose this once in a life time opportunity to add to our trails. Once it is gone, it is gone if the line goes back to the original owners. I use the Katy Trail all the time. I use the Ozark Trail and many others across the state.

Do not be short sighted about the cost. Add up the cost if you had to purchase land for a trail across Missouri, and build it. I would think the cost would be 50 times what the cost is of Rock Island Trail Project. The benefits out weight the cost in huge ways!!

Yes, do this! We need more trails in MO! Also the economic development along the trail, as with the KATY, would definitely help the communities involved!

Expand the hiking trails and they will be used. This will greatly benefit all nearby communities. It will also enhance Missouri's reputation as a naturalist state and tourist destination.

As [REDACTED], I see the benefits this trail can bring to a community. I greatly support the efforts to finish this trail across the state. I also strongly believe before the trail should stretch across the state it should be finish where it started. The trail was brought into Pleasant Hill on an alternate path. This path is unsafe and should be corrected as promised. Funds were 'stolen' from our project for a Park project near St Louis and any funds made available for the other 144 miles should include funding for the bridge to finish our portion of the trail first.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

I support this trail and I wholeheartedly believe that the DNR should move forward in developing this trail and finishing it. I don't think an Interim Trail Use Agreement is a good idea.

This path would contribute to those living along it in maintaining their livelihoods, plus offer tourists and native Missourians a chance to experience some wonderful history about the state and the contribution railways played.

I also thoroughly believe in everything stated in the PedNet Advocacy Alert. Including economic development, tourism, transportation safety and efficiency, safe routes to school, and local community support. I look forward to the day the trail is open so that I can visit and become more enriched in the history and beauty that lies in the state of Missouri. I truly believe that I share the same sentiment as other Missourians who are truly passionate about their state.

I am writing to heartily encourage the Missouri DNR to complete the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. My husband and I are among the many Missourians and travelers to Missouri to have completed the entire length of the KATY Trail, contributing to the local economy with each of our many segmented treks. We have been looking forward to continuing this enviro-athletic tourism that Missouri should capitalize upon further. Having these trails is a unique asset that gets Missourians out and about, and brings new money and healthy visitors into our state. Please keep the Rock Island Trail Project going!

I think this would be a great asset for the state park system and greatly benefit Missouri tourism. The KATY Trail has been a huge success and should be all of the proof DNR needs to move forward with this project.

We are strong supporters of the proposed Rock Island Trail. This part of the state would really benefit from the recreation, tourism and business opportunities that the trail would bring. I this is a beautiful part of Missouri that should be developed in a way that many people can enjoy.

I strongly support DNR to enter into this agreement for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project! My wife, Nancy, and I cycle quite frequently and believe that one of the state of Missouri's most important scenic and recreational

benefits are the rails-to-trails projects. Adding the Rock Island Trail will be another important milestone in the development and improvement of Missouri's recreational cycling, hiking and walking portfolio. For our 25th wedding anniversary we cycled the Katy Trail from Clinton, Mo to St. Charles, Mo - 240 miles over a five day period. It was a very special experience and celebration that we recall fondly and will always cherish the memories. We also enjoyed Missouri's small towns and scenic areas throughout the trail and we stayed at a variety of B&Bs and hotels, enjoying the local food and entertainment all along the trail. Opening up the Rock Island Trail will offer a whole new venue of economic recreational benefit to the people of Missouri and beyond. Please don't let this opportunity slip through our hands!

I left Missouri, but I will come back as a tourist to ride a loop of the Katy Trail and Rock Island trail if it is completed. Bike travel is a growing trend and very popular on social media. Look at how much tourism the Great Allegheny Passage has brought yo old abandoned coal towns in Pennsylvania. The locals love it and use it. And now they have tourists just because there is a bike trail.

Many communities along the planned corridor have already started to plan and develop accommodations for riders along the trail. Additionally, the economic benefits for many of these small communities, such as Stover, Merton, and Chilhowee are huge and this corridor could serve as a lifeline to many. Many of those small, rural communities need this opportunity. It could also bring in large numbers of tourists in general who may explore the state beyond just the trail, as long as there is a reason for them to come here in the first place. One last bit...if this donation, which has already been accepted and thousands of people have been counting on, is snubbed, could it damage Missouri's relationship with Ameren? Also, has any consideration been given to the political fallout/damage this would cause to Governor Greitens and his officials?

I support the trails! Please continue to develop trails in Missouri! The new project needs to be completed.

Rock Island Trail is vital for Missouri's Rail to Trail System. Anytime you can provide an alternative form of cycling, walking, running for the health benefit of native Missourians and tourist it's a benefit for all the right reasons. Rock Island Trail will also increase tourism which again will increase revenue for the state and all local and independent business. To not continue with the Rock Island Trail project would be a negative for the state of Missouri.

I think the trail would enrich the towns along the trail and beautify the area.

I am in favor of Rock Island Trail project

The Rock Island Trail Project is a fantastic way for our state to attract trail users into the smaller communities along the route. This certainly is an economic opportunity for those communities as well as providing safe recreational activities. This trail would provide another exceptional way for

Missourians and out of state visitors to be involved in outdoor activities without the hazards of motorized traffic.

The Katy Trail has given us a blueprint for success. I hope that we will not fail to seize this moment to enhance Missouri's trail system. Our rural communities benefit from the economic growth and our citizens benefit by having wider access to a trail system for healthier life activities.

Thank you

I really hope this project happens soon. Our family goes on bike rides often and it would be so nice to be able to ride in a safe spot off the roads. The trail is supposed to go right through Versailles.

Once in a lifetime opportunity to create a recreation destination that will draw trail enthusiasts from all over the world. Please continue to move forward and make Missouri a world class recreation destination.

I think Missouri State Parks should develop the Rock Island as another hiking/bicycling trail. The Katy Trail is very popular bringing in tourist from all 50 states as well as from several foreign countries. It has helped revitalize towns such as Rocheport and Hartsburg. The Rock Island could do the same. Most trail users are respectful of private property so I don't think that trespassing is much of an issue. Please develop this trail.

Missouri needs to take advantage of the extraordinary landscape to draw in more visitors and young people, trails like this one are key to the future of the state as a desirable place to live.

I enthusiastically support the development of the Rock Island trail.

Why would we not do this? The Katy Trail is one of the few things that puts Missouri on the map for tourism and it has been a significant economic driver for the state.

Please enter the agreement!

I think this trail project and many others are excellent uses of our financial and natural resources. They provide our citizens a way to enjoy the outdoors in a safe environment that is separate from other motorized traffic. A properly built, properly maintained trail will bring in tourist who can't find trails like this in their area. Special events can be planned to bring people in which would in turn bring an influx of money into the local communities.

This is a great idea to convert the former rock island railroad. A great benefit for everyone to use for walking and riding.

The Katy Trail State Park is one of Missouri's greatest treasures. The Rock Island Trail project would be a wonderful addition, as it would increase tourism dollars and encourage our residents to get outside and experience the beauty of our state.

The additional miles of trails provided through the Rock Island Trail would be tremendous. Look at what the Katy Trail has done. I support it 100%!

I support the Katy trail and use it and the trails around Columbia regularly. I hope that the governor sees the value that trails add to our state and he supports the Rock Island Trail project going forward.

I think that the addition of the Rock Island Trail Project would be a tremendous asset to the Missouri Parks system and would encourage thousands of tourists to come to Missouri to take advantage of this wonderful resource. This would of course bring millions of dollars into the coffers of the towns, cities, counties and the State of Missouri, a benefit for all.

Missouri's trail network is one of the most attractive things about our State. Rarely do we get a second chance to acquire such a wonderful asset as the Rock Island trail line. Let's not waste our first and probably only chance.

Looking forward to using the trail regularly in the Versailles area for running and biking.

Please keep the planned construction for the trail. My family and I rode the entire Katy trail last summer. What a great way to see our state. So many could benefit from the extension. What a great way to exercise and bond with fellow riders/walkers/runners.

It will be great to have an additional trail to use across the state.

I think that these Rail-to-Trail projects are a vital part to our ability to get out and explore the outdoors. My family of seven utilize the Katy Trail, the Little Blue Trace, and the 47.7 mile Rock Island Spur between Pleasant Hill and Windsor on a regular basis. Not to mention any trail we cross as we travel the United States. It also is obvious how much these trails help small businesses and tourism throughout Missouri. The Rock Island will do the same. I definitely support the investment in these projects!

This trail would be a great addition to the Katy Trail and other trails throughout the State of Missouri. This trail would bring tourist into Missouri and allow them to explore our beautiful state! The KT82 is a great race that takes advantage of our amazing Katy trail. This would allow for future race expansions bringing in more individuals to explore our great state! Please continue to move forward with this project!!

I believe the R.I. Trail Project will be good for Missourians. It would be lovely to add the mileage to our collection of trails in the state. Not only would it give Missourians and tourists additional space for outdoor recreation, but it would also give outdoor retailers, outfitters, and guides the opportunity for more business. Millennials are spending more of their time and money on outdoor recreation and the associated costs, and the additional trail space grows Missouri's portfolio of outdoor offerings.

I strongly support the development of the Rock Island Trail Project!

Missouri needs this type of relatively low cost development especially in the proposed trail area. I fully support this as an

avid cyclist and Republican from St Louis. The area and scenery alone is worth the modest investment let alone the people these trails attract from across the county.

Dear Sirs/Madams.

As a Missouri resident, I would love to see another Rails to Trails project. Tourism is a very big industry here and should be supported aggressively.

Thank you,

██████████

Love the idea! I would definitely use the trail as a safe place to run or bike with my children. From the Barnett area and it would be more convenient and easy to utilize the trail than driving over 30miles to use the Katy trail. Really hope that we get this trail!

i am in full support of the proposed trail agreement. It will be great for Missouri. As a family from Warsaw, MO -- we have road the entire length of the Katy Trail in pieces. Adding another trail system would be great and well used.

The Katy Trail has been a big success. An additional trail will also be an economic draw, and improve the lives of Missourians by giving them more choices in recreation and improved health.

As an avid cyclist and someone that has used such trails in the St. Louis area and in other cities nation wide. I think this would provide a safe route of travel for not only local uses but also for cyclists traveling through our state on a long haul tour. Please continue to improve our state with projects like this one to move us forward.

1. Economic opportunities for the communities along the trail.
 - a. Tourism as a result of the trail
 - b. Travelers on the trails spend money in the communities along the trails
2. Access to safe, healthy fitness activities
3. A fun place for families
4. A great addition to Missouri's trails

I think this trail project would be a wonderful asset to Missouri.

We need more trails all over, this will help get people out even more and enjoy the great outdoors!

Please also allow for equestrian use of the trails. Equestrians, hikers and bicyclists successfully share many trails in our park systems.

If there are some sections of the trails that are currently not suitable for horses, just including a dirt trail along that stretch or having a safe detour around the obstacle would allow us all to enjoy our trails safely.

Thanks for considering our feedback.

I am excited about the agreement and the subsequent additions to the Katy Trail. My family bikes the trail every year. It is an opportunity for us to see Missouri's natural beauty and reconnect with one another.

Any new trails are a great addition to our trail system. Families can enjoy the trails and spend quality time together. Please support this.

Great idea

This would provide leisure and recreation were a lot of Missouri citizens

I think this would be a wonderful addition to our existing trail system throughout Missouri. Both Missourians and visitors travel to enjoy these trails, and the impact this addition of trail could have of small town commerce, is amazing. We need to do this to help our small towns stay alive!

I would like this trail to be developed so Missouri will become the #1 cycling destination in the nation. This trail will provide a tremendous opportunity for the state's tourism industry at very little cost. Please go forward with developing the trail!

It would be an economic help to our community and good for the state.

Given the economic impact of the Katy Trail, I can't understand why the governor would even hesitate to accept the Rock Island Trail corridor. The benefits of the new trail seem to make this decision a no-brainer. We need this trail.

Please enter into this agreement. I love being outside and this trail would add a wonderful place to spend some time and money to the businesses close to it.

This would be so cool!

Please do it.

Please put Missouri on the map of states that have wonderfully long cycling trails.

We need this!

I bike 100 miles every week and would love to challenge myself with this ride someday.

I think more trails are a boon to the local communities along the trail. Katy trail has been successful and Rock island is an even more scenic route. I foresee an economic boost from the trail as happens from most public land designations. As a resident of Marshall I am looking forward to using the new trail.

The Rock Island Trail would be such an asset to our community in so many ways; physically, as having this trail would provide a safe place for our runners and cyclist to run and ride without fear of automobiles *where the majority of the running groups are running now mine included is along side highways with oncoming traffic it would be a big safety factor to have the trail. As a cross country coach it would be a valuable asset for our kids to have a safe place to run as well. Aside from safety the runners and cyclist using the trail would send money in the towns they pass, at convenient stores, wineries, grocery mayne even plan a longer stay and frequent a hotel or bed and breakfast. The towns bussiness will benefit from this and bring a boom of tourism to otherwise untraveled towns. With as much work that has already gone into clearing the trail it would be such a waste to see the brush grow back

over it in a delay to the use of the trail. I am very hopefully that the work will continue to be done to see the trail through. Thank you for reading and taking into consideration the desire for the trail to continue

We live just outside of Beaufort.

The trail is behind our property.

We are in favor of the trail.

We would use it and welcome all of the potential great changes for the small town of Beaufort.

We say "Do it" ! :-)

PLEASE push this project forward! These communities NEED the revenue this will bring. And it ties Missouri communities together. The lasting impact of such a project is infinitely positive.

The Rock Island and Katy Trails are an incredible unique opportunity and resource that no other state can match! We travel down from Nebraska every year and ride the trails multiple times. (Pedalers Jamboree, State Fair, plain weekend rides, etc.) We take the train, stay in hotels in Kansas City, Sedalia, Booneville, etc. We probably spend over \$1000 every year in Missouri specifically during these trips. Missouri should expand this incredible network to every corner of the state!!

We need to support getting Families to be more active in Missouri's Great Outdoors. What a fantastic way to promote this. Thank you DNR! I personally don't see a downside to this project.

I think that the development of the Rock Island Trail is an excellent idea. I have rode the Katy Trail several times, and every time that I do , I meet people from all over the country, if not all over the world. I recall meeting some cyclist from the U.K., who were just amazed by the Katy Trail, as there is nothing like it in their country. With the completion of the Rock Island Trail, I see Missouri becoming even more of a destination for cyclist. One of the things that we often hear from Jefferson City is how important tourism is. Most of Missouri's major attractions are in the Branson, Kansas City, and St. Louis areas. I think that this will help Mid- Missouri to be noticed by the world.

Please support the Rock Island Trail project! My husband and I love the Katy Trail ad soul also love and use the Rock Island Trail. Please support it!!!!

Please do everything possible to make the Rock Island Trail happen. What a gem/gift this would be to have. I realize we already have the Katy Trail, but this would be a nice addition for our state. Every time I'm on the Katy Trail, I seem to run into another cyclist who resides out of state but came to Missouri to just explore the Katy Trail. I think the Rock Island Trail would be an economic boost to many towns and would invite even more people to our state. Contribute to the health of Missourians - the trail would provide an inviting reason for folks to get out and move.

I support MODNR accepting the rail conversion. The KATY has shown great economical, historical and cultural benefits to

the citizens of this state as well as bringing literally thousands of users from out of state to use this beautiful state park trail. The same benefits would occur with the Rock Island Trail (RIT). The concerns of the people living along the RIT and the negativity pushed by the Farm Bureau have been shown by the KATY to be unfounded and unsubstantiated. I urge the MODNR, our governor and legislators to push and push strongly in supporting this great addition to our many tourist and natural attraction. I have been involved with administering parks and park systems for 35 years (federal, state, county and city) and can professionally attest to the value of the RIT. I urge you not to let this opportunity pass. It may well never come our way again...

I fully support the Rock Island Trail development. The Katy Trail is superb and an example of success. The Rock Island Trail is an opportunity that should not be passed up!

I believe the Rock Island Trail Project should proceed. Missouri needs all the help it can get attracting tourism and young professionals, who prefer to live in areas with lots of outdoor recreation options. Missouri is not blessed with large mountain ranges, coastal beaches, or National Parks. But projects like the Katy Trail, Ozark Trail, and Rock Island Trail are ways Missouri can try to compete with states which do have these attractions.

My wife and I are in our mid-30s and have well-paying jobs in IT. We also like to ride our bicycles and go backpacking. We could have moved to Denver, Seattle, or somewhere in California, but we grew up in this region and our families are here. We made the choice to stay and try to work to make Missouri the kind of place we want to live. But too many of our friends have moved away to those areas I mentioned before because of economic opportunities in cities with great scenery and activities.

The Rock Island Trail is a small step toward keeping more of those people here.

If the rail road wants to give u a corridor or a 'planned donation', u take it.

The Rock Island Trail Project is an important project for MO. This trail will provide safe trails for Missourians and tourists as well as economic benefits for the towns connected along the trail. Increased trail systems will provide reasons for cyclists from all over to be drawn to Missouri.

The trail would be used by many people in the area and would increase tourism in the areas as well. It would increase options for low/no cost, family friendly healthy activities as well.

Having lived in both St. Louis and Columbia, and being an avid cyclist, I find the trail systems are enjoyed by all walks of life. I've used the local trails to commute, ride with friends, or even show out of town guests a good time. The trails provide access to rare areas that you can't reach or enjoy by car which makes them even more special. The Rock Islad Trail would provide these same amenities to other areas of the state and would allow for more tourism as well as alternative transportation options within the counties.

It would also be a source for physical activity within each population along the trail, which would likely be beneficial to

these rural areas. An example of this can be seen in the MOCAN program which provided affordable and safe options for physical activity in rural communities, thereby greatly improving the overall health of community members. The rock island trail would offer the same benefits for areas that may not have safe or accessible options for physical activity, which again would help improve the health and well-being of community members throughout the state.

I strongly support this project for the beautification of our state and the recreation of its citizens.

The evidence is clear all across the nation: Rails to Trails conversion projects are extremely successful, by many measures. In Missouri, the most frequently visited State Park is The Katy Trail State Park. The Rock Island Trail project will certainly be as popular with Missourian in particular, but also popular with tourists from the midwest states in general. The economic benefits to the State are large, which enhances the livelihood of all Missourians.

Parks are good for our physical and mental health. They are good for the natural world. They are good for posterity. They are good for our economic well-being. Please support the Rock Island Trail Project.

This would be a great asset to Missouri. The towns this go thru can benefit from this in so many ways. A lot of bicyclist and hikers will be coming to MO and spending their money a win for everyone.

Rail-to-trail conversions are a brilliant way to repurpose an old, unproductive resource into something wonderful that will be used and enjoyed by citizens today and into the future. Not only will this project benefit the Missouri users, it will attract visitors from across the country and all these visitors will bring an economic infusion for the many small towns that could stand a little more prosperity. I can see lots of reasons to support the project so let's make it happen!!

I definitely feel that the Rock Island Trail Project will benefit all the residents of the State of Missouri and should be complete all the way to Kansas City.

I would love to have the rock island trail to ride and run on. This would make for great cycling adventures all the way across the state and would open up many fitness opportunities.

As one who has ridden the Katy from start to finish many times, in all for more Trails across the state. They help the small towns and bring cyclists in from other states.

Yes this is a wonderful idea. Trails are always a great addition to people's well being and allow them more outside places to explore and expand. The question really is why would you not move forward.

I think it would be great

I think this would be great!!! This would allow many families hours of recreation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue. As a frequent user of Katy Trail State Park, I have seen first hand the economic and recreational benefits the trail offers Missouri. I have spoken many times to cyclists who have traveled considerable distance to ride the Katy. Increasing the state's rails-to-trails system via expansion of the Rock Island Trail cement Missouri's place as the nation's top rail-to-trails cycling destination. This will mean a much-needed boost to the communities along the RITP. Thank you again for this opportunity.

Do it!

We would really like to see this happen. It would be great for the area to have a great place for walking and riding

Our small town(Belle) is looking forward to all the trail will offer. Jobs.

This trail will be a great asset to the state. I amend my family would use this trail to ride during week long vacations. Also my friends and family would join from out of state.

Please make this recreational trail happen.

Thanks,

██████████

I am a 74 year old resident of Gasconade county. My wife and I are cycling and hiking enthusiasts. I am very interested in the Rock Island Trail Project as there is nothing in my area that would be good for both Walking and Biking.

Wow, this is such a great project! How many visitors use the Katy Trail each year? How many Missouri businesses along it's length are feeding Missouri families? Aside from the historical significance, which is vast, this has a profound ECONOMIC BENEFIT to rural Missourians!! Having ridden my bike from Clinton to St. Charles over a three day period, I can tell you that I spent upwards of \$1000 IN MISSOURI either preparing for the trip (bike parts, supplies, etc.) or while on the trip (Hotel, Bed & Breakfast x 2, Restaurants, Bars, etc.). Please keep this project alive, and let's get it built! Jobs are CRITICAL to Missouri's economic future. Thanks!

As someone who uses the Katy trail, I have seen the benefits it provides. A new trail will breath new economic life into the communities along the route. Adding this new trail to the existing Katy trail will make Missouri a destination for bicyclists, runners, hikers, and the like from all over the country. We live in fly over country, we need a reason for folks to visit our state. This is one additional piece of the puzzle.

Also look at what even small trails have done for communities. Grants trail in St. Louis connects neighborhoods, increased property values, and provides a great way for our citizens to exercise and spend time with family. Imagine these benefits on a grand scale.

I support the Rock Island Trail project. It would have such a positive impact on the communities it goes through.

Properly marketed and advertised, the Rock Island Trail would be a huge economic boon for Missouri. Imagine bicycle tour groups queuing up to ride a circuit of historic railroad route through prime wine and scenery country. Imagine weekends that draw families to portions of the trail, even if just for a few miles and a snack afterward.

All this, and increased property values, could be Missouri's. Health benefits?...definitely. Prime small business locations?...yes!

I urge you to say yes to the construction of this trail.

I am very much in favor of this. It provides healthy transportation & recreation to families in Missouri as well as for tourists. It is good for the many communities & towns that are connected and close by. It is a great way to both transform and preserve a piece of our cultural heritage.

I support this Rail to Trail project. Safe cycling, beautiful Missouri scenery, tourism, and business opportunities along an abandon RR line. I believe this will help breath life int a number of small towns as well. Once this opportunity is gone it may not be available again.

Why would this need a second thought! Complete the trail. We have our cc team running on the dangerous highway. Finish this. It will be used in my town everyday guaranteed!

The trail is a genuine pride point for Missouri, and this is a logical next step

I support the Rock Island Trail and its expansion. The trail will bring tourism and revenue to small towns across Missouri. Our state is becoming well known for the trails we have and the planned expansion. Also, the trails encourage a more active lifestyle, which in turn means more people are exercising and have fewer health problem.

I ask the Governor to support the Rock Island Trail and the expansion to Beaufort and for the DNR to enter into the agreement to make this a reality!

I urge that DNR enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement concerning the Rock Island Trail Project. I have enjoyed riding the KATY trail and completed a complete transit twice. Each trip allowed me to meet people from all over the USA who come to enjoy our rail trail. Rail trails do enhance business opportunities for local people and the friendly attitude of Missourians is displayed to all trail users. Rails-to-Trails organization repeatedly shows that rail trails are successful stimulants to local economies.

Love the trail! Its a scenic and safe place for the family to enjoy beatiful Missouri! Adding more trail would only make it better.

This project is essential to effectively utilizing Missouri's natural resources to make it a more attractive place to live for the current and potential residents. Providing public trails like this one is a pursuit that the MO DNR should embrace.

Opportunities like this don't come along every day. DNR simply cannot let it pass by. Other states seize upon old rail lines as quickly as possible and turn them into recreational

corridors so they can reap the benefits that much quicker. There is literally no down side to rail trails. They decrease crime and increase property values 100% of the time no exceptions. That's a fact not an opinion. Get the rock island trail moving then start working on the old lead line from Cuba to viburnum...another unbelievable resource currently sitting idle as it has been for 15+ years. GET IT DONE. Please and thank you.

As a cyclist living in St Louis County, I would strongly encourage the development of the recreational trail. This will provide yet another reason for cyclist and other recreation tourism in Missouri.

This will be an awesome trail!

Why do we need to spend millions on a bike trail that only a select few citizens will utilize when our roads and bridges that virtually every missouri citizen uses are falling apart . And the argument that the bike trail will bring in so much revenue to the local towns along the trail justifies the cost is so out of touch with reality that it is almost laughable if it wasn't such a serious matter. The land needs to be reverted back to the landowners. I have seen first hand how bad of shape the bridges and water crossings along the corridor are. It will take millions, if not billions to make it a safe mode of travel for even a bicycle, much less maintenance vehicles. Ask the salvage crew how many bridges and water crossings they did not and could not even utilize when they took the rails up, and how many they had to do major work to just to utilize them temporarily!! If the current administration goes forward with this money pit, they have lost my vote!!!

What a wonderful opportunity! Every chance to get outdoors and appreciate the beauty of our state is worthwhile. So excited to see it when it's done.

Hi,

I would like to see the development of the Rock Island Railroad corridor. I am not familiar with the Interim Trail Use Agreement with MO Central Railroad. Can you give us some details about that?

I think the Katy has been a great success for Missouri. I ride the trail every weekend and over the past 3 years I have ridden the entire length of the trail. I think it offers recreation, wellness, history, preservation and economic development. If we have the opportunity to move ahead with the Rock Island corridor we will continue to be a national leader in Rails to Trails.

Thanks,

██████████

This would be a great addition to Missouri tourism, health, and recreation. And it banks the land for unknown uses in the future. It is important to do this for future generations too. They will thank us someday.

I myself wpuld greatly love to see this trail come into fruition. I think it is a valuable commodity to the likes of trail goers and adjacent cities and counties next to the proposed trail. The trail will definelty attract the likes of tourism and theoretically reduce the influence of criminal activity. Making Missouri

more beautiful and attractive by this trail is a win for everybody. Please make it happen

I can't imagine there could be a downside to adding bike trails anywhere in Missouri. It brings health, business opportunities and gets people outside to enjoy nature in our great state. Riding bikes has to also be one of the greatest anti depressants around plus you meet people and make friends while out riding. Saying no to any opportunity to build or repurpose areas for cycling is saying no to all the positives I've just mentioned. Don't be an old fashioned stick in the mud! Build trails! Get it done!

We just rode on the Katy Trail in Booneville. It was fantastic! Please consider expanding the trail...across the state and the country!

Conversion of the former Rock Island Railroad corridor into a 144.3 mile trail will bring economic opportunity to small towns and it is exactly the type of park development that brings people from all of the world to our great state. As a strong supporter of our current governor, I feel a pull back from this development would be a huge mistake. I ask that DNR and the state legislature move forward with this development.

This would be a great project for the state.

Please continue to develop this trail. I have been riding the Katy Trail and there is an abundance of users on this trail. I believe that many Missourians are enjoying this trail and would like to see more especially on this new path that is being considered. Thanks to Ameren for their donation.

The Rock Island Trail project would be great addition to Missouri's great ped/bike trail system. Let's make this happen.

These trails are critical for Missouri. Please ensure we are able to move forward with making this trail come to life.

Outdoor recreation represents a significant economic benefit to the state. Recreational opportunities bring visitors and drive local economies. Trail use is increasing and is a great healthy activity enjoyed by all ages. The partnerships that facilitate the expansion of trails are important opportunity for the state and a great service the people of Missouri. Please support the agreement and build a quality trail expansion to help the communities along the path benefit from destination travelers. We live trails in Missouri....and the state government should live them too!

Please support the acquisition and development of the Rock Island Trail. This is great for economic development and recreation for all Missourians.

I think it's a great idea!

- * Exercise
- * Tourism
- * Development
- * Custodianship of Natural Resources
- * State Unity

Trails are a great resource that brings business back to small towns, and great for recreational touring.

I support the Rock Islnd Trail Project. I tngk it will bring much needed revenue to the communities along the trail and also activity to the local residents as well as visitors.

I think the DNR enter into an agreement with Missouri Central Railroad for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project. i think Eric Gritens our Governor should stay out of the dnr and let them develop this corridor.

Please continue to pursue the funding of the Rock Island Trail. This combined with the Katy can really make Missouri a destination for cyclists and hikers. Last year I had a friend come to do the entire Katy trail with me. We spent several nights in hotels, ate lots of lunches and dinners in towns along the route, etc. It's a good thing for the local economies and it's great for Missourians.

This would be great for Missouri.

I fully support the creation of the trail as an exciting and economically smart addition to the current Katy Trail. It will expand opportunities for bike tourism, boosting the economy of the surrounding towns and support enhanced exercise options for the local communities. This is a "no brained" project for Missouri. As a Missouri resident and a past rider of the entire Katy Trail, I encourage the state to move forward with this opportunity.

This trail would be a great asset to Missouri.

I strongly support this project as a cyclist and one who tries to persuade others to come here for amminities such as this.

I would love love LOVE to see this trail come to fruition! Aside from showcasing our beautiful state from a geographic perspective, the trail promotes the support of small businesses through increased traffic to the area. So many people love the Katy Trail, and I am certain another trail will make riding more accessible for riders who might not be able to travel to ride. Let's make a network of trails across our gorgeous state and make it a destination for local and out-of-state riders alike!

We need the trail. Good for health. Good for the economy. Part of our culture and shared values!

There is a lot of riders that like trails rather than on the open road. It's safer. Great idea.

This is a great opportunity to expand it's existing infrastructure to help improve the health and well being of Missourians. It can boost tourism dollars, help promote the show-me-state, and could prove to be a relatively small investment due to the donated land.

Please consider the expansion! Investing in the built environment is a forward-thinking and novel approach to improve the quality of life.

We bike all the time on the Katy trail. We would definitely use the Rock island trail. It would help the little towns on the trail. Please move forward with this project.

This trail would benefit the small towns along the route.

This "trail" runs right in front of my house in Henley. We have enough problems with drugs and other disturbances in Henley. Not to mention all the tourists who will be using it. Considering there is no leash law in my area I will now have to deal with my dogs constantly barking at "strangers" in my yard. Worrying if someone will consider my dogs a danger or nuisance(which they are neither) and worrying if someone may either steal from my property or steal one of my dogs. That land should have went to the land owners who have mowed, removed trees, and have kept up with it all these years! [REDACTED] no to the trail!

As a Pleasant Hill resident I can already see the positive impact the trail is having on these small rural communities and has lit a spark to reinvigorate commercial investment in these markets. As an avid runner I can tell you that statistic show that runners and multi sport athletes are some of the highest paid individuals and citizens of every state and invest large sums of their hard earned dollars into the support facilities surrounding such trails .

Missouri needs the Rock Island Trail - its a no brainer!
1)Tourism will increase 2)bikers need more safe spaces and long ride routes

Missouri should definitely develop the Rock Island Trail! You only need to look at the sucessyof the Katy Trail to see this! The Katy brings in tourism from all the states and many from other countries! This would be great to have more like the Katy!

The trail will provide a new outlet for revenue for some communities that take advantage of its construction. It will also provide an outlet for opportunity for health and wellness programs and hopefully inspire Missouri citizens to get out and exercise. It is a win win for everyone. We need this to happen for the sake of everyone now and in the future.

The Rock Island trail is an oppportunity to add to the KATY and make an outstanding trail system that will draw even more tourism from around the world. There are only a few trail systems of that size and they draw a lot of users, even when they aren't as well maintained as the KATY is. Once built, towns along the route will see a revitalization like that which happened with the KATY.

100% Against the trail

I strongly support using MO state funds for the development of the Rock Islnd Trail.

I think it would be a huge economic boon for the state. I wait enthusiastically for it and have done the Katy Trail quite a bit and my family has spent a good bit of money in the towns enroute. It is a low cost investment and a huge payback.

I already have plans with my family and a number of friends from out of town, to bike the whole length as soon as it is done. I plan on spending money on bed and breakfasts and eating in the small towns and repeating this action often. I want to do the whole circle when it is done. Please open the sections as they are done.

The trail system currently in use draws many people to our state. Adding to it with the Rock Island trail will make Missouri's trails on the National and International must experience lists, bringing money and employment to our State. I'm very much in favor of an Interim Trail Use Agreement and tge Rock Island Trail project.

As a land/farm owner along the Katy Trail I fully support this project. Biking trails improve the quality of life from both a recreational and a beauty stand point. We enjoy meeting people from around the world that come to ride the trail.

This could be the world's longest continued trail. To have it be a attraction universality. We bicycle Erie canal trail and by far the Katy is the Cadillac of trails. What for site to Mr & Mrs. Jones. We need to see this vision once again.

I support the Rock Island Trail Project. I hope you do too.

With a family member who owns property that was supposed to go back to them if the railroad was ever decommissioned I am against the trail. Other concerns that advocates of the trail should consider, is would they like the trail to run through their front yard or to devide a farm with tons of people coming through family farms and property. I believe they would not. The roads in the gasconade county are far from great and state should put there tax dollars to better use. How long befor recreational bikers complain about agricultural obstacles or the local gun club which borders the trail. Which are both privately funded and owned will be asked to change the was they have lived and operated for years and years. In no way shape or form will this trail start to benefit the local economies anywhere near the cost of maintenance for the trail. A lot of wishful thinking on advocates parts. In closing I believe the personal property rights and privacy of rural Missourians who border the trail will be infringed upon and who's opinions will not be considered and they are the ones who this trail will directly effect.

Do it. Trails are good for Missouri.

The Katy Trail is a huge success for Missouri. It draws people from all over, boosts the economies of tiny rural town along the trail, and creates inexpensive recreation and fitness for families. More trails means more of all of that. Let's get moving on the Rock Island Trail Project!

Biking is something I don't think we need to argue is solid choice of investment for not only the local economies, but also the local citizens who are the driving force to your voting system.

Bike are good for you, me, and everyone who rides one. If you don't, I recommend you try. I may know some people who can help you out.

The Rock Island Trail is needed. Much more than many things our government spends its money on.

Let the people ride.

Get on board! There's every reason to complete this project as a rails to trails success story. It's uniqueness and economic upsides are of particular interest to this bike enthusiast.

I am in support of the trail expansion as an opportunity for Missouri citizens for healthy activities and a destination vacation for out of staters on a trail more beautiful than most of the Katy trail in woodlands rivers and topography .

Our family regularly uses the Katy Trail for healthy outdoor activities. We meet people from all over the USA and sometimes from foreign countries. Historic buildings in the former train towns have been preserved as a part of Missouri's heritage. Local people that we talk to say they were sceptical about the Katy Trail when it was proposed 25 years ago, but now are pleased with new vitality it has brought to their communities. The Rock Island Trail will be even more scenic and most likely more popular than the Katy. Missouri will truly become the Rail-Trail capital of America, and reap enormous benefits. Thank You!

I think preservation of the Rock Island line in the form of a trail will provide recreational, economical, & historical benefits to the State and especially the many local communities along it. In addition the trail would provide a significant safety benefit to the Meninitte community that bicycle along Hwy 52 in the Versailles to Eldon area. This community & the benefits provided by the trail are not likely represented via on line surveys.

Trails are an important recreational asset to our state. Please work to open this section for public use . -thank you

The trail is one of the biggest attractions for outdoor enthusiasts in MO. I use it everyday and take my kids on it weekly. New options on the trail provide opportunities for more outdoor experiences! We are so lucky to have the Katy in MO. Please continue to grow this wonderful attraction!

I believe Missouri should except the the remainder of the Rock Island Trail from Windsor to Beaufort. It can nothing but help the communities that it goes through. Being from that area..... we could use all the help we can get to help boost visiting traffic. A trail system would definitely help.

I am very much in favor of the DNR developing the old Rock Island right of way for use by the community (ie taxpayers who fund the DNR). Rails to trails have proven themselves to be revenue generators time and again.

Personally, if the trail existed my family would use it and I would use the trail to commute to work a few times per month.

Thank you

Some people are always complaining about cyclist on the roads. The more trails available in our state the more cyclist will use them. On a different note with tourists visiting our state health and fitness concerns are growing. Activities are on a lot of check lists for places to visit. Check out NW Arkansas

and all that's going on. We as a groups travel there 5-10 times every year from Springfield.

My family and I are looking forward to the competition of the trail. I have been riding through rock island trail weekly at pleasant hill. It would be a large disappointment if the trail wasn't completed. I'm already seeing out of state visitors using the new trail .please don't fail to finish this project

The Rock Island Trail will be a much needed boost to the economy of some of Missouri's poorest cities. Several of the communities along the route recently made a list of Missouri's 10 poorest cities; Eldon, Versailles. The trail will bring opportunities for new business in these communities and all along the route. Do not refuse the trail.

I believe that this trail should be made.

Would love to see hike, bike and horseback riding trails for this corridor. Think it will spur additional ride and stay activities along the trail as well as lunch and food stops along the way. Would be amazing to horseback ride from kc to St. Louis and back. This trail would support An activist lifestyle that is so important for sedentary families for health reasons as well.

I think this would be a wonderful addition to our trail system! Missouri's natural resources are such an enjoyment.

Please incorporate equestrians into your plan for the Rock Island Railroad corridor. Missouri has a very active trail riding community. Our trail horses are beautiful, experienced, sound, and are not fearful of bikers, hikers, or dogs on the trails. We can certainly all safely co-exist. If you have sections of the trail that you plan on paving with concrete, just leave an area on the side that is unfinished or dirt. I support NO CONCRETE, as it is very expensive to put in, takes away from the natural beauty of the area and is never necessary.

Cannot have too many recreational trails. This would be a wonderful addition to our state.

Equestrians are trail users too. Please make small adjustments to allow this segment of trail usage. The more trail traffic will help keep trails safer for everyone.

To have this trail in the state of Missouri is an amazing prospect. This will bring in bike and equestrian travelers from all over the world like the Katy trail has. Please push forward and thank you. I also vote and will not vote for anyone opposed to such a resource.

I am very excited about this opportunity that is being brought to mid Missouri. This is not only an opportunity for our families and communities to have access to physical activity and healthier lifestyles but opportunities for additional revenue as well. It opens doors for many opportunities for businesses that can be beneficial to the trail. This is also a great example of taking something that has set sedintary for many years and can now be of great use. It can bring much publicity and tourism to MO. What a wonderful way to showcase our beautiful state!

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail Project and DNR entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement. Missouri's extensive trails from rails connect all generations to its natural beauty, as well as to the history of its railroads and the many towns they go through. Perhaps most importantly, the trails are available and accessible to a wide variety of Missourians, from rural communities to larger cities, and provide a source of tourism, economic development and cultural exchange in important, historic and less populous areas within the state.

I strongly recommend that the State of Missouri enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project. I see it as being a win - win opportunity for Missouri in both increasing tourism and small and medium business growth.

We should try to protect these rights of ways and preserving as trails is one good way of doing that.

I would love to see this happen as many people are traveling around the world to come to our great state to ride the Katy. Adding this will only increase the people which is good for our economy.

I want The state of Missouri to support this imitative. We need more hiking and biking opportunities. I have personally ridden the complete Katy trail end to end 4 times, and I would welcome the opportunity try the proposed rock island trail. Restaraunt a, B&Bs along the trail benefit from riders, and it's also a draw for out of state riders to come visit and ride.

I use several of the rails-to-trails in Missouri. Frequently the Frisco Trail from Springfield to Bolivar, probably 2,000 miles or more since it went in. Several of us are riding it's entire length and back again later this week. My wife and I ride the Katy Trail on our tandem and love the miles we spend along the Missouri River, riding through (and spending money in) small towns along the route.

We are excited about the new Rock Island Trail and getting to spend more time enjoying Missouri's wonderful outdoors.

Springfield, MO

Great idea! I love trails.

Please do this as soon as possible. These trails add measurable and immeasurable value to our beautiful state. Bikes and outdoor recreation make for happy and healthy citizens, plain and simple. Don't lose this opportunity.

I strongly encourage DNR and Missouri to accept the donation of land rights for development of the Rock Island Trail Project. I read in the newspaper that Missouri is considering turning down this wonderful opportunity. That would be an incredible penny-wise, pound-foolish mistake! PLEASE don't let this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity go by!

This is a opportunity that doesn't come up often for a state, let Missouri be the best bicycling and hiking state by accepting the Rock Island Trail from Ameren. It will be both a economical and a healthy choice

for the state. I was on the Katy Trail this weekend and the trailhead parking at Portland Mo. was full, bike riders everywhere, campgrounds busy, bars and restaurants open and busy.

This is just an example of the economic benefit the Rock Island would cause in over 20 little towns along this trail. People from all over the country and world will come to Missouri to experience the Rock island and spend money in our state. It will be a win win for all of use in our beautiful State.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

I support the development of the Rock Island Trail Project! As a recreational biker in Columbia, Missouri, I know the benefits to have trail access. The trails provide a way for people to experience the beauty of Missouri as well as the health benefits of exercise and fresh air. I know many folks in Columbia who are excited about this new trail and would certainly use the trail upon its completion. Please continue with this project!!

I moved to Missouri 6 years ago and one of the greatest things about this state is the beautiful parks and trails. The Katy Trail is an amazing trail that connects so much of Missouri. If the DNR has the chance to develop another trail in a similar fashion they should do it. Outside of the health and environmental benefits the Katy Trail is a huge economic benefit for these small communities located on it. Building another one of these trails will draw in even more tourists from the edges of the state and out of state.

Yes!!! Please support this project!! We need more trails! Also- feel free to get in contact with me if you need volunteers to help build the trail. My info is below

This trail would be wonderful for all towns involved, the Katy trail is amazing.

The MKT provides a way for people in its communities to get exercise and access to nature. In addition, it benefits our communities through the spending of many tourists who travel the trail. The Rock Island trail could have the same benefits for another region of the state. I can't see anything but good in this project.

Missouri is such a beautiful state. These trails offer a chance to enjoy the state that has very little negative impact on the environment. We need this to build tourism to our state and to provide healthy activity to more Missourians.

I'm writing in support of the project, because industry and commerce overtake so much. It's important to carve out and maintain green spaces. Our bodies and minds are improved by being outdoors and interacting with nature. We're plagued with obesity, depression, heart disease, and anxiety.

Something as simple as a place to bike and hike can improve the lives and well-being of so many people.

Future generations may not have this opportunity, if everything gets paved and polluted into oblivion. Please save this trail while we can.

Pease accept this donation and develop this trail. The Katy Trail was such a success. Surely this one will too.

I'm a Kansas resident that works in Missouri, and I love using the Katy Trail. I'm very much looking forward using the Rock Island Trail as well. It's been great seeing the economic benefits of the Katy Trail develop over past years, and I'd like to see those same benefits developed in communities along the Rock Island Route.

I believe this is a project that will benefit Missouri and the region and is worth pursuing.

I would be more that excited for a new mega trail. Please push forward with the agreement.

What a great idea. Rails to trails programs have proven to be economically advantageous to the communities involved. Bicyclists spend money, get exercise, have fun. They are not troublemakers.

Many come from out of state to explore the beauty of Missouri. Go for it. Fund this positive project.

I currently own property in Freeburg, Mo above the old train tunnel and would love to see this move forward. My family and friends would love to have a place to walk and ride with out driving 30 minutes or more.

I think there are better ways Missouri can spend their tax payers' money than on another trail that only benefits a small group of people. It is an indisputable fact that Missouri can't keep up the trails and parks it currently has. There is no way a walking trail is going to boost enough economy to revitalize the small towns it goes through. The small benefits will NEVER outweigh the cost.

I think it would be better to rail bank without a trail (if that is legally possible), or better yet, cede it to a railroad like the CMRR. Either of which better preserves it for its intended purpose than building a trail. Once a trail is built, the special interest groups will never allow it to be anything but a trail. It will never return to rails because there is so much money backing the trail advocates.

Please see that this trail goes through. Like the Katy Trail, this will greatly enhance our home state of Missouri. For those of us who cannot afford to travel out of state, trails like this are opportunities for affordable, close to home vacations. Also, they give us a chance to see parts of our local landscape that we otherwise cannot see.

Thanks,

Washington, Mo.

The Rock Island Trail Project is such an important part of the trail system for Missouri. I heard recently Missouri was on the fence about whether to undertake the project, and hope they undertake it. Missouri has so many beautiful areas for people to see when they visit our state. This trail project will help realize that for bike riders from other states.

This is such an important project for Missouri. Please follow through to create this trail, which will be a great boon to so

many of our citizens and communities, providing an awesome recreational experience, connecting communities, drawing tourists. The natural beauty of Missouri is one of our greatest assets and should be cherished and enjoyed. Such a trail makes excellent use of an old railroad corridor and will pay untold dividends of health and welfare to the people of Missouri.

Rails to trails projects have been a fantastic success for public recreation and conservation. Rock island Trail Project will continue that success. I am strongly in favor of accepting this gift and the development of the trail.

This trail would be a popular and valuable asset to our state. Please protect this project and move forward with it.

Yes, I absolutely support DNR working to allow Rock Island to develop. I hope state agencies can work together with public and private interests to complete this trail. Missouri desperately needs increased public access to land, trails to separate cars from nonmotorized uses, and dedicated green space. Please make Rock Island a reality.

The KATY Trail is one of Missouri's wonderful assets. The Rock Island trail would make this asset even better. I fully support Missouri moving ahead with this project. One of the reasons I was excited about moving to and living in Missouri was the rail trails in our state.

I understand the the Farm Bureau is against this trail. I recall that farmers were also very against the KATY Trail. I ride on the KATY a lot and cannot see that it has any negative impact on farming, but a very positive impact on every small town it passes through.

In considering this project, please allow equestrian access also. Missoyri has a HUGE poolace of trailriders and frequently draws from surrounding states. This in turn can bring revenue in the firm of restuarants, gas, groceries, etc. Thank you for your consideration.

I think it is a great idea to have the rock island trail project. I love to go hiking and ride my bike around Missouri and I would make sure to go to this when it is completed. I am a disabled veteran and have learned that the outdoors helps sooth some of my inner wounds.

This trail would bring tourism and other economic activities to the towns along the trail. Currently I drive over two hours to use the Katy trail so having a similar trail closer would be very attractive for our area.

I want the trail to go forward as planned.

Live in Wildwood, Mo. Linear Parks like the Rock Island Trail provide great benefits for their cost. I would like too see this one get built.

As a new cyclist in the last 18 months I believe this to be a excellent idea. I moved to a house right off the Katy Trail and as a result I can use it whenever I choose and it has caused me to become a more active, healthier Missouri resident. In local news this week a young, avid cyclist from St. Louis was lost to an accident in Kansas City. Trails like these old rail lines

are perfect for families and other to use and not be on local roads and highways.

It is essential that the Missouri DNR enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement to develop the Rock Island Trail. Not only will it connect to the other rail to trails operating in the State but this kind of economic development will add a much needed asset to this part of the State. Not only will there numerous jobs created during the reconstruction work but there will be, in perpetuity, numerous tourists traveling along the trail, stopping in the communities and spending their money! A good deal for everyone including increased revenues for the Great State of Missouri! Missouri has a very large number of miles of rail-to-trails when compared to the rest of the nation.

I support the development of the Rock Island Trail! Research and experience has shown time and again that trails provide huge economic, social and public health benefits to the people of Missouri as well as drawing in visitors from other states. Make it happen!

I would be delighted to see this project go ahead. I have traveled extensively, and places that complete this kind of conversion are more livable, have local jobs that support smaller communities, and enable visitors and locals to see the beauty of our state. The Rock Island Line has historic value, as well, and this conversion would help ensure preservation of some of that history. Please proceed with the trail conversion!

Please keep the project on course and supported. The Katy trail rails to trails project was a huge boom for our small community and to add the second trail will make it even more desirable to bring in those out of state tourism dollars!!

Businesses in Missouri need activities to bring tourist in from other states. Biking is a good one along with kayaking. Continue with the trail, plus look at the Gasconade river to create kayaking adventures.

This trail would be a wonderful way to showcase the natural beauty of our state. It offers tourist a low-cost way to have fun in this state, and gives those of us who live here another way to enjoy the outdoors in our area.

Please consider developing the Rock Island Trail.

Thank you.

I strongly support the trail. It will provide access to small towns it passes thru and economic benefits as well as safe passage for children to schools and parks.

This trail would really make MO a cycling destination along with the Katy Trail. I support it.

Please pursue the Rock Island Trail and it's connection to the Katy Trail. I'm a regular user of the Katy and I live in Augusta. I benefit from having access to the trail, and by the business that flows from the trail to the winery I work for. The Rock Island addition would bring visitors from all over the world to Missouri and bring notoriety to our state. Jobs and money will follow as businesses along the corridor spring

up. To miss this opportunity would be a terrible waste of resources for Missouri.

This trail will encourage more visitors to Missouri's great trail system and is a public health benefit to our state. I STRONGLY recommend that DNR enter into an Interim Trail Use agreement for the Rock Island Trail Project. Missouri has a great history with the outdoors and encouraging people to get outside, this would only be a positive to the state and its history.

Please keep the proposed extension to the Rock Island Trail line. It's a cultural asset that enables citizens to enjoy physical activity and the beauty of our state. It also will attract out-of-state visitors, thereby boosting the MO tourism industry. Its proximity to the Lake of the Ozarks is especially important to they point, and can have a trickle down effect on other trail points. For all these reasons. I believe the Rock Island extension should move forward as planned.

I would LOVE to see this project happen. I hope it would include trail use for horses, on all portions. The Katy trail allows some horse use, but not close enough to my home for me to take advantage of it, as I live in the Greater St Louis Metropolitan Area.

I know that other horse owners would love for more horse trails available for our use, we also greatly contribute to the economy and horse use of maintained trails is low impact, contrary to what many seem to believe.

Thank-You for the opportunity to express my view.

I fully support the conversion of this railroad corridor into a hike bike trail, and can't wait to use it. Further the economic benefits of such a trail will be very beneficial to the region and townships along it.

I think the trail will be great for young families. The trail will offer a safer means in kids bicycling without the dangers of vehicular traffic and will aid in some of the problems with health and obesity that we are seeing in our younger generations. However, I feel that the trail could become a burden in some of the more rural areas with farmers and trespassing. I also feel that it will be a burden on the state in order to properly maintenance and patrol the trail. From my understanding the state already has state parks that are either already shut down or need to be due to funding decreases in order to maintain those parks.

I am 70 years of age and began riding the Katy Trail at the age of 55. I have ridden the Katy Trail end-to-end over 17 times. My family medical history is one of obesity. I credit riding the Katy Trail (various sections) with keeping my weight under control and keeping me fit and active. My children have also ridden the Katy Trail with me and helped us repair our often fractured family relationships.

During my many rides, I have spent considerable sums of monies on food, lodging, etc. If it were not for the Katy Trail, I would be spending that money in Illinois while riding the Rout 66 trail or the Trails of Madison County, IL..

I look forward to being able to make the loop from STL to KC and return. I will be spending money at many locations along the way.

PS: I have already ridden the 47 mile portion of the Rock Island Trail and spent \$125 on lodging and ~\$25 on food.

Please keep the trail going. I was born and raised in Windsor, Missouri. I have now moved to Warsaw, but I know how much the trails have done for the community, and many others like it. We need positive change since so many factories closed, and a reason for people to go there.

Yes. This will keep Missourians healthy and bring tourism money to our state.

Good morning,
Missouri is a wonderful state only made better by its parks and trails, the MKT trail has been a big part of my life since moving here from Colorado, and I would say that the benefits that this trail has brought to the community and state is one that I have not seen in my travels around this great country. The trail system not only allows you to be active, but it allows time to be spent as a family, challenge ones self physically, or just decompress from the stressors of life. This trail has been very good for the community, the state, and the people that choose to live in its presence. Please take the necessary steps to provide for the expansion of this trail. The decision to expand this trail was fought for by many who truly care, please honor them in fulfilling the promise made by previous administrations.

Please pursue this project. A little bit of funding will go a long way into attracting cyclists, tourism, and the businesses (coffee shops, B&Bs) that go along with these. This is a win win for Missourians, cyclists, business, and tourism.

I am 100% in favor of the development of the Rock Island Trail. It will create a world class rail trail that will draw many tourists from all over the world. It will provide many economic advantages to the many communities along the trail.

Please do the trail we need safe places to ride! The monetary return to the small communities is great! It also draws people from other states!

Absolutely go forward with this project and enter into the use agreement. Trails provide opportunities for tourism, bringing dollars to the towns they go through. How? Individual trail users of course need places to stop for food, refreshments, and many are interested in the history of the towns themselves. Also, trails are used for sporting and fundraising and entertainment events.--look at all the events that have occurred along the Katy trail over the years--the Columbia Boondawgle, musical events such as the Pedalers Jamboree, etc [REDACTED] countless events associated with the Boy Scouts, fundraising rides for cancer and other diseases. More trails also means more opportunities for Missourians to get exercise and gain an appreciation of the outdoors and nature. The former can help prevent chronic diseases and the latter means that people will be more supportive of conservation efforts in the state--and support of conservation can translate into support of hunting and fishing opportunities. This is a win win for all Missourians.

I think it is an absolute waste of tax payer money. And while I do not own land next to the Rock Island tracks I can't imagine the disruption it would cause every land owner to have people walking and biking though their property. Also with so much of the track running though farm land I would imagine theft would rise as farmers have equipment and tools near the tracks that people using the trail would now have access to. Back when trains run the tracks landowners didn't have to worry about the issues and liabilities that they will now face with individuals roaming the trails and potentially trespassing on their land.

Please preserve this historic site for the generations that come after us. As the country gets older, places like this become more important. And aside from the historical importance, there are many people who live and make their living in the area. They deserve to have their small towns kept in the manner of their choosing.

I support the trail. Hanging in the balance isn't just a scenic path through human and geologic time, but lots of small towns with friendly people, hoping to preserve their livelihoods. The solace and serenity along this line can't be praised enough. It is a sanctuary for memories and imagination, and nowhere else between St. Louis and K.C. do the stars and Milky Way seem so infinite.

As a resident of Lake Ozark, MO, I would find the Rock Island Trail very convenient and would use it frequently. I totally encourage the State of Missouri to develop it ASAP !

Please develop the Rock Island Trail. I will definitely use this trail for biking, just like I use the KATY Trail and the Ozark Highland Trail. Thank you.

The small towns along this proposed trail need the revenue the users of the trail will bring in. Some of the towns have already had small businesses start to pop up in anticipation of the trail coming. They might not survive without it. And the towns along the completed section of the trail are experiencing growth and increased tourism (and tourism dollars). Please take into consideration how increased sales tax revenue will offset the costs to build and maintain the trail. Look how much financial impact the KATY trail has had on the small communities and the state. These small towns NEED this trail!

I am in support of converting the corridor to a recreational trail. It is important to our state to have things like this. Recreation and nature are more important than other uses that may be recommended.

I've used this trail a few times linking to the Katy trail. It allows my lifestyle of an everyday cyclist to be safer off the roads. I usually buy from any town with supplies like food and water. It definitely brings monies town all the towns. That won't happen if this project isn't completed. This would be stifling for public health not having safer recreational options. I would be upset to learn it won't be funded further.

My Wife and I are recreational bikers, and have ridden about 3/4 of the Katie Trail over the past 20+ years. We heartily

support the development of the Rock Island Trail. As former Sedalia, MO residents we appreciated the the close proximity of the trail (we could bike to it) and enjoyed many an evening ride with our then young children in a safe environment. Now as residents of the Lake of the Ozarks area, we travel to bike the trail with regularity. The addition of the Rock island segment would bring a riding trail much closer to us, allowing more frequent trail biking.

As trail riders we see first hand the significant and positive impact the trail has on the communities through which it passes, both for the residents and those who travel to ride. Significant dollars travel with recreational bikers that gets spent in the communities along the trail for food, equipment, lodging, gas and supplies.

This trail would be a huge asset to families, bicyclists, runners, walkers all across Missouri. As a Cross Country coach in Franklin County, a father of 2 children and as an avid runner, the Rock Island trail would be an incredible resourceful trail that would get a lot of people exercising and in the long term creating healthy individuals. Also, the trail will benefit countless communities economically will jobs relating to the trail.

This trail project looks to the future of how Missouri has can a more active, healthier state by giving more options and opportunities to so many where few options to exercise exist. Personally, this trail would be perfect for my high school cross country runners I coach, getting them off dangerous roads. Please make the right decision and look to the future and fund this trail. Please!!

I feel this trail will be a great asset to Missouri tourism. I bicycle quite a lot around the country, both in Missouri and other trails in other states. There is a lot of excitement about this trail and the resulting loop in Missouri with the Katy Trail. Just ask anyone in Windsor Missouri how the trail has helped their local economy. A city council member told me just last week that camping reservations in their city park has increased 400 percent this Spring because of the Rock Island spur.

This is a wonderful idea. Rail road beds are already in place, and therefore, make ideal paths for bikers and hikers. While living in Peru, NE, some years back, I regularly walked the RR Trace trail along the Missouri bluffs below the town. It ran from Nebraska City to Brownville along the Missouri River. It was well used by bikers, hikers and, in season, hunters, with beautiful views and many varieties of wildlife.

I've driven past parts of this abandoned railway many times and always wondered why it wasn't being converted into a bike trail. I fully support this project.

It is wise to take advantage of this unique opportunity. We need to think about the future generations. Build it and they will come!

Please move forward with this project.

I believe it will bring economic benefits to the towns along the trail

Would love to see this for recreational hiking and biking.

Excellent project - worthy use of resources - especially excited for our kids. There are no safe bikeways in this area and our kids love to bike.

Having cycled and camped along the entire length of the Katy trail, I greatly look forward to the Rock Island trail expansion. Our state's trail system is one of the many things that sets it above the rest of the midwest. Our state government should support healthy outdoor lifestyles, as it is proven to improve health and happiness in a society. Outdoor attractions bring people together in the best way. I strongly believe that the Rock Island trail should be accepted to improve our great state.

I am from New Zealand and travel extensively worldwide and within the USA. To have a unique and renown trail ride will attract many visitors to your beautiful area. The trails and scenery here are stunning and the loop will keep an important piece of local history alive. The economic boost for the towns along this trail are highly significant. As an example, in New Zealand we have the Otago Rail Trail

<https://www.nzcycletrail.com/trails/otago-central-rail-trail/>
This trail attracts 24,000 people per year in areas and is growing every year as word spreads. Economic growth is soaring through the domino effect of having an increasing volume of visitors. The benefits of this trail continue to support ongoing growth in the area. Please see this stat and usage link:

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otago_Central_Rail_Trail.
'A business evaluation has credited the trail with supporting around 1,000 full and part-time jobs,[10] and having created 200 additional or part-time jobs.[6]' .

This highlights what Missouri too can have on a local and international platform! Please do not be blinded by short term financial costs and look further forward to the multiple positive gains, and income, it will bring into the state. I ask you to please not let this opportunity pass and accept this incredible donation.

Please let this project continue, and our beautiful land to be preserved and discovered

We should finish what we started.

Missouri, in general, is not known as a tourist location, but cyclists know it and come to ride the trails bringing in money and supporting our businesses. We are concerned about Missouri residents' health and obesity, these trails offer all families an opportunity to exercise regardless of socioeconomic status. Don't let this opportunity pass us by. Please support the Rock Island trail.

Please consider the agreement. this would a great economic boost for the small towns along the trail !

I think this is a great plan! I live in Jefferson County and would rather drive to this trail head than the Katy trail head north of St. Louis. Plus reusing these old railroad routes makes Missouri a more beautiful and interesting state. Leaving the

old railroad as is just wastes opportunities for economic growth for the communities it passes through.

I believe that this trail should be funded and built, especially given the fact that some of it was a gift from Ameren. The towns along the trail can benefit from much needed revenues from sales of food and lodging. The Katy Trail has been so successful in helping tourism in MO, and this can only make it get better!

Remember, a LOT of visitors to the KATY trail are from out of state, so they are bringing their dollar\$\$\$ to MO to visit this wonderful asset.

My wife and I plan on coming to Missouri to ride the Rock Island Trail as soon as it is complete. Along this journey we actually plan on doing a loop with the Katy Trail. We love to explore the trail towns, eat, and stay in these towns. We hope that the trail is completed in the next few years while I'm still young enough to do this.

The Rock Island Trail would be a tremendous asset in the Missouri Parks System. Given the success of the Katy Trail, it is clear that this project would be a popular attraction and a benefit to the communities along the trail.

Missouri's parks and trails are some of the best things it has to offer. I fully support the Rock Island Trail Project.

Do it!

I retire in November. I will ride the KATY, not just once. I would ride the RI, too.

I live in Newton, KS, near Wichita. The thought that I may someday be able to ride the Flint Hills trail 120 miles east from Herrington, do another 70 or so on county roads, ride the KATY east and return via RI - that is, for me, very appealing. Camping, sight-seeing, wineries....

I live in Overland Park Kansas and I will be much more likely to spend money cycling in MO if the Rock Island Trail Project is completed. I've ridden the Katty Trail several times and really enjoyed it. The addition of Rock Island Trail would be awesome, allowing options such as riding from eastern KC on a loop through MO. Please don't let this opportunity pass!

The Katy Trail has been a fantastic success. I'm sure the addition of another trail would also be a boon to our economy. I would love to see DNR move forward with this project.

I am not a Missouri resident, but wanted to let you know we took a 5 day vacation riding our bicycles on the Katy Trail, staying at B&B's, buying food, drink, cases of wine, and souvenirs along the way. We have a scheduled vacation in August, 2017, riding bicycles on the Katy Trail during the solar eclipse. We hope to eventually ride on the Rock Island Trail.

Missouri needs more trails. They're good for the physical and mental health of our citizens, and they attract visitors. I know I've spent thousands of dollars in other states only because they had better trails.

The Katy Trail is a state treasure. The proposed addition of the Rock Island trail will make MO a Midwest destination.

Please add this trail to allow Missourian's to enjoy the state's natural beauty, and to share it with others.

I support the DNR entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project. To have a unique and extensive trail ride will attract many visitors to Missouri. The trails and scenery here are stunning and the loop will keep an important piece of local history alive. The economic boost for the towns along this trail is highly significant as well. Please do not be blinded by short term financial costs and look further forward to the multiple positive gains, and income, it will bring into the state. I ask you to please not let this opportunity pass and accept this incredible donation.

This trail will be a great addition to the state. Visitors and locals will utilize this trail for fitness and transportation reasons. Please continue with this trail, I know my family is looking forward to utilizing it. There can be fundraising events that take place along the trail once it's finished, bike rides, races etc. The katy trail is already a great place for families and adding another location would make our state that much more attractive to visitors looking for an active vacation.

Please pursue the development. As a regular user of the Katy and Creve Couer trail systems it would provide a system unmatched by any other state.

A great idea! Extending the scope of the rails-to-trails system in MO beyond the Katy Trail will bring in more tourism dollars because people WILL bike the loop. That's more motel stays, more restaurant meals, more grocery purchases. Totally worth the expenditure.

Love this idea and the current Katy trail. Please make this happen for our state!

This project is providing outdoor recreation for rural Missouri. Outdoor recreation is limited in all these small communities. This type of outdoor bike/walk trail will provide a greatly needed long term opportunity for families to be exercising and having communion together in nature...which our society so greatly needs for the next generation. In addition, it will provide more tourism and outside revenue for small businesses in these small communities.

I think the trail could provide new economic opportunities for towns along the trail. Many people in Versailles, where I live, are excited to see something happen to the abandoned rail line.

Rails to trails have always been a great idea. I hope the politicians don't derail this one.

Please support the development of this trail. It would be an awesome compliment to the existing KATY trail and would be beneficial for the State over the long term in many ways.

This would be a great addition to our state. I'm often told by out of state visitors how they are amazed at our state park system and our trail ways. This is good for Missouri.

I live in Kansas and one of the very few reasons I visit MO is for bicycling. Trails provide a safe place for recreation. And oh, nearly every trip involves buying dinner and/or drinks at local businesses for myself and 3-8 others, multiple times a year. Ocassionally I even rent a hotel room or B&B.

With the current funding problems for modot we do not need another bicycle trail. Fund the highway system first.

I support DNR entering into an agreement to develop the Rock Island Trail Project. This would add to our opportunities to provide additional recreational trails to our citizens for hiking, bicycling, walking and to visitors from other states. This is a benefit to the health of our citizens and to invite tourism.

Sounds like a good idea for a host of reasons.

I've recently started riding on the Katy Trail since last summer. Its a wonderful place to ride and the best part except for the crossings is one doesn't have to watch out for vehicles. There are all kinds of folks riding from locals to cross country, beginners to those that practice for there racing. I feel it would be a terrible shame not to take advantage of the Rock Island and develop it into a similar trail as the Katy. When its completed I will be one that will take advantage!!

The Rock Island Trail Project is one of those things we will be so proud of when it is completed. Not only will Missouri residents be able to enjoy it (and brag about it) but it will bring people from everywhere to enjoy it. The possibility that it might not be completed after all is just heartbreaking. Please do the right thing and complete the Rock Island Trail Project.

Hello, my family and I are strong supporters of our wonderful Missouri trails. They are perfect for spending time together being active, while seeing the beauty of our great state! The Rock Island Trail Project is a fantastic idea.

Please proceed with the Rock Island Trail plans. I have already used the KATY Trail Extension from Pleasant Hill to Windsor a number of times and am really looking forward to the opportunity to explore more of central Missouri on the new trail once its ready!

First the land should go back to the original land owner since it's not rock islands to give, secondly there isn't enough money to take care of the parks that are already established

Please, DNR, this is a wonderful right-of-way through some unique Missouri territory. Think of how luke-warm the initial response was to the Katy Trail and how robust a tourist attraction it is now. If you deem yourselves worthy of your name and stated mission, you MUST take advantage of this opportunity.

would LOVE to have this.

Would love the expanded trail!

The creation of this trail will bring additional tourists and much needed economic development to the central Missouri area.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail, and believe the state should accept the Rock Island Corridor and work with local community and private companies to develop and market it.

This would be a great asset to Missouri. I would use it. It would be of great benefit to the cities that the trail would go through.

please support the rock island trail

Our community would love having this trail. We have many runners, bikers, and walkers that would benefit from this.

Yes. I think they should.

we have used several parts of the Rock Island Trail on vacations and think that it is a wonderful resource. Any extension or improvement to the trail would be welcome.

I would highly recommend moving forward with an agreement to develop the Rock Island Trail as a recreational trail. The Katy Trail is such an asset to Missourians lives and the Rock Island Trail would be as well.

" Each year my wife and I travel the country for a 7 to 10 day bike ride on trails. About five years ago we did the Katy Trail. As soon as the Rock Island Trail is complete, we were going to come to Missouri and do a loop on the Katy and RI trails. I know many others who plan on doing the same. During these trips we spend thousands of dollars on lodging and food. Missouri is sitting on something really unique and I hope they don't mess it up."

This sums up my opinion nicely. We love the Katy trail and would love to see the RI done right. Eco and sports tourism is growing.

It'll be great!

Please please develop the rock island trail project. Trails in Missouri are such a boon to our communities and economy.

I fully support this project due to the benefit it will bring to Missouri. The state can clearly see the benefit of the Katy Trail and should not delay funding for Rock Island.

I think the Rock Island Trail Project shoud go through. It will generate tourist money and help all the little tiny towns along the way. Thanks

I fully support the building of the RITP!

I am a STRONG supporter of the Rock Island Trail Project and hope the state moves forward with accepting the Ameren land donation. I am not a member of any organization pushing for this proposal. It just makes sense. I saw this was a possibility and thought how could the state not do it! All you have to do is look at the success of the Katy Trail over the past 25 years. People come from all over to use it and generally

rave about it. I have used it personally for bike riding for most of those 25 years. This year I have even begun working part-time at a cafe/bike shop in Rocheport on the Katy. It is providing work for a lot of folks and a new business for a couple there in town. Revenue for the state. Economic development. And the folks who come in are almost all using the trail in some way. And some of the folks using it are coming in from out of state to do so.

I know there is some opposition on the proposed trail by those who say it would interfere with farming operations, etc. The SAME thing was said about the Katy when it was proposed all those years ago. It came to nothing. NOTHING. I imagine it will be the same with the Rock Island Trail.

The positives far outweigh any negatives in my mind.

Not sure the issues as to whether the DNR enters an agreement for the Rock Island Trail or not, but what I do know is that the trail has already started to increase biking tourism in the Windsor area. Many of the small communities along the trail could use the boost in tourism.

Are you kidding me! I live in Black Mo, with the proposed trail in view. First thing I said when I moved here twelve years ago, it needs to be a Katy trail. I'm sixty one and have bicycled and cross country skied on trails around the nation and Europe since my teens.

This would cut my time and dangers up and down highway 28.

Get it done!

If not to be used for public transportation, old rail lines should be converted to bike trails. It is a waste to not take advantage of all the work that has already been done to provide a right of way. Bike paths and trails are in high demand and a draw for tourism. I, for one, always check on biking options when I vacation.

Don't stop the progress! Keep it moving! More bike trails are needed in this great state!

Banking railroad corridors like this one has a proven 40 year track record in the United States. It ensures future use of right of ways that otherwise would be lost forever. The more miles we bank the greater flexibility we have with urban and rural planning in the future.

It can only help not only the communities but the tourism. Many bikers come to our state to ride the Katy Trail. Also, since I have introduced people to the Katy Trail, they have an increased interest in biking. Healthy people, healthy community!

So hoping this comes to our little town. What a wonderful opportunity for families in our community.

By supporting trail development you are investing in growing tourism in Missouri. The towns on or near the trail will see tourists grow every year, showing visitors how beautiful and friendly our state is! Tourist income = Missouri tax revenues that we desperately need. Don't be short sided on this opportunity!

I vote YES! As a citizen of Beaufort, MO, I am in favor of this project. It would bring more people to our little community and would provide some additional economic opportunities for our rural area.

This would be a great addition. Rail to trail conversions help connect communities and people through outdoor activity. Please move this forward.

This is our next Katy Trail, a treasured and profitable Missouri landmark. As a life long MO resident and nature lover I support the Rock Island Trail Project.

I think the trail will be a great boost to the economies of many small towns. It will be an advertisement for the beauty of Missouri.

I just think it will be good before the state of Missouri and for tourism. So much of the Katy Trail was paid for by private donations and the same can be done for the Rock Island Trail. Thank you

Great idea for the trail! I would like to see it accommodate foot paths and bicycles.

The Katy trail has an annual economic impact of \$18.5 million per year. That's approximately \$78,000 per mile. Math is simple. Rock Island would generate an additional \$11.2 million per year to the connected communities. We would have the best rails-to-trails adventure network in the Country. Let's get this going!

Considering the success and popularity and use of the Katy trail, I think it would be great to extent these trails. Certainly a draw for Missouri tourism upon which many businesses and farms rely.

I strongly support the development of the Rock Island Trail Project as a valuable asset for Missourians and visitors to our state. Just as the Katy Trail is widely used by walkers, runners, and cyclists, allowing them to enjoy the natural beauty of our state while exercising for their health, the Rock Island Trail Project would provide an additional 144+miles of outdoor space to expand those same opportunities to more citizens and visitors in another area of our state. At a time when we are deploring the increasing obesity and screen time among our citizenry, particularly our children and young people, it would be a terrible shame and waste for Missouri to fail to take advantage of the donation of this corridor.

YES!!!!

The Rock Island Trail will be great for Missouri. As trail riding around the nation becomes more and more popular, this trail will only enhance Missouri as a place to ride tails. It is a great way to repurpose the railways that are no longer needed. As a second route across the state, after the Katy Trail, this will give bicycle enthusiast a reason to return to Missouri!

I fully support the Rock Island Trail Project.

When I moved to Missouri 20+ years ago, our apartment was about half mile away from the Rock Island Railroad in

Raytown. My husband and I would wander along the tracks during our evening walks. A few months later we bought our home and it was even closer to the Rock Island Railroad. We begin to dream about a trail on the Rail corridor since no trains were running there. Wouldn't that be great?

As we learned more details of the complexity of converting to a trail we figured we would never see the day. Maybe we would move or even die before that would happen.

Then things began to change. A glimmer of hope that some day we could have a Rock Island Trail. More changes and our hope kept building.

Now we are so excited to see the Rock Island Trail actually happen. The spur from Pleasant Hill to Windsor takes us to the Katy Trail. That is exciting.

But I want to go further on the Rock Island. I want the 144 miles of trail through a beautiful part of Missouri. The towns along the way beckon to me. I want to get on my bicycle and go visit.

Will you make my dream come true?

I support the Rock Island Trail Project. It is very disappointing to have to defend this again after Missourians were told it would happen. Although I live in Vienna, I was very happy to see the impact the trail would have on neighboring communities like Argyle, Freeburg, Belle and Owensville.

The route from Argyle to Belle is especially interesting and will receive national attention if allowed to proceed. Please do not discard this opportunity to spread tourism to a new areas of the state.

Want to support that the state will buy this and make it into a trail. I walk the trail very often and this will help greatly.

Do it! Great use, economic boon to many small towns that can really use it.

I believe this is an important effort and would be an important part of my lifestyle.

Build the trail. Riding on the trail and not the roads is safer for all.

The Rock Island trail has the potential to be a real economic boost to small communities along the trail and the state of Missouri as well.....just as the Rock Island Railroad was in its day. The state of Missouri should not miss the opportunity.

Bring tourist dollars to small towns that don't normally get them. That's how you make Missouri grow.

This trail is taking land that was not being used and turning it into a trail that can be used and enjoyed by so many. Leave it alone and spend your time finding ways to fund things such as health care and education.

I think it is a great idea to have the Rock Island Trail. We live in a wonderful rural area. Many people could enjoy the area by riding their bikes or hiking on the trail. It would be an economic boost for our community in Belle.

Obesity is taking over Americans. Being overweight causes people to get sick and require more health care than people

who adopt a healthy lifestyle. This would be an enjoyable form of exercise.

I really hope that the state will decide to move forward with this project.

Please support the Rock Island Trail.

The Rock Island Trail is important to the Eldon community and many other similar communities in rural Missouri. My dad is a city councilman and we have been working on the Trail for many years. I grew up in Eldon without a lot of businesses and industry; in fact we have lost major employers since the recession. My family has traveled to many different places where trails are present and the business opportunities and quality of life are great. As a millennial, the trail culture is really important to me when I think about the type of community I will eventually choose to call 'home'.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail and work with the local communities to develop this important resource.

I am writing to request that DNR enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project. I live in Columbia, MO, and am a frequent user of the MKT and KATY trails. I am not alone! I see, and meet, so many other people who also enjoy Missouri trails; they are one of Missouri's greatest recreational treasures. I believe the Rock Island Trail would be a stunning and incredibly valuable addition to our state's recreational assets. Please do everything you can towards making this trail a reality!

Thank you!

As a Missouri resident I feel this would be a great asset addition to the state of Missouri just like the Katy Trail bike path has been. I hope the state takes advantage of the opportunity.

I agree the Rock Island Trail Project is a great addition to the state of Missouri.

Please support the Rock Island Trail Project. Missouri's biking trails have made our state the #1 state when it comes to bike riding. I ride the Katy Trail a lot and every time I ride I meet folks riding the trail that have traveled from all over the world to ride the Katy Trail. Lately, Missouri hasn't had much to brag about, but when it comes to bike trails, its nice being #1.

I support the Rock Island Trail for myself and my posterity.

I strongly support development of the Rock Island Trail as a recreational resource for the state of Missouri. This will have a definite positive economic impact and draw increased tourism to the state.

Yes. I moved to Missouri from Virginia where there were lots of trails for horseback riding. I have a hard time finding them in Missouri. I would love to do some distance riding on good trails.

the bike trail in question is part of one of the great gems of the state. I use the trail every day and believe that the more people

get out to these parks, which serve rural Missourians, the better. Please develop this park!

I regularly pedal my bicycle everywhere. A new trail to do so down would be a welcome change.

I'm unaware of the money involved, but I am positive that it will bring money from Other areas of the state/county to the communities along the rock island trail. Just look at what the Katy trail has done for communities alongside it to judge the monetary risk involved. (Assuming that is why this is even in question)

Yes. this will be such a big boost to the state

I've just recently been diagnosed w a disease and told I can never run (my hobby and love) again and would be biking more which made me excited for the rock island trail! I live between both trails and my entire family loves bike rides. Please please please keep this project going for my health and thousands of others!!

I think we should continue to develop trails across Missouri. Missouri is a beautiful place and people will come if you promote it. This railway would be left to deteriorate, let's make it into something useful.

This is a valuable project & will help boost economic development of many small towns along the Rock Island rail corridor. Look how KATY trail has benefited those towns.

The rock island trail just like the katy trail will be a true asset to the state and provide economic benefit to the towns along the trail through tourism dollars. The katy trail draws tourists from around the country. Rock Island will do the same.

This trail provides an opportunity for local towns to thrive. Long trails as this, combined with the Katy attract adventure cyclists from around the world. The need for support services will spawn new local business and create funds for historic preservation.

Parks are good. For small towns along the way, they generate revenue from a new source while allowing people to really enjoy the scenery our state has to offer. To not take advantage of a gift that would lead to such a jewel would be a shame. Please proceed with developing this!

A trail from Windsor to Beaufort would be wonderful. We ride the Katy trail everyday and meet people from all over doing the same thing, enjoying the trail. Spring to fall people leave clinton to head across the state everyday in groups and individually. They often have support people who travel ahead and enjoy the shopping and community attractions ahead. There is no question the trails need to be developed.

I fully support the Rock Island Trail Project. It would be a resource for many future generations and I fear once gone the opportunity for a project of this scale will be lost forever. I am retired and have traveled to other states with the purpose of riding their trails. I meet riders from other states in those visits and MO is noteworthy as home to the Katy Trail. Adding 144 miles of trail is a fantastic addition to our available trails and

done correctly could bring economic development along the trail. My wife and I just got back from Iowa and what they have done with the High Trestle Trail is really impressive. No reason it can't be done here.

I think that this would be a great addition to the State of Missouri park system and would be an economic boost to the communities affected.

Make the trail!

We have ridden and witnessed many fellow riders on this trail. While it is not yet up to the Katy trail standards it was a great ride. It would be a great addition to our trail systems.

While we were riding trails in Florida we spoke to many fellow riders from many states about our great Katy trail. More than half knew and were jealous about our trails. Many had ridden and or were planning on riding our trail. The rest were going to research about the Katy for future trips.

All this is being said to emphasize that I have seen plenty of evidence that these trails are a great source of tourism money. If you need further confirmation then you should survey the small towns along the Katy that enjoy the revenue.

Please make this happen to help enhance our region and to offer a more dynamic biking and hiking experience.

I would love to see the Rock Island Trail fully developed. The benefits to our state and local economies would be huge. The recreational opportunities for both local and out of state patrons would be enormous and the health benefits that come from use of trails and the exercise they provide is impossible to quantify.

I believe the interest is there for Stover and others to accept the offer of the trails. I live on the lake near Gravois Mills and drive over an hour to the Katie Trail. Lake of the Ozarks has numerous things to offer but I'm always looking for "non water" activities for my guests and myself.

The Katy trail is one reason I keep coming back to Missouri. The rock island trail will be an additional draw for me and many friends that ride. It would be sad to let this opportunity pass. By the way we are over 60 and have money to spend in the eateries and shops we visit along the way. I spend an average of \$500 a week during a typical visit.

Please make Rock Island Trail a reality! I am a world traveler, and the Katy Trail is my favorite thing in Missouri to brag about!! Any additions to this unique piece of our state are worth the funds and effort.

I have biked along the Katy trail many times. I see how it has enhanced and improved the areas surrounding the Katy trail. Great idea to use the Rock Island railroad in the same way!

I had hoped this would have already been built and in use. I live in Freeburg, and think it would be beneficial for our area.

Please support the Rock Island trail project! It will bring much need tourist to the small communities along the route.

I fully support the development of this trail and believe it's a win-win for those in the small towns along the trail and for the people of Missouri. States that invest in well-maintained and safe parks provide a higher quality of life for their citizens. Sharing the beauty of our state with hiking and cycling enthusiasts nationwide is a real benefit we can't overlook.

Allowing equestrian traffic is just as important as hiking and biking traffic. Build it ! We will use it, enjoy it and protect it!

This would be a great benefit to Stover and other small towns

I feel that this would be a good use of this old rail line. It sounds as if it would be a good recreational use of this space, encouraging people to be active and enjoy nature.

I'm excited that there may be more multi-use trails for recreation in Missouri. However, please include us equestrians as we love to ride and we actually provide state revenue for our trailers property tax and for fees to use the trails for the day. My husband and I are avid riders and also love to volunteer to maintain trails with saws, clippers, and brute strength to keep trails clear. Please consider us when decisions are being made regarding this very worthwhile project. We would welcome any questions and would love to help in any way possible. Thank you and God bless this endeavor, as it keeps His nature intact and allows us to enjoy it!

I cannot come to Kansas City and spend my money in Kansas City to start a complete trip of the Katy Trail if there is no connecting point between Kansas City and the Katy Trail. Another city will get my money. Your cities financial loss.

Extending the Rock Island Trail means jobs and tourism money for Missouri.

Just look at how many visitors come to the towns along the Katy Trail, how much money they bring to these small towns, and how many small businesses benefit (B&Bs, wineries, restaurants).

Please do not prevent the towns along the Rock Island corridor from enjoying the same type of economic benefit that the Katy Trail towns have seen.

The RIT project is a gift from Ameren that should be capitalized on. Small towns have a chance of survival along the trail much like those along the Katy.

My wife and I have spend thousands of dollars in Missouri and other states as well on travel, lodging, gas, food, etc. while enjoying rails to trails. This is a great opportunity to further enhance the revenue generated by the Katy Trail. We are soon going to Arrow Rock to the theatre and will eat there and will most likely stay in either Booneville or Blackwater. We learned about the theatre by passing through Arrow Rock on a return trip home from Rocheport to ride the Katy.....indirect revenue/taxes generated from the Katy. Fact is, we've returned to many places many times that were originally trail discoveries. The same would be true for many, many people after discovery of the RIT.

As an aside, several years ago we stayed at the Schoolhouse B&B in Rocheport on a Katy trip. I asked the owner about business that the trail generated for them. Her indication was that approx. 80% of there business was Katy trail related. That

equates to income/taxes spent in Missouri that otherwise would not be there. It is also income/taxes and jobs that could be generated for the state and the small communities along the RIT.

Please help the small communities learn to thrive again by keeping and bringing jobs to our state.

I fully support the proposed RIT project. It will be a positive economic shot to MO, and a nice addition to the KATY Trail. How can I assist? - [REDACTED] in STL

To Whom It May Concern, just wanted to let you know that I strongly support this opportunity that the State of Missouri has to further develop the Rock Island Trail into potentially the next state park, The Rock Island Trail State Park!

I think this would be a great recreation resource and an amazing addition to the Missouri State Park system. I supported Governor Greitens and truly appreciate the challenges of balancing the Missouri budget but I believe that when it comes to recreation, our Missouri Park System is one of the finest in the Nation. We need to maintain and grow our State Parks. We need this additional recreation source to ensure that Missouri families and vacation dollars stay here in our State.

The opportunity for economic development is endless along this corridor, it may even rival the Katy Trail. We recently visited friends in Rosebud, MO and the drive along Highway 50 through Union, Beaufort, Leslie, Gerald into Rosebud, the Rock Island Line is visible the entire way. I was thinking what a boon this trail project would be for these communities for their family restaurants, antique shops, general stores, campgrounds, etc. the possibilities are endless. My friends have recently decided to close their family business, Clancy's Marketplace, due to economics. This trail would ensure more visitors to this area.

I strongly encourage Governor Greitens and the DNR to accept the Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad and to create the next recreational trail, The Rock Island Trail!

Thank you to the DNR and the Missouri Park System, keep up the great work.

Thank you for your time and consideration. #RockIslandTrail

We would love to see this trail come through our area and provide more recreational opportunities for people in our communities! It would be a stimulus for many small town businesses and bring in more people.

The proposed Rock Island Trail is very exciting news in the cycling world. We are all hoping to be able to ride the longest continuous trail, right here in MO some day.

The small town that I call my hometown, Windsor, is seeing a significant increase in trail traffic, due to the opening of the Rock Island Spur. We have several new businesses ready to serve travellers and are excited to have the opportunities to meet and help these people enjoy what we have to offer.

Count me as a yes vote. This would be a great connector and development for Missouri

The more resources devoted to outdoor, healthy, recreational activities the better. I have ridden thousands of miles on the Katy Trail and now, as a resident of Pleasant Hill, I've begun enjoying the Rock Island. "Rails to Trails" passageways preserve the natural beauty of our state, create jobs, and generate tourism dollars while enhancing the lives of Missouri residents.

Please do everything possible to complete this trail. More and more people are using these types of trails and it will bring economic activity to an area of Missouri that needs it.

Development of the Rock Island Corridor as the Kansas City connection to the Katy Trail has been in the works for a long time. Everywhere across the state hundreds of thousands of people every year have enjoyed the Katy trail and the little communities along its length. This is one of the most attractive tourist jewels for active travelers and has worldwide acclaim. The problem for most people is that this is a west to east ride because of wind and other factors. The problem for those on the Kansas City side and for national and foreign travelers is that Clinton is not easily accessible. Those who want to ride an epic tour across the state have trouble getting to the trail head and if they travel the full distance to St Louis there is no easy way to connect back to their starting point. The Rock Island Corridor is a beautifully simple and well-supported option to connect Kansas City to this great resource. Kansas City needs more infrastructure for their citizens young and old for outdoor activities. Adding the Rock Island Corridor extends the reach of local interaction with nature and simple outdoor activities and decreases resistance for bike tourism in the state.

Given that the Tour of Missouri in its 3 years as a bike event brought in \$49M/year directly to the small communities around the state there is a great interest in bike travel and biking opportunities in Missouri. Connecting the Katy Trail from state line to state line only improves the opportunity to bring tourism to more small communities and would be great boon for the state in general. The Katy Trail has the reputation of being the oldest and longest rails to trails path in the nation. The Rock Island Corridor would complete it. Please develop the Rock Island Trail Project.

I think The Rock Island Trail is an awesome and efficient way to use our historic assets(The Old Rock Island Line.

[REDACTED]

I believe that the State of Missouri, DNR, Governor Greitens should accept and develop the Rock Island Corridor. In fact I would like the Katy extended to the Kansas state line and to find a corridor to connect the Katy and Rock Island to both Iowa and Arkansas trails.

I have been an Eldon resident my entire life. I would love to see the trail come through Eldon, both as a great way to exercise and as a great economic booster for us. I own a small business here in town and I believe that the trail would bring in a lot of business here that we would not see otherwise. I appreciate the Department of Natural Resources for considering taking on the trail on an interim basis. I know I am

not alone in saying, all of Eldon would benefit from the trail. Thanks again.

I think the Trail would be a great addition to Missouri. The Katy Trail has already proven that the trail will be a success. With things like the Peddlers Jamboree it will bring money and business to the areas along the new trail. There are lots of eager cyclists and hikers waiting to explore new territory. It will promote health and wellness as well as support the economy. More opportunities to get outdoors is a great way to pull the next generation away from the screen.

That would be incredible. I would be so happy with this I think the location is fabulous!

Please allow horseback riding on the trails. Horse people are watchful and cautious and take care of trails. Horses have been a part of our history far longer than bikes - share the trail

The State of Missouri would be wise to enter into this agreement with Missouri Central Railroad. Even if the trail were not built for a number of years, this is a once in a generation opportunity to secure this asset for future uses. We don't even need the state to put up funds to construct the trail, although that would be ideal. Another option would be to have local communities and non-profit agencies fund raise and handle maintenance issues with the property. This model has been done successfully in other states, notably Kansas.

Railroad corridors are notoriously difficult to gain access to, this is being handed to Missouri on a silver platter. Additionally, the communities that stand to benefit from this need all the economic development help they can get. As you probably know, the KATY Trail is a major driver of the Missouri economy generating (according to an outdated 2012 economic impact study - the numbers are likely higher now) 18 million in direct and indirect spending in the state. Ask the communities along the KATY if it has been a boon to them, you will see that they could not live without it. Soon the KATY will connect into the Kansas City Region, opening even greater potential for economic development all along the route.

Extend the trail! It will bring visitors and revenue to small towns along the trail and tourism attention to parts of the state that are often just pass through areas, if they get tourist traffic at all. There is so much more to MO than St. Louis, Kansas City and Branson - lets SHOW them.

Please accept the donation of the rail corridor by Ameren and convert the corridor to the Rock Island Trail. This will be a great project for economic development and provide many other benefits as well including transportation and health and wellness. This connectivity is essential to groups here in the Kansas City area as well who are counting on being able to connect to the Katy trail.

As an avid horseback rider, I hope that the Rock Island Trail Project would be open to horse traffic. It's great to have a good option for riding when other trails are too muddy. Horse back riders and trail riding activity brings a lot of revenue to an area because we buy diesel, drive big trucks, pay property taxes on those big trucks and trailers.

This conversion would help connect the Kansas City region to the Katy Trail. The tourism would have a substantial financial benefit to all the communities long this connection.

Trails also provide an alternative for all cyclist, runners and walkers to get out and exercise. Just looking at the percentage of overweight and obesity for the state of Missouri is justification to continue to provide places for people to exercise.

I would like to see the entire stretch open to equestrian use!!!

As a Certified Parks and Recreation Executive with over 20 years of experience in the field of parks and recreation I strongly urge DNR and Governor Greitens to accept the Ameren Rails-To-Trails gift for the remainder of the Rock Island Trail. The trail system in Missouri is already a top notch system. Missouri has previously been rated as the Best Trails State by "American Trails". This additional 100+ miles of trails will further increase our exposure, accessibility, and desirability for both residents of Missouri and for tourist. Let's capture some of the tourist dollars that are spent on the Appalachian Trail or the Pacific Crest Trail!

Dear Sirs, Having just traveled back from Colorado and about to leave for Michigan I can tell you that both these states attract a great deal of tourist dollars from long distance bike and pedestrian trails that are linked to other towns both large and small. The town of South Haven (Michigan) is connected to Kalamazoo and generates thousands of visits per year by tourists the same is true for the small towns outside of both Denver and Colorado Springs that have pedestrian and bike trails that link the suburbs to the parks, and cultural sites. The immense success of the KATY trail does show what a long trail can be and what it can generate! The Rock Island Railroad corridor WILL be even more successful because it travels through the center city (downtown) of many more towns than the Katy trail. With the many center city opportunities this trail could provide usage will be HUGE and the economic impact for these small towns will be greater than seen on the KATY trail. YES, YES, YES move ahead with great speed to acquire and develop this potential trail asset!!!

I strongly support the conversion of the former Rock Island rail line to a trail. The Rock Island Trail Project (RITP) would bring incredible economic development to the 23 towns it would cross (as the Katy Trail proved to bring an 18:1 return on investment to the state's economy). I am an avid trail bike rider, and have done research across the US and the globe on the best trails to ride for long-distance vacations. Connecting the Rock Island Trail to the Katy Trail will make this trail an even greater world-class destination for Missouri. Seriously, we are on the verge of an amazing world-class GEM of a trail, right here! In MO! In addition, I understand that local Mennonites in the Versailles area will possibly be allowed to ride on the trail, increasing their safety (rather than having to ride on a two-lane highway). Having lost a dear, close friend to a horse-riding accident in the fall of 1995 when she was hit from behind by a car as she rode her horse on the highway, I feel personally and deeply that this is a very important step in keeping people safe from extreme harm. This kind of accident is horrific, to be sure. On another personal note, I did the

Pedaler's Jamboree (60 mile bike ride on Katy Trail from COMO to Booneville and back) over this past Memorial Day weekend. I was struck by the fact that over 1000 people committed to the ride, and just how much money was being brought to the small communities along the trail as people enjoyed the pleasure of being together, enjoying the music and exercise, fellowship and fun. It is an easy thing to bring more of this development and community to our beautiful state.

This should be a No-Brainer, Non-Partisan issue. The arguments against echo those of the Katy Trail discussion. The agricultural community should talk to the communities that have benefited along the Katy Trail. Accept the gift and move forward.

This all hinges on money and the monetary support necessary to make a very good project become reality. I'm certainly willing to do some heavy lifting on this, in the Capitol and statewide, but one needs to know the funds are there before you launch a serious campaign.

Please develop this trail! It will provide many long term benefits to the State of Missouri and is worth the costs. The KATY has been a tremendous success and this trail would be the same.

I completely support the tracks to trails project.

Please continue developing the Rock Island Trail for the public' use

I support the rock island line trail project

Missouri is rich in trails already, and I love to use them. I am not in favor of additional trails thru this section of Missouri, as I believe Missouri needs to concentrate on funding and maintenance of the trails we currently have. I am thoroughly apposed to any taxpayer funding of this project. I also believe this is a huge invasion of farmer privacy.

I feel it should be multi-use and allow for equestrians.

I support this agreement enthusiastically. It would bring countless health, safety, and economic benefits to our State.

Please make Missouri an even greater place to live by developing the Rock Island Trail.

Governor Greitens, I appreciate the desire to work within strict budget constraints and to be fiscally responsible with taxpayer money. Having said that, I hope that there is a path forward for receiving the Rock Island Corridor and the eventual conversion into a second "linear park" to complement our world-class Katy Trail. I have completed the Katy end-to-end only once myself, but just in the few days I traveled I met riders from several other states enjoying our resource. To the person, all those visitors raved about the quality of our trail and the beauty of of State. The comment forum at the website www.bikekatytrail.com is regularly full of visitors from states in all corners of the United States gathering information to plan trips of their own and leaving praise for the excellent services and experiences they have enjoyed on recently

completed trips. Our Trail is a vacation destination for travelers from across the nation; travelers with money to spend to support businesses in small and large Trail towns. It would stand to reason that a second trail of the quality we have created would only further create interest in our beautiful parks. Thank you for seeking advice from the people of our State and thank You for your continued service.

Trails add value to the area around them. Trails promote free opportunities for healthy living and in turn they build strong families and communities. Building the trail can only improve the land it will inhabit.

What reasoning could there be to decline this donation? The money for the initial build out? That is present investment for future revenues. The trail will bolster the economies of the towns it passes through. Cyclists, hikers, and other trail users patronize local establishments more than car drivers. People who would have never had a reason to go to a town like Windsor, MO, will stop there for food or other supplies while on the trail. As well, keeping Kansas City cut off from the Katy trail alienates a number of potential users. It honestly surprises me that a republican led legislature would balk at something that spurns economic development and entrepreneurship. Invest in the present for future growth!

This would be a great addition to our trail system. We would be regular users as a family for sure.

I want the trail and an end to the political money grab!

I think this is an excellent idea and should be done. The fact that it would be another park draw to the state of Missouri is an excellent benefit all around.

I am in total agreement with this plan. I can't wait to be able to use this trail.

DNR should not enter to any agreement as state tax dollars could be used for much more important and necessary purposes. Further, this trail will provide for an interruption to the family farmers who rely on their century farms to provide for income and jobs for their family. I strongly support ending this project before it starts. This whole project was ill conceived and trounces on private property rights!

This is a great resource for the people of Missouri and potential job creation and tourist dollars in the smaller towns this travels through. I am originally from New Zealand and the great trail rides they have placed throughout the country have enhanced tourism options.

I see a long term vision of attracting out of state tourists to our cycle ways through out the state.

After speaking with a business owner and supporter in Windsor, MO. I fully support the RIT and all trails in building an economic future around our trails.

Several years ago I was sceptical when the rails-to-trails KATY project was proposed. I tried to imagine the costs and benefits. Plus, the affected landowners seemed to have a strong argument and case. Being a landowner myself, and

dealing with trespassers, I was sympathetic to possible problems of trash and intrusion. The KATY outcome has been nothing short of spectacular. Fears of crime and dumping are practically nonexistent. Just the opposite has happened. The trail users are some of the kindest, thoughtful, caring, and abiding citizens found anywhere. I have biked the KATY with good experiences. The only issue I've had to come to terms with is weekend congestion near Columbia and the feeder trails. My hope is the Rock Island trail comes to fruition. It has potential to be a boon to Missouri's tourism industry and towns like Versailles, Eldon, Freeburg, Belle, Bland, Owensville, and Gerald, just to name a few, are sure to feel a positive economic impact. I am for it 100%. Thank you!

Our church owns a tiny portion of the right of way. We tried to give it directly to DNR but were told it must go through legal proceedings. Too bad we have to do litigation to get this thing going. The trail is now cleared in our area and we would love to start working to get our section ready for use as a trail, plus buggy road.

I support the role of DNR in entering into an agreement with Rock Island Trail Project wholeheartedly. The agreement will have beneficial recreational, economic, and social benefits that will grow in time. Failure to take advantage of this opportunity is short-sighted and not in the best interests of the citizens of the state of Missouri.

This would be a very positive thing for the state. It needs to be supported.

I support the Rock Island Trail- it would bring much-needed tourism dollars to our state and be an excellent way to showcase the beauty of Missouri.

The Rock Island Trail is a gift to the state of Missouri. It's an opportunity to grow the state's trail system, drive new bicycle tourism and create new economic opportunities?

If there is opposition to this by Governor Greitens, I'd like to know his reasoning. Is it expense for upkeep? From what I read in this article, it seems like a good addition to the Missouri Trails system.

This is a huge waste of money and resources. Not to mention that where the rail bed is in many places is very secluded which will bring in tons of crime just like the murders and rapes and muggings like what happens on the trolley trail. This project will disrupt many homeowners/property owners land and privacy. DO NOT continue with this foolish project.

On behalf on the Johnson County Spirit Trails Coalition comprised of seven municipalities, the University of Central MO, and Whiteman AFB, we want to express our ongoing support of the Rock Island Trail across mid-Missouri. The first phase of the Spirit Trail between Warrensburg, Knob Noster State Park is underway heading on to Whiteman AFB's front door. The coalition has expended its county-wide comprehensive trail network plan to include three access points along the Rock Island 47 miles trail. Those access points are south of Kingsville, Holden and the Trail Head at Chilhowee.

Like the Katy Trails the Rock Island 144 mile Trail offers all Missourians (and out-of-state and country tourists) a tremendous opportunity to enjoy the beautiful outdoor recreational amenities we have in MO. The small communities along the trail route stand to benefit from the economic development opportunities such an asset offers.

While our major cities such Warrensburg lies some 12 miles north, these access points envisioned by the Coalition are less than 3-5 miles away. Our active plan for a county-wide trail network expands the immediate recreational opportunities locally as well as providing an attraction for the students, citizenry and military members.

All the Best...as together we create economic opportunities and enhance the quality of life of Missourians!

I support this project strongly!! We need to preserve our remaining g natural resources for current and future generations to enjoy!

I am 63 year old Missourian born raised. I can't wait for this trail to open. I love to ride my bike and enjoy the outdoors. I don't understand why there is any question on this. It is a win win for the state and its citizens. It seem you don't care about the little people.

Very important addition to the recreational amenities for residents. It is much needed and would be a great plus for people who want to walk and bike, plus a boost to the cities that it would go through.

We need to get a move on this. Thought it was a done deal.

I enjoy hiking, and I've been looking forward to having a new trail - which would be a counterpart of the Katy trail - just a few miles from my house!

PLEASE complete the agreement to complete the Rock Island Trail!

We need to do it. The trail is a great community tool for eco development and to repurpose blighted rail routes. Do this!!!

I think it would be awesome

I think it will be a great asset to the area especially Raytown, MO. There are no running trails that go through the entire city of Raytown.

This trail is an important asset to be protected by the State of Missouri. It has been proven through the construction and development of the Katy Trail that a trail is not just as amenity but an economic and recreational asset to our state. I have been involved for 25 years in the building of the Ozark Greenways trails and know from personal knowledge what this has meant to the city of Springfield and Greene County. The people of our community are proud of our trail system which provides recreation and economic development in its wake.

Trail building in states around the country has put those states on another level in the recognition of the value of these trails. The Rock Island trail will complete an invaluable circle of trail building in this state and something of which we can all

be proud in terms of park development and economic stimulus to our state.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail Project. To change direction at this point would be counter productive.

This would be a huge tragedy. Shame on Greitens for following in Trumps footsteps and not protecting the environment or our special places. Hope the state is able to continue as planned with the trail.

If you want proof that these projects pay for themselves many time over just look at any trail project in the country. This must be kept on the agenda to build, do not kill it.

I live in Kansas, but will happily spend my money in Missouri if this trail is completed. If the trail is built it will provide connections across the state to places that I couldn't otherwise reach by bicycle.

As a user of the existing Katy Trail I am extremely interested in connecting the trail to the Kansas City area where I reside. The development opportunities, increase in recreational options and general decrease in auto usage are all Important considerations.

However, the continuation and enhancement of the national reputation that the state of Missouri has for exceptional trails and state parks is the most important reason to further enhance this perspective.

Tourism money is very important to the state's budget.

The development of the Rock Island Trail is an enormous opportunity for the State of Missouri, and one we should not allow to slip away.

The Katy Trail generates an 18:1 return-on-investment to the state's economy, with 400,000 annual users. The Rock Island goes through the middle of towns so it will have greater daily usage and economic impact per mile.

I believe that a trail like that would be a blessing to the community. There is a similar trail called the Katy Trail that comes to mind. It has been a central point of the places it connects and even hosts events like the Peddlers Jamboree, a bike ride from Columbia to Booneville, MO. I personally have family living along both the Katy, and this proposed trail, and it would be awesome to have something like this that connects us all.

Would love to ride this trail in its entirety!

I support the Rock Island Trail. I'm a conservative and still support this. Please follow through on this!!

The proposed Rock Island Trail will be boon for tourism in mid-Missouri, as has its predecessor, the Katy Trail. Managing the Katy Trail as a State Park has provided benefits, to walkers, cyclists, and to adjoining businesses. That same very successful model needs to be applied to the acquisition, building, and maintenance of the Rock Island Trail. It will generate much-needed indirect revenue from sales taxes for the State of Missouri and will attract tourists from all over the country..

With the success of the Katy Trail regarding tourism (read dollars), much less benefits to towns and communities along the route, this seems like an easy decision. Make this new trail work.

This would be a wonderful addition to our local economies and to our state! Small towns need this boost and we embrace it fully!!! The sooner the better!!

I was extremely excited when I first heard of this project, and even more thrilled when it finally started being built. I've ridden the section from Pleasant Hill to Windsor. It's a beautiful trail, and an amazing asset to the state. We have so many avid cyclists in the Kansas City area who are hungry for a long trail like this that starts near the metro. There are very few scenic trails in this area. It fills a big recreational need for a lot of folks. Not to mention the revenue it would provide for small businesses in the towns along the trail that wouldn't normally get all that traffic. Please take into consideration what a great, unique thing this trail is for helping set our state apart.

I support this trail. This is an opportunity for Missouri to develop a resource that is not available anywhere else in the world. It'd be tragically shortsighted if we don't take advantage of this opportunity.

Hmmm. Cycling = health, Cycling = recreation = tourism = \$\$\$s = tax revenue.

Missouri has a great opportunity to enhance its positioning as a destination for tourism or even within state vacations from Missouri residents. People spend money = tax revenue for state. Seems like the Rock Island Trail Project would be a good investment for the state.

Nuf said.

It is my hope that the DNR does enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement to develop the Rock Island Trail Project. Within this agreement it should be promoting multi-use of hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. Missouri is known as the "Trail State" and is a destination for trail users not only within Missouri but out of state riders and hikers. All user groups; hikers, equestrians, and bicyclists, can contribute to the economy of the communities that are near the trail. Recreation is needed for all users.

I am in favor of the Rock Island Trail. As a business owner along the Katy trail, I see the economic impact bike trails have to an area. We've already seen an increase in shuttles and rentals because of the existing and proposed extension.

As a Missouri citizen I am excited for the possibility of having a cross State Bike path. My family and I, along with many of my friends, would welcome the opportunity to spend vacation time riding the trails and visiting the towns along the route. I live in St. Louis and feel the more places their arms to bike the more places people will bike to. That's what we do. Ride bikes and spend money.

As a resident of Boonville, which is along the KATY Trail, I can testify that rails-to-trails is a good thing. It's good for the

health of a town and its citizens. It brings business to a town and provides a place for residents to enjoy the great outdoors. What a good idea to accept this trail.

I think this is a wonderful idea! Though I am from Kansas, I have used, and spent money along the Katy, and would certainly use and spend money along Rock Island.

I think this is a complete waste of taxpayers money. If completed it will be an additional place for criminals to sneak into backyards that this runs thru. I am sick of our government spending money on bicycle trails and yet there is no place to legally ride an off road vehicle within an hour and a half of Kansas City. Additionally there needs to be a drag strip within the greater Kansas City area. Ever since KCIR was closed there have been many who have started racing on public streets. The drag strips were originally built to curb street racing and they did a great service to the community. Unfortunately crooked politicians in Kansas City have been able to line their pockets by closing the track.

As someone who travels to Missouri at least once per year to ride the Katy Trail, I urge you to proceed with development along the new proposed trail. I personally spend around \$100 per day on my visit (food, lodging, etc.). Further development may spur me to stay longer this stimulating the Missouri economy.

I'm hoping that Missouri will decide to continue as intended with the Rock Island Trail. I think that our representatives need to look no further than northwest Arkansas to see how much bicycle tourism enriches the citizens of the state, that is if they can't see it along the Katy trail.

I support the trail's development in good time. Not an opportunity the State should pass up.

If it is half as successful as the Katy Trail And the Warsaw trails, it will have a huge impact on local economies!

Please allow DNR to take this trail over! This would be a great opportunity for families to enjoy the outdoors and also provide new opportunities to small towns along the trail.

It would be such a shame not to finish this trail. So many people for all over the United States travel now to ride the Katy Trail. The Rock Island Trail would share the same popularity. This is the best state parks Missouri can offer to people of all ages, young and old. The more miles the trails cover, the more chances of getting people out to go for a walk or a bicycle ride. We as a state want everyone to be healthy, so offer them the chance to get out on the trail. This is one place people can go and get some exercise without spending a fortune. My husband and I (both in our 60's) ride our bicycles on the trails as much as we can. We often drive to different trail heads to ride different area. Again I think it would be a shame to not finish the Rock Island Trail. It will help the small towns along the way repeat the rewards, with more revenue.

We don't have to look very far but it is evident the KATY Trail has been very successful with few major problems and I

see no reason why the Rock Island Trail Project would not be as successful.

It would be a huge boost to Missouri tourism! This should be a DNR priority!

The Rock Island Trail is a tremendous project for Missouri and countless towns and counties along its path. Augmenting the Katy, it also brings to bear some of Missouri's premier recreational attractions around Lake of the Ozarks into play - a combination that few if any states can boast as assets.

The opportunity is indeed a once-in-a-lifetime proposition as well. It's that opportunity that Missouri will look back on if not acted on, saying "if only---". Sometimes foresight and vision requires fortitude and this project deserves it. On behalf of the many communities that are struggling to survive in mid-Missouri, we owe this investment. And as a resident of NW Missouri myself, I am truly unbiased when I encourage my fellow citizens to stand up and do the right thing. I will be a user, likely jumping off at what will be a booming trailhead near Versailles, heading down to the Lake. I'm excited and hope others can step outside themselves and realize the opportunity before us.

Please continue the desire of We the people to see this new trail system come to life. The Katy Trail continues to see growth in towns along the trail. The ROCK island corridor would be an even greater draw of tourists around the world. \$\$\$ would you rather keep handing out welfare in these small towns or tax receipts?

We need more bikable and walking trails in our state. Anything like the Katy Trail is of extreme importance

Big asset to our beautiful state of Missouri! Financial opportunities will abound as well as opportunities for communities & families to connect with one another in the great outdoors.

I am in full support of this 144.3 mile long Trail & The Great State of Missouri needs more of them throughout Missouri !!! Saves the History & is Healthy for the citizens of this Great State & would be welcoming to visitors !!!

This trail would bring SO MUCH travel through the heart of these small towns. Bikers (like myself) often stop at convenient stores, restaurants, etc.. while on rides to re-energize. I love these small towns, as I work in Gerald, and I would love nothing more than to have a BEAUTIFUL scenic route to bike and jog on. By investing in ways for people to exercise and enjoy the beauty of the outdoors, we are investing in our great state and people.

Let's get it finished

Development of the Rock Island Trail would be a great economic project for the state of Missouri to complete. There would be an initial investment from the state, but considering the tourism and economic development it would bring in, the investment would be worth it. Ameren has already donated the right-of-way, so it would be wasteful not to take advantage of this generous gift. Having another long trail in the state would

also be a way to promote healthier lifestyles in more Missouri communities. The old arguments that were unsuccessfully used against the development of the Katy Trail are being used again against the Rock Island Trail, and they are just as without merit today. Let's get this done!

To miss the opportunity to preserve this corridor would be tragic for the communities along the line. Cycling will only become more popular over time, and these small communities need the economic boost. These are hardworking, conservative communities. They aren't asking for a handout, just to not be left behind. It would be incredibly short-sighted to miss the opportunity to reconnect the Rock Island line in way that will help these communities and beautify the state.

Develop this trail system. As a KC lawyer, I'll be I spend over a \$1000 each year in hotels and restaurants on the Katy trail. I'd do the same thing for Rock Island. I thought this was a done deal? Stopping cutting taxes and try doing something worthwhile for a change like this project!!!!

Please do not backout on this trail! This trail will provide health and economic benefits to all, especially those communities along the trail. Further, the great number of tourists that would come from all over to ride this trail (spend money on food, recreation, lodging, etc) would benefit the state. Not moving forward on this trail would be a great disservice to the people of Missouri!

It's a GREAT idea, long overdue. I visit other states frequently, and most have FAR more extensive and better walking/biking facilities than Missouri. It's long-past time for us to start to catch up. SUPPORT the creation of the Rock Island Trail!

My family is a regular user of the Katy Trail, and support local businesses along it. The Katy Trail has been getting more popular, with both in-state and out-of-state riders. The Rock Island Trail would be a nice addition to the state's trail system. The two together would make Missouri a GREAT place for trail riders from around the USA to visit and support local communities.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail project. I believe it will bring more tourism and visitors to the region and be an asset for the state of Missouri.

Thank you.

YES!!! I want this trail to move forward. It will be great for the State of Missouri!

It would be a mistake for the DNR to not take advantage of this opportunity. Please continue with the planned development of the Rock Island Trail Project.

I am a 65 year old woman who has biked on the Katy Trail for 12 years. I strongly support the Rock Island Trail. Many people from around Missouri, the US and the world bike on the Katy Trail. The Rock Island Trail will make our state one of the most exciting places to bike on a Rail to Trail Bike Trail. The longer the trail the more people it will attract. It doesn't just benefit the small towns along the trails. People

coming to Missouri to bike on the Katy Trail and Rock Island Trail buy gas, eat in our restaurants, and stay in motels and B & Bs. This helps Missouri, not just the towns along our bike trails. I spoke to a couple last weekend that biked from one end of the Katy Trail to the other, and then got on the Rock Island Trail. They told me about the businesses popping up along the Rock Island Trail, and how the entrepreneurship is so impressive, people in small rural communities opening new businesses to provide services to people biking on the Rock Island Trail, and to support themselves, their families and communities. Please do not undo the progress that has been made. The people in these small towns and other communities in Missouri deserve the opportunities that the Rock Island Trail brings to them. They will also enjoy the health benefits of living near a safe bike trail in rural Missouri where they and their families can safely bicycle.

Do it! For the health and wellbeing of Missourians. We need investment in this type of infrastructure. Also tourism, particularly keeping Missouri tourist dollars in the state.

We want the trail. I live just 2 blocks from what will be one of the entrances to the trail. Everyone in our neighborhood is excited about the trail coming through here. I've even been pricing bikes in preparation!

We need this

Hello,
I'd like to express my support for the expansion of the Rock Island Trail Project. I believe it would be a welcome addition to the state's park system and appreciated by Missouri's residents, visitors, and by the multiple businesses and municipalities along its route.

During my childhood growing up in the former Missouri railroad town of Enon, my father told me stories of how much my hometown had changed since the Bagnall branch of the Missouri Pacific line, which ran through Enon, had ceased to operate. How what was once a thriving village in central Missouri was now reduced to the point where only the Baptist church and a handful of homes survived. When travelling through the nearby city of Eldon, we would pass over the former crossings of the Rock Island line (at that time inactive but still intact) and wonder if the rails would ever see use again or if line would become overgrown with vegetation and lost to history like the former road through Enon.

I'm now an adult with children of my own. We have been living in the Boonville area for the past 12 years and often take advantage of living close to the MKT trail which has proved such a successful park project for the state. I cannot help but wonder how such a unique and scenic feature the proposed Rock Island expansion would become, that its plans for conversion of a rail to trail attraction faces the possibility of being shelved. This is a unique and rare opportunity for the DNR and the state to expand its service to the citizens of Missouri and the thousands of visitors its sure to attract.

I support this project and the benefits it will provide to the residents, towns and business it will serve.

We live on the Katy Trail. It is blessing. We ride or walk it every day and enjoy seeing families and people of all ages hiking and biking the trail. The trail has brought people from

all over the world to our state which is good for our state's economy. Though there are people on the trail, they are not loud, destructive or even very noticeable. They are enjoying the outdoors and the natural beauty of Missouri. Of course we should have more trails like the Katy. Exercise, fresh air, beauty. These are all good and essential things. Please continue moving forward with the Rock Island Trail.

The opportunity to add the Rock Island Trail project to the inventory of Missouri trails is one that can't be allowed to be ignored. Historically trails are the #1 recreational amenity demanded by Missouri citizens. The connection of this trail to the Katy Trail would make it one of the best trail systems in the country. The economic benefits to the state as a whole, as well as the local communities through which it runs can't be overstated. The ability of such a trail to positively affect the health and fitness of Missourians is also an important aspect of making sure this trail gets developed.

Acquisition and development of the Rock Island Trail Project should be the state's top priority. Nothing will have a greater impact on our quality of life, at the state level, than the creation of this linear greenway as a transportation, recreation, and economic development asset. Surveys consistently rank trails as a high priority for Missourians; over 70% of the population says they use them regularly. The Interim Trail Use agreement should be approved by the Governor as his top priority to keep the promises made to Missouri voters.

All I can say is that the sooner you complete this project, the sooner I can come ride this trail on my bike and drop hundreds of dollars in little towns along the way. I've ridden the Katy trail about six times, and I've spend about \$1,000 in Missouri small towns on each trip. This type of attraction helps make Missouri a vacation destination, not a flyover state!

I believe this project is important for Missouri and should go forward.

I am excited to someday see all of this come true! I believe it will help Kansas City and the outlying areas. The sooner the better.

I live in St Louis City and think turning the Rock Island into a trail like the Katy Trail is an excellent idea!
I moved to Missouri in 2012 from out of state and the natural parks have been wonderful! I'm a frequent hiker and love Missouri's outdoors!

The Katy Trail has paid economic dividends for the towns along its length, and I expect the Rock Island would as well.

Looking at the tourism success and positive economic impact of the Katy Trail in Missouri, particularly for the smaller relatively isolated communities along the proposed new trail, contrary to the originally naysayers for the Katy. It seems a no brainer to continue forward with the Rock Island trail. It should be continued to completion of the proposal.

I think it's a wonderful idea. I think the Katy Trail has shown that trail users have no or little interest in leaving the trail to trespass on private property.

Rails to trail programs are so important. They provide bike and runner safety. They provide an economic boost to the towns along the trail. I can guarantee you that no one would visit Defiance MO, let alone the more remote towns, without the Katy trail. They provide a natural corridor for wildlife. The returns and Benfield are massive!

Please make this Trail ! We need more biking and hiking trails in Missouri. We often go to Illinois for trails. We just got back from Iowa for biking. Just do it here!

Opportunities like this don't come along every day. DNR simply cannot let it pass by. Other states seize upon old rail lines as quickly as possible and turn them into recreational corridors so they can reap the benefits that much quicker. There is literally no downside to rail trails. They decrease crime and increase property values 100% of the time no exceptions. That's a fact, not an opinion. Not to mention they are a tourism and economic boost to the state and the local communities along the trail. People come from all over the world to ride the Katy, so it seems foolish to squander the opportunity to add another great resource in our very own backyard. Get the rock island trail moving then start working on the old lead line from Cuba to Viburnum...another unbelievable resource currently sitting idle as it has been for 15+ years. GET IT DONE. Please and thank you.

Washington just took over Missouri's spot as owner of the longest rail-trail. Completing the RI Trail Project will put MO back on top. As an out-of-stater who rides your beautiful Katy Trail, I can attest to the positive tourism & revenue impact of the trail. Keep the momentum going!

I am in favor of it. Please pursue.

Please figure out a way to make this work, whether through private investment or a tax of some sort. These opportunities are rare. We need to take advantage of this...

I am for the Rock Island trail. Anything that gets people out in nature without a motor is a good thing.

Acquisition and development would be a positive for Missouri; not only from a tourism perspective as it connects to the nationally recognized KATY Trail (and connects the KC and St. Louis metro-areas); but from a local consideration. There is ample evidence that local property values and business considerations receive a positive boost when there is a well developed trail system nearby. It certainly helped the struggling communities along the KATY Trail in the St. Charles County area. And, that is only a minor example of positive economics resulting from trails - significant examples can be found many other states whether they be in the midwest (ie Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin & Illinois, etc), the West (ie Oregon, Washington, California, etc), the Southeast (ie North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida etc) or elsewhere. Additionally, it has economic healthcare benefits and recreation value - in St. Charles City we found that when a trail was added to a park - it without question became the facility most used by the public (no matter what time of day, sans bad weather, someone was taking advantage of the trail).

I would like to see the DNR develop the Rock Island bike trail. I have enjoyed the Katy Trail for over two decades both for local rides but also as one who has rode the entire trail. As the Katy trail has been a great park, so would the Rock Island.

Thank you.

Bike trails are such a plus to any community they go through. It provides recreation, peaceful nature walks, a place for a quiet walk, possibly a non motorized commute. People come to the trails from all directions and often frequent local businesses. Rail trails utilize previously unusable property . A rail trail is a win/win proposition.

I strongly support the Rock island Trail project and hope that DNR will move forward. I will be one of the first to use it.

I very much believe this trail project is great for Missouri. It will bring quality of life to the communities along with higher property values. It will also bring up Missouri's tourism dollars for the long term.

We totally support this transfer to State of Missouri. As a resident of Missouri.

The state of Missouri is losing people to states like Colorado and NC. Recreation is good for the state, the economy and attracts people to want to relocate here. This is a job creating initiative.

Please consider developing the Rock Island Trail for a bicycle/walking trail. This will help make Missouri a destination for cyclists as Katy Trail does.

I'm a very strong proponent of the Rock Island Trail and any further expansion of the trail systems... especially long trails suitable for days long hiking or biking adventures. I'd be strongly in favor of using some of the funds from the Conservation Commission tax to affect these acquisitions, development, and improvements.

I worked in municipal parks & recreation as a director for almost 40 years. Our community & greater Kansas City area have been working hard for more than 20 years trying to acquire land, design and build a trail system connecting residents with other facilities such as shopping, entertainment, recreational facilities, and other neighborhoods. Research has reflected residents living along or having access to trail systems, that 7 of 10 use the trails, where only 1 of 10 use a golf course and 3 out 10 use a pool that they live on or near by. The mental & physical benefits are obvious in the research. Property values increase, and local/residential security/safety increase due to more eyes on the neighborhood due to the trails.

As a resident of our state I feel it is a huge mistake to turn back the clock on the hard work many individuals have put in to development of the agreement to use the Rock Island right-of-way for a public trail connection in our State. This only adds to a system of great and well used trails that our fine State has been able to develop over many years and many projects, one of the largest and most respected State wide trail systems in our country. I encourage DNR to continue to work

toward a use agreement for the Rock Island Trail Project and to continue to work toward other connections and expansion of our State trail system. I encourage our governor to support this project and the direction of our DNR in relation to trail and park development in our State.

Just amazed that Missouri would not proceed with this trail and its economic benefits to all.

I am from Virginia here in Columbia and hiking and biking the Katy Trail. What a joy!

Meanwhile I am spending tons of bucks in your state.

Suggest that Missouri jump on this no-brainer and proceed with the trail.

Your economy will be glad you did!

I believe anytime the government can convert unused rails to a walking path is a great idea. Many obstacles will have to be overcome but the ending trail system will be well worth the effort.

The rock island trail is an essential addition to the park system in Missouri. Rural Missouri, in general, is not friendly to bicyclists and runners. The Rock Island Trail would be a great avenue for those who don't want to risk their lives trying to get a little exercise. I know tourism would increase as a result of the trail, as well as economic development as businesses would increase in order to serve the visitors who would use the trail. I believe the rock island trail is a win for everyone.

I support the Rock Island Trail project and DNR entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement .

Please continue with the aquisition and development of the Rock Island trail. It will be a great asset to or state and to the Kansas Area.

I support this trail agreement. It is create for individuals who enjoy the trails, get exercise, stay healthy, and support the small towns and local economies along the way!

I think the Rock Island trail should be developed!

I think the State needs to approach Scenic railroads like the one In Branson MO that have several such lines in operation and try to negotiate a deal with them for tourist/scenic route maybe with COOP Freight use to help lower overhead costs and Maintenance of said line, while boosting economic and employment in the central region all across the state. this would be by far a better use of this Historic/Scenic area of our Great State and attract riders from all over not just the USA but other countries as well as well as adding to Missouris renowned Tourist/Travel destination choice with prime mid-Continent location for convenient travel combined with multiple tourism destinations along the route as well, affording many other businesses to offer travel packages to wouldbe visiteres of our State as well as locals who can keep their vacation dollars in their home state like I would myself.

██████████ St Peters, MO

This sounds like a wonderful idea. Consider the popularity of the KATY trail. How can we lose by investing in another such

venture. In addition, why in the world would anyone turn Dow such a gift.

Please add the new trail to Missouri trails.

I'm writing to support development of the Rock Island Trail Project. I've witnessed the success of the Katy Trail and believe that this new trail will be a net gain for the areas where it will cross, and for the state in general.

I live in St. Peters, and I hike many sections of the Katy Trail, from Frontier Park in St. Charles to Dutzow. On the trail I meet people from all over the state and also from elsewhere. From what they tell me, the Katy is a bucket list item for cycling enthusiasts.

In St. Charles County we have seen the success of restaurants, wineries and hiking/biking related businesses either along the trail or nearby.

When I hike sections of the trail that abut private property, I have seen no instances or evidence of trespassing or property damage. The trail is clean and remarkably free of litter or trash. Katy trail users respect the trail and the natural beauty of Missouri. I would expect the same from users of the Rock Island Trail.

Since AMREN has already agreed to donate the land why not go ahead with this and finish the creation of a STL to KC bike trail. Maybe one day they will use this for the MS150 instead of riding on public highways creating a very dangerous situation for drivers and cyclists.

This would be a boon to Missouri. We need to promote non-motorized transportation, health and tourism.

I only support this expansion if it can be funded by the Conservation Department's tax or if additional taxes are levied on the beneficiaries of the trail--businesses and towns serving the trail. Missouri has to balance its budget annually, and I do not support additional costs without knowing where the revenues are coming from.

That said, I believe these trails are beneficial to the economies of these small towns, attracting people like cyclists, through hikers, and others seeking recreation.

If it can be done cost neutrally, it should be. My preference would be to see a nonprofit organization take it over for development and management. Not government.

Yes to the next 144 miles of the Rock Island Trail. So excited for this new trail.

Missouri is SO LUCKY to have the Katy Trail! Tourists and families and cyclists come from all over the world to experience this trail. And to think it could run across your entire state, connecting Missouri's two biggest cities! I'm from Texas and we have nothing like the Katy. I've ridden your trail 3 times and spent lots of money at bed and breakfasts, restaurants, stores, campgrounds. Every cyclist who rides the Katy does the same. It is an incredible asset to Missouri and it should be cherished.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail. The longer the trail is, the more people it will attract, from all over the world. It benefits more than just the small towns along the trails, it makes the whole state look fantastic because it promotes good

health and low impact, environmentally responsible tourism. Not completing the Rock Island will undo progress that has been made and wreck plans and building that is already taking place along it.

Please allocate Missouri resources for this project. It will be great for Missouri economy and support small businesses throughout the state (like mine). It is also great PR. For all the negative race and diversity press Missouri gets... this would project would show people what Missouri is really about... great hardworking friendly people preserving and enjoying God's creation.

This trail development is great for Missouri residents and national/international travelers. As a user of the Katy Trail, EVERY time I ride, I meet folks from other states or countries. People travel from all over the world to use our awesome trail facilities. It has been exciting to watch the development follow the Katy Trail and it would be awesome to also start watching the development along the Rock Island Trail.

Bike trails are great for Missouri and great for America.

As a former resident of Missouri and recently retired project manager of St Louis County Parks trails have been a significant part of my life and career. Trails are the single largest demand in recreation, covering all age groups and demographics. I am an avid user of every type of trail. This includes the KATY, having ridden the full length and repeated use of stretches in St Charles. It has been a lifeline for communities all along its course. It's nationally known and a destination for many. I suggest you take a look at its track record. An extension would make it "THE" rails to trails conversion destination.

I am very much for the trail. It will help provide additional outdoor recreational activities and opportunities for new business and jobs supporting people on the trail.

This is a great use of the property and should be completed ASAP.

We as Missourians don't need another trail. If money is going to be spent, whether it's tax dollars or Federal grant money, it should be used on the existing Katy Trail.

Ameren should be required to disassemble to current track and return land to landowners, increasing property value in some locations and farming ground in others.

Hello, I know that the trail will cost the state money, but I'm confident it will make that back in the revenue and business that will pop up along the trail. My family has purchased a house along the trail we would like to turn into a bed and breakfast but we are waiting on the state. I understand not wanting to stretch the state's budget which I respect but do feel that this would be a worth while project that would directly effect communities.

This would be spectacular. I was already considering biking the entirety of the Katy Trail sometime, but now I could add this to the list of biking throughout Missouri! And it looks like it will go through even more of the beautiful landscape of

Missouri! I'm sorry I don't really know enough about the area of that bike path to give many suggestions.

I could only suggest possibly making a way for it to spur up towards the Katy Trail on the eastern side so those trying to use it to go essentially from KC to STL or vice versa could. It would probably greatly increase the usage just doing that on its own.

I hope the DNR continues with the Trail Use Agreement and develops the Rock Island Trail. This new trail, combined with the existing KATY Trail would form an epic trail network. I'm a resident of Kansas and I've traveled to Missouri many times to ride the KATY Trail. I've ridden the KATY end-to-end twice and have also done several shorter rides of a few days. Each time we visit, we spend a lot of tourist dollars in your state for lodging, food, gifts, etc. The addition of the Rock Island Trail would create a giant loop that one could start from any point and ride back to their starting point. Rail trails tend to be linear, not a loop. This makes it difficult for bikers to transport back to their vehicle if they ride the entire trail. If you complete this project, the loop ride would be a big draw to cyclists. It would draw cyclists from all across the country. Your state already has one of the most outstanding rail trails in the country. You have the opportunity to make it THE best, hands down! Don't underestimate how much money cyclists spend in your state.

Absolutely continue the Rock Island Trail Project. I thought it was basically a done deal already. It would be a wonderful addition to Missouri, especially with the connection to the Katy Trail. As with the Katy Trail, the Rock Island Trail would provide a great recreational opportunity for Missouri residents and a source of revenue for local businesses that currently exist and those that will open in the future.

The longer trail system, the Katy and Rock Island combination, would undoubtedly increase tourism and naturally tourism dollars. Many people come from all over the country (and even the world) to ride the Katy and that number would surely increase with the additional trail. Those visitors spend a lot of money in restaurants, hotels, and B&B's.

I find it exceedingly disappointing that the new governor/administration would possibly derail the project at this late date.

I am very much in favor of the proposed Rock Island Trail Project in hopes that in the future, families and tourists can enjoy the same experience I am so fortunate to have with the Katy Trail.

I live in Sedalia and I believe the Katy Trail is a treasure for Sedalia and Missouri and the nation. What makes it such a treasure is the unique experience of appreciating the natural beauty and rural areas of our state and the Midwest in a peaceful, safe setting away from motor vehicles. My kids, my wife and I enjoy walking and biking regularly on many different sections of the trail in our area of the state. We enjoy the peace and quiet, listening to the birds, watching the wildlife, viewing the trees, crossing the streams, and observing the farm life. I even take my 88 year old mother on the trail in her wheelchair and she absolutely loves it. I wish it had been here when I was growing up in the 1970s.

The tranquil experience and the reputation of the rails to trails in our state makes the Katy Trail the jewel in the crown of our state parks system. There is a reason it is so loved. I have stated some of those reasons.

If the Rock Island Trail were added to the DNR's trail system, it would show off Missouri's varied natural beauty by taking visitors on a tour of the gorgeous Ozark Foothills of Central Missouri and crossing some of Missouri's most beautiful wooded farmland and small rivers. Britain and Europe have their "footpaths" that crisscross their beautiful bucolic countrysides which attract curious and casual travelers from across the globe. Missouri's rails to trails system could be something similar, providing tourists (and locals, like me) an up close and peaceful experience of the rural Midwestern life and countryside. It would be awesome, just as the Katy Trail is awesome!

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail Project. I live in the Beaufort area and the building of the trail will bring businesses/people/improvements to an economically deprived community.

. I strongly support the Rock Island Trail. Many people from around Missouri, the US and the world bike on the Katy Trail. The Rock Island Trail will make our state one of the most exciting places to bike on a Rail to Trail Bike Trail. The longer the trail the more people it will attract. It doesn't just benefit the small towns along the trails. People coming to Missouri to bike on the Katy Trail and Rock Island Trail buy gas, eat in our restaurants, and stay in motels and B & Bs. This helps Missouri, not just the towns along our bike trails. I spoke to a couple last weekend that biked from one end of the Katy Trail to the other, and then got on the Rock Island Trail. They told me about the businesses popping up along the Rock Island Trail, and how the entrepreneurship is so impressive, people in small rural communities opening new businesses to provide services to people biking on the Rock Island Trail, and to support themselves, their families and communities. Please do not undo the progress that has been made. The people in these small towns and other communities in Missouri deserve the opportunities that the Rock Island Trail brings to them. They will also enjoy the health benefits of living near a safe bike trail in rural Missouri where they and their families can safely bicycle.

The trails have a proven positive fiscal impact everywhere they go, plus encouraging family friendly exercise makes economic sense on so many levels!

Yes please, more trails in the area!

I shure hope this happens.It would be a great addition to the rails to trails in Missouri. I have been on part of the katy trail and I enjoyed it very much. I would love to see it when it is done. Don't let the governer in the way.

This project means a lot to my small town of Eldon. We have been so excited. Not only would we have easy access to use the trail, we could use the extra revenue and jobs it could bring to our community. If the DNR can help make this happen we will be grateful.

This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The KATY trail is a success that has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. The iconic Rock Island line would add to that prominence. A trail like this is for biking and hiking for individuals, families, the able bodied and disabled. The trail would help citizens from across the state explore and appreciate rural Missouri. It would offer rural communities another way to diversify local economies.

Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like KATY and the Rock Island line. It offers diversity and destinations while being easy enough to travel so that it is open to all levels of users.

Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens. The Rock Island trail would add another valued part to our park heritage.

These comments are submitted on behalf of the Sierra Club, Missouri chapter. We have 9,500 members in the state of Missouri who are dedicated to exploring, enjoying and protecting our natural heritage.

We fully support DNR entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

submitted by [REDACTED]
Missouri Sierra Club

We hope you will fully support this endeavor. Working in Overland Park for many years, now retired, living in rural country southeast K.C. I've had the wonderful opportunity of enjoying the Katie Trail on numerous occasions and just recently the newly completed Rock Island Trail from Pleasant Hill to Windsor, biking with a group of ladies to Calhoun via the Katie Trail, spending the night at Cruses Caboose and biking back the same route the next day. It's a breath of fresh air, getting out in the beautiful country God created for us, biking through rural areas, small communities, farms and larger communities. Meeting friendly and wonderful people and supporting small businesses along the way stopping in for delightful home cooked meals, fresh rural water or just taking a break in one of the awesome parks. Biking is truly a stress reliever and a get away for family, friends or just one's self. It brings a kind of togetherness that cannot be gained or felt by attending a movie, playing golf or meeting friends for dinner and drinks at a nice restaurant. For those of us who have enjoyed minutes, hours, days, weeks or years biking, the feeling one experiences is unexplainable. All of us now older remember back when in our younger years having a bike and all the wonderful times we had. Young and old alike it's times we will never forget. Supporting the continued completion of the Rock Island Trail will bring enjoyment to so many whether they be bikers, joggers, walkers, or horseback riders. It will bring increased revenue to the many towns, small and larger communities as well. Statistics show there are more people today more concerned with staying healthy than ever before. What better way to help than to provide a longer biking, walking, riding and jogging route. Healthier America means less claims and less drain on the Health Insurance Companies and System. We hope you will give this important decision a great consideration. It's definitely a plus for Missouri . If you think not, research other states that have provided such a route. You will be amazed the benefits.

Thank you so much for providing this avenue for us to speak out in support of the full completion of the Rock Island Trail.

Rail to trail program has been exceptional for both the cities bordering the trails add well as the population of Americans who make use of this great system. We should take full use to continue to expand these trails through a gorgeous but often forgotten about section of Missouri.

Going forward with this project should be a no-brainer as far as boosting economies of the small communities this trail would go through. Bound to increase tourism dollars coming into the state.

I would love to have a longer trail to bike. Please continue the plan to create the trail!

As a cyclist who has ridden the entire Katy trail I support the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. I live in Sedalia and almost daily in the warmer months encounter people who are riding through and stopping to spend the night or just to take a break and buy a meal. The trail brings tourists and dollars to our state and our communities.

I am in favor of developing the Rock Island Railroad Trail from Windsor, MO, to Beaufort, MO. I feel it could bring economic development to the smaller towns along the trail. It would be quite an asset to the State of Missouri to have this loop completed. It could bring a lot of interest from people who use trails such as this.

I do encourage Gov. Greitens to support this plan.

I wholeheartedly support the project. I live 1/2 mile from the Katy Trail and use it almost daily. I have met people from other countries and other states along the trail. It provides an opportunity for economic development through tourism. The people who use the trail are quiet and conscientious.

I believe that rails to trails parks provide a great way to bring tourism to our state. I have personally visited other states for the sole purpose of cycling on such trails. Additionally these provide healthy family recreation opportunities and are a great way to enjoy the experience of our state.

As a new resident of Missouri one of the draws for me to move here was the Katy Trail and the planned Rock Island Trail.

Have traveled from Linn Creek to Clinton to ride the Katy and the Rock Island Spur.

So excited and can hardly wait to see the Trail completed where it passes through Eldon. 70 miles closer. Looking forward to enjoying the restaurants and other service providers that will benefit from users like myself

The first step is to accept the rail corridor and bank it for future use and development as a rail-trail.

The Rock Island trail would be an economic tourist boom for Missouri. My experience supporting tourism on the Katy Trail has brought me in touch with out of state an international cyclists that are drawn to our state to take advantage of the commerce and beauty of the state. They support the small

businesses from shuttles to the hospitality sector in addition to other economic growth sectors associated with tourism. The Katy Trail is a successful tourism draw and the RI trail would compliment the trail. The cycling community seeks these trails and visit those states that develop the trails thus driving economic recovery of the communities along the trail. Other venues will also be enriched by the influx of tourist revenues. The state would realize tax revenues that would benefit all in the state. It would be a miscalculation to let this opportunity slip sway. Cycling in this space is on the rise and it is an international sporting event drawn to our state.

I just finished riding the entire KATY trail for the second time on a ride sponsored by MO State Park. Almost all states of the US were represented and some were here from Canada. An additional trail in Missouri would bring even more tourists to our state.

Many Missourians have been riding the KATY since it's creation. It provides a safe place for us to ride, run and walk. When riding, I frequent as many businesses as I can to let them know we appreciate and value their existence. Missouri should take full advantage of the opportunity to develop the Rock Island Trail.

I absolutely support this initiative having seen and experienced the beauty and value of the Katy Trail. I'm aware of the "issues" expressed by opponents when the Katy was first proposed by all parties that now co-exist with the success and positive impact to towns and villages surrounding it.

I believe this would be a positive for the state and people of Missouri. Please consider giving it your support. Thank you.

You definitely need to go ahead with this project because around Versailles it would make cycling much safer for the dutch community. It also is a great way to get out in the open air and have a good time

As a resident of St. Charles, Mo and a member of the St. Charles Park Board I am 100% in favor of bike and pedestrian trails. Thanks to the Katy Trail our city and state has received tremendous influx of visitors from all over the world. The Katy Trail has a world-wide reputation and any additional paths that we can add will contribute to the financial tourism health of our state.

Sincerely,

██████████

I fully support the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. It would be a tremendous asset for the area. I would gladly donate my time to help the project succeed.

As a Kansan, I'm not certain if you are looking for my input... However, I can assure you that I WILL be happy to come spend my Kansas earned money in Missouri while biking the trail. I have already visited several times to enjoy the Katy Trail, and to create a "loop trail" would be awesome! I know of nowhere else where a "visitor" can drive to a location and bike a significant amount of miles, to return to the starting location. The creation of such a trail would be a huge score for Missouri and the midwest.

This would become a major asset to Missourians. When Ted Jones donated the initial money for the KATY Trail many were sceptical as to how much it would actually be used. It is now clear that this was a terrific investment for people to walk, run and bike.

Love the Rock Island trail project. We raised 13 kid cyclists on the Katy. Nothing better for safety and scenery and all ages. NO moterized ATVs. They tear up the trail and frighten cyclists. [REDACTED]

My thoughts boil down to this...any rail to trail conversion is a wise investment by the State of Missouri, and thereby good for the citizens of Missouri.

I would want it because I would like to use it since I live in a hilly area.

I suppose the trail

I support the Rock Island trail.

This is a great idea. Would love to have new options!

We were promised the Rock Island Trail was to become a reality. A dedication of the new Rock Island State Park was actually held for the trail from Windsor to the west. How can that be reversed now!?

I want the trail! It would have a great economic impact on all of the towns & communities through which it passes! It will create more revenue in the long-run than it costs! Btw, I own land next to the trail and I support its completion!

yes please...that is a brilliant idea

This is a boon for small towns along the Trail. I live outside Huntsdale and the Trail was the reason that the town is still there after the floods of '93 and '95. The same goes for Rocheport and many other towns along the river. Even towns not on the Trail like Columbia and Jefferson City receive an economic reward by connecting to the Trail.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail. I recently rode the Rock Island Spur and the Katy from Pleasant Hill to St Charles. It was a wonderful trip and made be proud of our state to have this opportunity. I am 73 and hope to ride again next year. Please give this strong consideration. Thank you

The Rock Island Trail Project is a wonderful idea. Towns that are along the section that has been completed from Windsor to Pleasant Hill have seen economic development including camping and housing for bikers as well as shops for mementos as well as bicycle repairs. Today, I literally spoke with someone on the Katy Trail who had hooked into that trail via this Rock Island spur. They talked about the businesses they had seen and the bed-and-breakfast and the campground they stayed at that was on the trail. Trails are not only great and welcomed recreation for Missouri residents but they are also a business stimulus which in turns leads to tax money going into the state coffers from those very businesses. Also, these businesses that would be developed in

the small towns will help pull people off the unemployment rolls.

Jobs and tax money, a win-win for the State of Missouri.

Side note: An interesting bonus from this project - I know that Owensville is excited as the trail will not only skirt along their park but also by the school giving their children a safe route to walk or bike to school (the school is nice but it's location along a major highway has been a safety issue).

Thank you for taking my comment.

I think the Rock Island Trail Project is a very good idea. All the little towns in its path will benefit and so many people will enjoy it.

The trail will be a great asset to the communities and to Missouri. This is a historic opportunity. Please support developing the trail.

The Rock Island Trail would create endless opportunities for families to enjoy outdoor recreation and exercercise in a safe and comfortable environment. It would also provide great tourism growth just as the KATY trail has encreased tourism. The opportunity of a loop and seeing more of Missuri on a Rail Trail is very excited for me, my family, and many of my friends!

As a landowner along the trail I am opposed to the trail thru my farm. The state has no budget to develop and maintain this huge expansion to their trail system. Our property borders the Osage River where the bridge crosses the Osage River at Henley. to improve this old bridge and maintain it in the future will cost millions of dollars our state can not afford. Since UE removed the vegetation and rails from the right away I have had ATV and UTV traffic coming thru my farm and up and down my private road. There is no way that DNR could police this type of activity this this very rural area if a trail was developed. A simple COST vs. Benefit study would show how irresponsible of a fiscal decision this trail expansion would be. Lets try and improve our highways and state employee benefits instead of wasting money on a project that benefits such a small percentage of Missouri residents.

I believe that the deal should be signed to get the land under our belt. The improvements can be done as funds become available.

[REDACTED]

I want the DNR to enter into this agreement. I believe it should be the same as the Katy Trail. Bike and pedestrian trails are a great way to get people out and active. It promotes business along the trail catering to an active live style. This is great opportunity to repurpose this land.

This would be a great addition to the Missouri parks. The KATY has been a huge success and adding the Rock Island trail would increase that benefit. The economic benefits to towns along the way would be a boon to their economy.

I am a lifelong bicyclist and recognize the importance of bicycling in maintaining a healthy body and mind. I feel that anything the community and government can do to facilitate

healthy outdoor exercise offers a significant return on investment. This includes lower healthcare costs as a result of healthy exercise and mental health as a result of socializing. In terms of the return on investment you only have to look at the economic impact of the communities along the Katy Trail to realize how much this can help rural Missourians.

I spend a lot of time and money traveling to other states to take advantage of their superior bicycle and pedestrian trails. I would certainly prefer to spend that money here in my home state.

We recently purchased a home in Innsbrook, MO. One of the great advantages of this move was proximity to the Katy Trail. I run the trail regularly. We're so eager to explore more of the trail that my husband and I went bicycle shopping. I love the fact that there are now connections to other trails, such as Hamburg and Busch Greenway, giving us so many loop options. Having grown up in the suburbs, I am fascinated by the view of rural America. I honestly had no idea how beautiful this state was when we moved to St. Louis many years ago. I'm proud to talk to my out-of-state friends and family about our amazing trail system. The addition of the Rock Island trail seems like a no-brainer to me. I've read that farmers have concerns about disruption to their operations. Huh? The railroad already cut through or abutted their property. I have never seen any trail users abusing the trail or disrespecting the posted boundaries. They don't even make much noise. We're out here to get some fresh air and commune with nature. Please approve the acquisition of this new trail.

I believe this would be a great resource for all ages and a signature destination for Missouri. I strongly urge you to complete your plans to develop this trail.

I just rode the Katy Trail from end to end last week and I absolutely loved it. Please, please, please proceed on this new trail and let's make MO the biking capital of America!! I live in Dixon, MO.

Completing a bike trail loop of this magnitude would be a boon for central Missouri as well as the entire state. It would be very good for the small town local economies. Please make this happen!

I support the State of Missouri and DNR entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement and I support the Rock Island Trail Project.

I think this sounds great! I've been getting into biking but most of the stuff I've heard about has been in Arkansas or the Katy trail. I would love more options, and for this to become a park destination. And not just for my personal enjoyment but I would be really proud to see Missouri viewed as a destination for biking. Imagine families planning active vacations cruising between historic Missouri towns, or people exploring our nature across the state by bike, seeing all we have to offer? I really hope this comes to fruition.

As long as the trail system it's funded legitimately and partners with the communities it will pass through I am in favor of the Agreement.

I support the Rock Island Trail. Missouri will build tourism by providing trails for cyclists. Businesses in communities along the trail will have more customers. We will be healthier by participating in outdoor activities such as cycling on the trail.

I hope you will prioritize funding for this project. The Katy Trail is already an incredible asset to Missouri's citizens, of all ages, and an economic benefit for the towns along the trail. The Rock Island Trail promises to have all the same advantages.

Please make it happen!

We have been anxiously awaiting progress on the Rock Island Trail. My husband rides the Katy Trail often; however, since we live in Morgan County, access to the Rock Island would be much handier. In addition, the new trail would provide everyone with new sites to see and new towns to explore. We feel the trail would be of great benefit to the many towns along the line and are hoping plans will continue and the trail will be available to all very soon.

I fully support the agreement between the DNR and the Rock Island Trail Project. The Rock Island Railroad corridor would provide a myriad of benefits to the state and its citizens, were it to be developed into a recreational trail; much like the Katy Trail has done, the proposed Rock Island Trail would boost the economies of the rural Missouri towns through which it passes, attract bicycling tourists to the state, and offer an avenue for Missourians to boost their physical and mental health.

I am an avid, frequent user of the Katy Trail. I ride and run the trail solo for exercise, invite visitors to the state as well as friends for quick weekend biking trips, and have even spent an entire vacation riding the trail from end to end. Every time I use the trail, I spend money in at least one town through which I ride. Were the Rock Island Trail to be developed, I would have increased vacation and day-trip destination options within my own state! Please ensure that this gem will be developed for our health, and our state's health!

Please finish the trail. Grietens needs to quit cutting everything. This will bring tons of people and revenue to the state.

Please accept the trail use agreement in order to develop the Rock Island Trail. Creation of the trail would be completely within the mission of Missouri State Parks and an investment for future Missourians. The benefits to our health, economy and tourism from creation of the trail would be a significant achievement and much appreciated by residents and visitors.

I strongly support the conversion of the former Rock Island Railroad bed from Windsor to Beaufort as a Rails to Trails project. I feel it that will be enjoyed by many Missouri hiking and biking residents, and will provide a substantial boost to tourism in the area as well.

To put my money where my mouth is, I have earmarked in excess of \$100,000 in my will for support of this project. I am

confident that others will do so as well, once word gets out that the money is needed.

I am concerned that the existence of this survey is not well known--I found out about it by accident-- so I fear that you may not get a good response rate. I ask the DNR and Governor Greitens to please support this effort.

I believe the DNR should enter into the interim trail use agreement and complete the development of this trail for several reasons. The completed trail will give an economic boost to an area that has been going down hill economically for several decades. There is nothing else on the horizon that offers such hope as the trail to turn things around. Secondly, the trail will provide the citizens of Missouri and visitors an great opportunity for recreation. Lastly, if the agreement is not entered into and the railroad right of way gets fragmented, the ability to construct this trail will be lost forever. Future Missouri citizens will condemn the short-sightedness of the current generation.

I would really like to see this also allow horses to make this the longest trail in Missouri for equestrian riders.

Thank you
[REDACTED]

It would seem to be extremely short-sighted of "the powers that be" not to lock this option up for future development and the enjoyment and economic benefit of Missourians. We are relatively new to using the Katy Trail, but have already noted its heavy use in our area (Sedalia) and seen the economic impact locally. There are a lot of "thru-riders" that would certainly love the loop possibilities as well as locals wanting a change in scenery now and then while walking or riding. Not to mention the health benefits for walkers and riders alike. (And most of us could do a little bit better in that area, couldn't we?)

We say "Do it!"

Governor Greitens, if you want my support, please support this project.

In favor of this great trail.

This is an absolute MUST for the state of Missouri. Trail systems become destinations for travel to many tourists and are great benefits to the many Missourians near them. Rails to Trails are excellent use of properties and can be some of the most scenic trails. Please allow the transfer of these lands.

While on vacation in New Mexico, I met a man from Los Angeles who was riding his bicycle from Albuquerque to Taos, NM. Last summer, this man travelled from Los Angeles to Kansas City and then to Clinton, Missouri. The purpose his travels was to bicycle the entire length of the Katy Trail from Clinton to St. Charles, which he did. He was greatly impressed by this one-of-a-kind state park and plans to return. The Katy Trail is a national draw and the money spent by tourists such as this gentleman benefits towns, businesses, and families along the length of the trail. There is good reason to suspect that the Rock Island Trail would do the same. I strongly believe that the State of Missouri should take advantage of the opportunity to develop and manage the Rock Island rail

corridor from Windsor to Beaufort. The benefits to the State of Missouri and the businesses and communities along its route will far outweigh the costs of developing and maintaining the trail. Please do not hesitate to take advantage of this great opportunity.

Completing this trail would be a great addition to Missouri's Rails to Trails systems. They provide wonderful recreation opportunities for families, tourism, and others that can be taken advantage of in small sections or in marathon mode. Another reason to come to Missouri!

Please continue with the development of the Rock Island Trail. I have personally ridden the Katy as well as numerous rails-to-trails around the country. Many fellow cyclist describe how much they have enjoyed the Katy Trail--cyclists outside of Missouri. The Rock Island will only add to further interest among tourists both local, national and international.

Dear Sirs,
As a business owner in a small town I was so exciting to hear that the Rock Island would give access bikers.

The prospect of more business and the viability of our town was good news to hear. The Rock Island project is very important for the many small towns in MO (ours is 1,200 people) to continue to survive.

Please continue to give support to this project and in turn keep our small, rural Missouri towns enjoyable places for visitors to come. Bikers are certainly welcomed.

I support the development of the rock island trail as i believe it will have significant economic impacts along its path.

The RIT trail was a go, and its hard to wait for it to get done. This is a wonderful opportunity for Missouri's parks and trail system. Is there any other state were you can bike ride across the whole state, without getting on any roads. More and more people are getting into cycling, and without these trail systems more and more people will be on the roads. The town were I live is not road friendly for bicycles. It would be so nice for Missouri to have this wonderful Trail connecting to the Katy. If the Governor stops it now he will not be getting my vote.

The Rock Island trail project will be invaluable to Missouri by creating a trail that basically runs border to border. Many other states, Iowa in particular, have similar trails and profit greatly from them through sponsored rides that bring visitors to the small towns along the trail that otherwise never would have visited. Recreational trails have grown in popularity immensely over the last decade, and access to trails is now an important factor considered in buying a home. This trail will add to the appeal of Missouri and make a statement that will benefit the state for countless future decades as recreational trail use and overall promotion of wellbeing becomes increasingly popular.

I live in Oklahoma. My wife and I have visited the KATY trail 4 times over the last 10 years. We have spent thousands of dollars on lodging, food, gas, etc. on those trips. I was really looking forward to a complete loop across Missouri. Now I hear that the governor is reconsidering the development of the Rock Island trail that I thought was a done deal. That is

beyond short sighted. If Missouri gives up the Rock Island Trail I won't spend another penny going to Missouri for a cycling vacation. I'll spend my dollars in Arkansas or Colorado where they appreciate and cater to out of state cyclists.

I think the Rock Island Trail Project is a great idea. I just recently discovered the Katy Trail and enjoy it immensely, and I would love to have another great recreational trail to use. Missouri's State Parks system is one of its crown jewels, and this would be yet another great attraction for a great state.

Please develop the Rock Island Trail. More trails, and longer trails, are needed for the part of Missouri that the trail will cover, especially Central Missouri. The KATY Trail is nice, but it is flat, and so is most of the surrounding landscape. Lake of the Ozarks SP has one long trail, but it is near an airport, and I don't feel safe hiking it and haven't been back because I saw a condom wrapper on the ground along the trail the last time I used it. The terrain and surroundings of the Rock Island Trail will be interesting and provide a good option for many people that is closer than the Ozark Trail.

There should not be any conflict between trail users and existing agricultural uses. There are sections of the KATY Trail that pass fields of row crops, a sod farm, etc., and landowners even dove hunt and deer hunt in the fields and woods near the KATY Trail north of Jefferson City, so the Rock Island Trail should not interfere with existing land uses. Developing the Rock Island Trail will also benefit the economies of local communities near and along the Trail. Trail users, at a minimum, will purchase items from gas stations, grocery stores, and restaurants. The Trail will also bring more people to events and festivals held by towns, community organizations, and churches, because visitors will be able to use the Trail and also enjoy events happening nearby that they might not otherwise attend. It will also provide more opportunities for free, outdoor recreation for people who live in communities and countryside near the trail, and provide a trail for school cross country teams to use and safely practice on. The Rock Island Trail will also benefit the welfare of Missouri citizens and their health and help combat public health epidemics like obesity and heart disease.

It sounds to me like a wonderful thing for Missouri. Providing more tourism and rejuvenating some of our smaller towns. My father worked for the Rock Island Railroad over 20 years while I was growing up. He was the depot agent in Windsor, Stover and Versailles. He passed away 3 years ago, but I know he would have loved to see this and to know his beloved Rock Island route was being utilized in this way. My husband and I live in Sedalia near the Katy Trail and have used the trail for biking, walking and running. An additional trail in Missouri seems like a no-brainer which should be approved of sooner rather than later.

I support the development of the Rock Island Trail. The addition of RIT to the Katy trail will make Missouri a world-class cycling destination.

Trail should provide some local tourism for the community allowing our rural areas surrounding the trail to flourish.

I am a strong supporter of the rock Island Trail Project - I live in unincorporated Franklin county, near Beaufort (I have a Beaufort mailing address). Many in the area are very excited about the trail and the economic benefits it will bring to our area. I have a small farm and have many people come out for visits, the trail will bring even more 'tourists' to the area that will support the many local farms and businesses that are struggling to make ends meet.

Please research and understand the financial benefits the trail brings to the communities near them ~ and of course, the benefit to those enjoying the trail system.

For a strong future for economic growth and tourism, please approve and fund this trail system - they have proved that they are GOOD for the local economies!!!!

A recreational trail on the Rock Island here would be great!

I am in total agreement of the Rock Island Trail Project for many reasons. First, the example of the Katy Trail has proven that rails to trails bring significant economic development to the areas surrounding the trail and any fears people had about rails to trails have never played out. I have biked the Katy Trail and have friends who own property that border the Katy Trail. I live in the area that will be affected by the Rock Island Trail Project and the boom to all the small towns along the Rock Island Trail will be significant. After the railroad folded the towns saw degeneration. We now have an opportunity to make a positive difference for so many communities and people in Missouri with the completion of the Rock Island Trail. Missouri is a beautiful state with much to offer its residents and visitors. We need to continue to be the leaders in parks and outdoor recreation and economic development. Outdoor tourism brings jobs. The cost benefit analysis is on the side of the benefits of the Rock Island Trail. I urge the Greiten administration to continue developing the Rock Island Trail.

The community of Cole Camp has been eagerly awaiting the development of the Rock Island Trail which will go through about 1 mile north of Cole Camp. Cole Camp Community Betterment Assoc. and the Cole Camp Chamber of Commerce endorse the project and are eager to have added visitors to the community. Many bicycle enthusiasts as well as walkers have been pressing to have these amenities available for recreation and health. The trail spur committee has been meeting for many months to make sure there is optimum access to the trail when it is completed. The economic benefits to the community cannot be overstated. We are heavily reliant on tourism to keep the local economy vibrant. The native citizens have also been pressing for more fitness opportunities. Recreational opportunities enhance property values for communities where they are present. This would be a boon for the whole state of Missouri.

Missouri is the trails state. Our investment into our trail system has returns of at least 15 to 1. That means for every one dollar invested by the state, the economic return is 15 dollars. The trail will travel through many small towns. This will bring significant revenue and more economic development to those and neighboring and adjacent towns close to the trail. This is a win win opportunity for the state of

Missouri! Our state can use the tax revenue that this project will generate.

The trail should also be multi-use through-out all 144 miles. That means, walking, hiking, bicycling, running and equestrians, along with roller blades and other future recreational transportation. (Except for motorized vehicles) This will bring many additional tourists to the state. There are also many grant opportunities to help fund development, and maintenance of this trail.

Thank you for your consideration.

I strongly favor the recreational trail. Please permit this wholesome, environmentally sound, noise reducing, family-friendly, heart healthy project to proceed. It's worth the investment.

Absolutely should convert the rail line to a bike trail!! We are coming to Missouri just to ride the Katy Trail during the solar eclipse on August 21st, 2017!

We are members of three bike clubs, and we ride new trails all the time...what an awesome new opportunity for your state tourism department!

Our Ozark Trail system has exploded our community, grown multiple bike stores, we've added shops, pubs, restaurants, hosted soo many new events, criterium races, and everyone is in such better shape riding to work, we're bonding riding as families, and we're having fun!

I support the Missouri Department of Natural Resources accepting the next 144.3 miles of the Rock Island Railroad corridor for development as a rail trail.

Please consider completing the trail into Lee's Summit. People in KC need access to this trail and since Missouri is one of the unhealthiest states in the nation, anything to make it easier to exercise should be supported. Thank you for considering this.

I hope that the state will accept the donation of the crucial section of the Rock Island Line corridor to allow the development of the full trail that will bring economic activity to small towns along the route. Also, with the Katy Trail connection, it will create a large loop trail of national significance and reputation.

I strongly support this project. Although there is expense upfront, this is a great opportunity to promote our state and every small town on the route. I regularly ride on the Katy trail and am able to see first hand how it has impacted growth and tourism across the state. Please support this project

I am a cyclist in Southwest Missouri. I ride weekly or more with a number of other cyclists in Springfield and Aurora. Many of them have ridden on the Katy Trail more than once and have enjoyed it very much. I think the Rock Island Trail would be a wonderful addition to Missouri State Properties. It does help the little towns along the way that might have been bypassed by the interstate and are needing some rejuvenation too. I hope you all do except the Rock Island Trail.

We NEED this trail!!! Towns along the way will benefit...as they did with the Katy.

I think this trail project is a great idea!

I would love to have it completed.

I live closer to the communities of the rock island trail.

I also like the fact of making a loop and ending where I started.

This is an outstanding idea that deserves the governor's support. It's a win-win for everyone! It will provide access to many Missouri citizens (and our tourists) to get more exercise without having to spend any money. It's an excellent addition to the Rails to Trails program in Missouri, which already draws tourism dollars and benefits to local businesses. It will help small communities in particular, which need ways to energize their local economies. The RITP could help local businesses whose target markets could be trail users. It would be another draw to the Lake of the Ozarks area. Win-win!

To not take advantage of this opportunity would be foolish.

The Rock Island Trail project must progress. I look forward to a long bike ride across our beautiful state.

My wife and I support the state of Missouri obtaining this old rail property for the future development of trails. We use the Katy Trail almost daily now that we live in Sedalia and before that, when we lived in Rolla, we traveled to enjoy the Katy often.

These trails are right for Missouri; for us as residents, for tourism and a worthy project for our state government to support.

Please take advantage of this gift. I love the Katy Trail and the Rock Island Trail will make riding and camping in Missouri even better.

The Katy Trail is another rails-to-trails project that has brought back to life many of the small towns along the trails. People come from all over the US to ride the Katy Trail. The Rock Island Trail will connect to the Katy making this an even more desirable riding destination. Riders along the trail will be spending money in these towns - hotels, bed and breakfasts, restaurants, convenience stores will all profit as well as the tax revenue to those towns.

Let's add it to the Katy Trail. Missouri needs more outdoor activities.

Please make Missouri an even better state with the addition of the Rock Island Trail!! Not only is this addition great for the health and activity of Missourians but brings in additional tourist dollars from out of state visitors!!

I am a resident of Carl Junction, Missouri, and I certainly support the state of Missouri assuming the Rock Island Trail. I use our local trails periodically, and even though I've never been to the Katy Trail, I know that these kinds of projects pay off not just in money, but in the quality of life for many in our state for years and even generations to come. Accepting this trail would secure future benefits for decades or even hundreds of years.

This is a brilliant project that would do wonders for Missouri and the communities within. Having spent significant time in Northwest Arkansas biking their extensive trails connecting downtown squares and art museums, I understand personally the draw of a network of bike trails for both exercise and tourism purposes. The shift in our culture towards health and wellness as a whole aligns perfectly with this opportunity. I strongly support this endeavor.

I walk my dog and exercise on the KATY trail and support conversion of the former Rock Island Railroad corridor into a 144.3 mile long recreational trail from Windsor, MO, to Beaufort, MO.

This would enhance the MO trail network and bring tourist dollars and tax revenue to Missouri

Please build this economic booster for the state! As someone who has biked the entirety of the Katy Trail 6 times, spent lots of time at local business, and met countless individuals from across the country and the globe, I know firsthand how valuable a second trail could be to the state. The longer the trail the farther people will travel to see it!

I strongly support the development of the former Rock Island Railroad corridor for public use as a hiking and biking trail. We use the Katy Trail on a regular basis, and look forward to being able to make a round-trip, without having to back-track, around our beautiful state. The opportunity to get out and see so much of the countryside doesn't present itself too often, and I feel we should take advantage of this chance.

Please develop this as the KATY trail connector to the Kansas City area. Developing this trail segment as a shared use facility will grow the economy in that area, especially when rail trails are becoming the thing right now across the entire U.S. Don't let Missouri fall behind everyone else!

I am in full support of the continuing development of the Rock Island Trail. The KT trail has provided numerous opportunities that otherwise would not have existed, in addition bringing in millions of dollars in tourism. The Rock Island trail will add to this boon for the state of Missouri.

Wonderful tourism opportunity for a lot of forgotten towns. I hope the state and residents throughout the state. This is a very cool project

This project will stimulate economic development and create healthy, safe communities.

I am in favor of The Department of Natural Resources entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad. I have been paying taxes in Missouri for over 40 years and I think development of this project will be a wise use of taxpayer funds.

Projects, such as the Rock Island Trail, will enhance quality of life and appeal especially to the younger, educated individuals we are trying to retain in Missouri. If Missouri declines to make these type of investments we will lose these type of employees/taxpayers to other states that are willing to make these investments.

I and my sons have spent many hours on the Katy Trail and have enjoyed every minute. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input on this issue.

I think a person thinks this could not benefit our communities should go visit one along the very popular Katy Trail. The rails to trails projects has revived countless towns and contributed to jobs and a healthier life style. I'm sure not every aspect of the project is positive because there's people land at risk and I understand that and I can't imagine it's going to outweigh the positives. I truly feel that the Rock Island Trail is only going to improve our state and attract people from all over our country as does the Katy and create opportunities for people who otherwise would have a chance to be apart of something great. Look at all the other rails to trails that's been built because of the success of the Katy Trail in our own back yard. Please don't ruin a good thing

As a citizen who was born and raised in Missouri and has spent some time on the Katy Trail, I strongly support the plan for Missouri DNR to accept the Rock Island right of way for future trail use. Missouri's parks including the Katy are vital state and national resources that enhance our pursuit of happiness - and pays dividends in tourism, health and responsible land use for a corridor that would otherwise be difficult to return to its original state.

In light of the changes our new administration is making. It is of the utmost urgency we enter into these opportunities for our small towns.

What a wonderful addition of trails for Missouri! With the past thru towns benefitting from the sale of food, gas, souvenirs, etc., it is nice to see new businesses being planned to open with the opening of this trail. Just yesterday I noticed in Owensville the former J&L2 building had a sign referring to the Rock Island Trail Project. The success of the Katy Trail has shown what these trails can do for the communities & people that live near them. With the addition of another cross state trail gives closer access for more Missourians and visitors to not only exercise, but also to support the local Missouri businesses.

I contributed money towards making this trail a reality. I will continue to support it and fully expect the present administration and legislatures of Missouri to follow through with accepting the trail into the state parks system. Money does not have to be allotted immediately for development. Communities can assume responsibility for the trail sections through their borders. Private funds and grants can be found for most of the rural improvement needed to include the safety infrastructure to bridges. I would even support a small fee for day, multi-day or annual use permits on both the Rock Island Line Trail and the KATY that can be dedicated to their maintenance.

I have visited every community along the Rock Island Line Trail and can see the potential for tourism and entrepreneurial business opportunities the trail will provide. The Katy is already a national treasure. With the addition of the RILT and connectors to the KATY, Missouri will become the Bicycle Vacation destination and draw more national and global visitors providing an economic boon to our state.

We own land and operate several farming operations along the proposed Rock Island Trail Project and are not in favor of the Trail Use Agreement. We feel that the land should revert back to the original property it came off of and at the time it was given it was to advance growth and prosperity for the communities along the trail. The trail would not benefit our community at all and would cause us great aggravation. It has not opened up yet and have been faced with trespassers already. It would cause us great hardship and expense to ensure that our property rights are not going to be violated by individuals using the trail. Please understand our part of the equation, We value our privacy and have worked hard to build our farming operation and do not want to fight outsiders trying to abuse our right.

Please open this trail.

Being from a small town which the Rock Island Line passes through, I believe this is an opportunity to be part of something bigger than just a trail. To be able to connect our community with so many others like it across this state can only lead to greater economic development and opportunities for existing and newly formed businesses. . . Moreover, what a great mode of transportation throughout our town and possibly between communities. Outdoors and exercise..... 2 things definitely on the decline that should be an everyday occurrence, especially for our youth.

Great idea to change into a walking trail. So many people so excited about it. Would benefit so many people

Please keep this trail project going! We have travelled to Missouri to ride the KATY Trail many times, and are anxiously waiting the opportunity to do so again-looping back via the Rock Island Trail. We would love to spend our Kentucky earned income on another vacation in Missouri! Lead the way, Missouri- Show-me!

Let's get the rest of the trail ready and accessible! I am ready to take a credit card bicycle tour on the full loop!

Love this idea and am excited to use the Rock Island Trail with my family.

We would love to have this trail. It would help our local economy. Wonderful project for our area.

The addition of these trails would be a wonderful asset to the people of the state of Missouri. They will provide additional revenue in the form of gasoline taxes and food sales. These trails will help to make Missouri a destination for bicycle riding, hiking, horseback riders, and nature lovers. They will encourage people to get out side and enjoy the day. They will also help buy providing the opportunity for small businesses along its route.

I have no knowledge of the political or financial implications of this trail but I do wish that DNR would consider the acceptance of this donation. I love the Katy and have ridden it several times completely and many more in parts. The RIT would be a great asset for our State.

Yes, please continue Trail development in Missouri to help our state generate much needed income. We can only cut so much folks!

Perhaps find a way to show that the Katy Trails generates more income than the state expenses on upkeep, etc. and the MoRit is expected to follow suit. A simple infographic that is transparent with costs and projected revenues may a go a long way with the haters.

We love the Katy trail and would like to see the Rock Island developed in a similar manner. It would bring people into the communities along the trail and provide opportunities for businesses. Please allow the DNR to enter into this agreement.

The Department of Natural Resources SHOULD see this as a golden opportunity and get involved in this project. The Katy Trail is a valuable park for the healthy and entertainment of Missourians and an economic plus for Missouri towns. With the addition of the Rock Island Trail the system will draw more people, including more out-of-state people, and be good for a wider variety of Missouri businesses.

Yes, yes, yes!

Great win for the state.

all for it, great for small towns along the proposed trail! The entire United States is trending toward cycling on rail trails and outdoor recreation. Hope the current Governor is not short sighted on this and accepts the Ameren offer.

I use the Katy Trail each year along with friends. Our bike shop is planning an overnight bike ride for customers along the trail. Adding the Rock Island trail would allow cyclists and the towns along the corridor the benefit of new experiences in Missouri. I think would grow revenue for these small towns and allow them to experience economic growth similar to the experience for other towns along the Katy Trail. It's a win/win situation for the Show Me State.

Dear DNR,

I completely support the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. This will be another great asset for the state its citizens, and its rural communities. I saw first hand the impact of the first phase in Leeton this week. Three trail users stopped at the local C-Store for a lunch break. Spending money and more importantly sharing TIME and CONVERSATION with local patrons. Talk about pulling people together....IT was awesome to see and experience!

It is an investment that all can enjoy now and in the future. The "RIT" is not a, "Bridge to Nowhere," project by a long shot. I have enjoyed the accommodations and services of several small towns along the RIT already. It is great to visit these towns that I would normally skip, being they are not on a major Missouri hwy. The trail will keep these towns viable and on the map. The RIT will certainly draw in people from all over that like to hike and bike, former rail line corridors. This is just another gem that Missouri can put in its tourism crown. This is a cheap investment in the long run, the maintenance looks to be light, the DNR can contract out locals

in the area to clear a limb or two and give trail condition feedback. It is a win/win proposition. GO FOR IT!

This is an excellent idea and will bring valuable economic stimulus to these small towns. As well it will bring people in from all over to use the trail. I do feel it should be a multi use trail.

As an avid cyclist in mid-Missouri and a frequent user of the trail system I want to voice my support for this new project. The trail system in Missouri is an amazing feature and brings people from all over to cycle this trail system. I support this addition to the Katy Trail.

I think the more trails and recreational opportunities we can provide in Missouri will only increase tourism, provide educational opportunities for kids and be a general benefit to all citizens.

The Rock Island Trail will be an enormous boon for the areas it passes through. The Katy Trail is already an economic success, and to add the RIT would only increase the attraction. Ameren is willing to give the land back to the people. For the state to reject their offer makes absolutely no sense.

I believe adding this trail through Missouri will bring more economic growth and revenue that is much needed into the State of Missouri.

I support the expansion of Missouri's rails to trail system.

We need to support this project. It will bring tourism and commerce to the small towns that the trail will run through. As well as bring to the entire state.

This should be a no brainer. The Katy Trail has provided an economic boost for communities along its path. The Rock Island Trail will do the same. Just ask the communities along the trails. They are clamoring for the trail to be completed. I am looking forward to exploring the Rock Island Trail.

I believe developing the Rock Island Trail to its full potential is a must for the state of Missouri. Whether or not to complete the Rock Island Trail shouldn't be a question. It is a must, for many reasons, all of which are positive. For starters, Missouri already has a shining precedent: the Katy Trail State Park. The Katy Trail already sees use from over 400,000 recreational users per year and attracts many visitors from out of state and even from around the globe. It is a destination. Completing the Rock Island Trail will only add to the appeal and bring in more cycling enthusiasts. And, when the Rock Island is completed, it will create an impressive 450-mile loop. What other states can claim such a fantastic system of trails? And, with Missouri being named the "Best Trails State" by American Trails, isn't that an accolade and recognition we should strive to maintain?

Providing more recreational opportunities for more Missourians should be a must. Numerous studies have shown the benefits of not only physical activity for improved physical, mental, emotional and psychological health, but also that spending time in nature also has an immense positive impact, too. These are things we as a state should be

promoting and capitalizing on. A state can only be as healthy and as vibrant and its citizens.

And, speaking of health and vibrancy, the Katy Trail has done wonders to revitalize the communities and towns that it passes through. Once booming railroad towns that fell into a state of stagnation or worse, decay, have been reborn with the increase in tourism as a direct result from the Katy Trail. Bed and Breakfasts, hotels, restaurants, bike depots and outfitters, and many other businesses have been flourishing because of the Katy Trail. In a recent feature article on the Katy Trail in the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy magazine titled "Pathway to Prosperity,"

(http://magazine.railstotrails.org/resources/magflipbooks/2016_fall/index.html?_ga=2.176022370.114498422.1499272648-1410902272.1472063260), the author highlights the vast impact the Katy has had on Missouri and its communities. The story states that the Katy Trail has had a direct economic impact of 18.5 million dollars ANNUALLY, which, in my estimation, is no small feat. It should only stand to reason that, in time, the Rock Island would have a similar economic impact. Furthermore, the towns and cities that would be directly affected by the Rock Island are facing the same issues that the towns along the Katy faced before the Katy was opened. It's a win-win for all involved. Missouri wins because it gets to put another feather in its cap - one that says we unquestionably have the longest developed rails-to-trails program in the US; it improves the health of its citizens; it creates businesses, jobs and money; it revitalizes communities that desperately need a breath of new life.

The Rock Island Trail is a must. I hope that all involved in the decision-making process see it as such. It would be a shame to let such a wonderful opportunity slip away.

Do it. Positive outweighs the negative

I think it would help grow economy in small towns along the route. Many of those towns could really use the tourism & commerce.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail project. Growing up in Jefferson City and living in St. Louis, I have spent countless hours riding my bike on the Katy Trail. It is one of Missouri's greatest assets, and has brought economy and life back into the small towns along the Missouri River. The Rock Island Trail would be able to build on the success of the Katy to create one of the largest continuous recreational trails in the world, and would draw cyclists from around the world to the trail. This would greatly impact the local towns' economies as well as boosting the state's overall tourism and economy. Missouri has some of the best state parks in the country, and this would further improve them.

This is a no-brainer investment. Please don't stop this.

As a business owner in Kansas City in a high-tech industry, I strongly support the Rock Island Trail. We desperately need such recreational facilities to attract talent to our state. The KATY trail is one of the best things we've ever done. Let's keep the momentum going.

This sounds like what Missouri needs to develop growth in small towns across Missouri and bring more tourism to our

state. Instead of cutting the budget on everything consider completing this project to bring More money into our state!

Thanks, [REDACTED]

Hey ! Don't jack this trail up!

On behalf of Great Rivers Greenway, I want to express my support for the Rock Island Trail Project. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I know firsthand about the challenges and impact that come from developing trails. Not only do trails improve health, offer transportation options and connect people together, but the economic impact is undeniable. From trail-oriented development to increased tourism, the KATY Trail State Park has shown the 18:1 return-on-investment to the state's economy. We do not need to look outside of Missouri to find excellent examples of economic prosperity, especially for rural communities, because of a new trail.

Great Rivers Greenway is excited to develop connections beyond our district of St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County. Connecting to the Missouri Rock Island Trail will be an exciting chance to increase traffic to and from our region. The Missouri Rock Island Trail will leverage our state's tourism success to date, making exploring the great state of Missouri a viable, accessible and appealing option to tourists all over the world.

I encourage the State of Missouri to take this opportunity to accept this planned donation. This opportunity should not be missed, as the biggest challenge to any trail development is land acquisition. This is a unique chance to jump through the most difficult and expensive hurdle in the process. Especially given the support, ownership and momentum with the communities along the proposed route, obtaining the land is an important step right now.

We look forward to continuing to collaborate to strengthen our communities and our state, connecting more miles to attract and retain residents and tourists alike. Respectfully, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Great Rivers Greenway

Equine parking and trail usage would be nice.

I Support the Rock Island Trail across Missouri. I travel to Missouri to ride these rail to trail systems as Missouri has the best

Gov. Greitens, if you would like my support, you must support the Rock Island Trail.

Everybody wants this Scenic Trail.Approve/Build it.

The use of this trail would be a tremendous asset to the State. Please see this as a vote of my support.

Please support the Rock Island Trail Project. I have been looking forward to this connection to the Katy Trail since it was announced as a possibility, and I know that I am not alone. It will be a continuing boon to the small bike shops in every town and city around the trail. Not to mention the small businesses in all the trail stop along the way. While the Katy Trail has placed the Missouri on the national stage for bicycling, the Rock Island expansion will firmly set us on the global stage. It will bring in cyclists from all over the world to

be able to ride our trail system. and we will be the fortunate ones to have a wold class trail system right in our backyards. Even if the funds are not available for development at this time the acquisition presented right now is a once in history opportunity that musst not be allowed to escape us. Thank you.

I believe this is an excellent project, both for the state parks system and for the towns along the route. The local, non-financial, benefits (for example: a safe trail path to the Owensville school campus from town) are only just beginning to be recognized. As the Katy Trail has shown, the benefits far outweigh the negatives. Let's get it going!!!!

Great Project! What a great way to see the state.

Please support the Rock Island Trail Project. As one who has ridden the Katy Trail, west to east, I am aware how important rails to trails projects are and how valuable they are to the state's economy.

I would love to see this turn into a trail that I can take my kids on.

Having ridden the Katy Trail multiple times the Rock Island trail would make for an amazing edition to Missouri's trail system. Our Scout troop goes at least annually

This is a much needed trail expansion for both the local economy and so more individuals have access to trails for walking and biking. My family considers ourselves lucky because we only have to drive 20 miles to access safe walking trails but a trail in our own community would be more convenient and would benefit many more Missouri residents.

I ride the Katy Trail regularly with my husband, a disabled veteran. We often meet people from other states and even other countries whi come here just to ride our trail. I believe accepting the donation of the Rock Island line to turn into another trail is a once in a lifetime opportunity that will only increase tourism and more than pay for itself. It will create jobs and has the likely potential to save and revive small Missouri towns and businesses.

What a great idea! Having a recreational trail that stretches across the state of Missouri is fantastic! I grew up in Cole Camp, MO--now live in the San Francisco Bay Area. Any time a state comes up with ways to get people out and exercising is something that should be supported. Too many of us sit behind a desk way too much!! I hope that the citizens of Missouri will support this!

The Katy Trail has had a great multiplier effect on the money invested in it initially and has brought visitors from within and outside the state. Expanding that network would bring great benefits to new areas in Missouri.

I think it is a good idea to finish the trail. Being able to cross the state on my bike would be awesome. Missouri is a beautiful state and to enjoy on a bike would enhance tourism.

The Katy Trail is a HUGE asset to this state and with the addition of the Rock Island Trail we can have something very special to be proud of. It is important that we have this trail. We can make this a positive go to place for all. Missouri could use some positive press as well. This would help.

Please support the Rock Island trail! I'm a young professional in Kansas City and look forward to taking advantage of the extended trail. This is a wise, economical, environmentally friendly form of development that shows Missouri is looking to the future.

Please add this route to the other existing bike/ hike trails. I and many more like me from all states would make this a destination.

It would increase tourism substantially. Many people are utilizing the rails to trails conversions all over the country. Missouri has some of the best with potential more and better trails.

Many local businesses, B&Bs, hotels, and state parks would see higher attendance = profits = tax revenue.

I think this is a wonderful idea as an active exerciser and as a former resident of Gerald which would be revitalized by the project.

I strongly urge DNR to proceed with development of the Rock Island Trail Project. I am a resident of Des Peres, MO, 63131, and have been a frequent user of the Katy Trail almost since it opened.

The Rock Island Trail will be a valuable recreational option for Missouri residents. This will benefit the state by bringing Missouri residents--and people from across the Midwest--to communities along the trail. The Katy Trail has brought vigorous tourism activity to such communities as Boonville, Rocheport, Hermann, Augusta and Defiance, spawning bed and breakfasts, wineries and various shops serving cyclists and tourists. I have seen how these tourism sites have grown over the years. Eldon in particular, with its location on heavily traveled U.S. 54 on the way to Lake of the Ozarks, is strategically placed to become the next Boonville/Rocheport for the Rock Island Trail.

The Rock Island will augment Missouri's reputation for outstanding parks and recreation sites that attract visitors from all over. This is not a luxury or excess--it is one area where Missouri can stand out from all the states competing for tourism dollars. It will help bring more tourists to Missouri, and engage our residents to spend more tourism dollars here. Since we already have the Katy, why do we need the Rock Island? The setting of the Rock Island Trail will provide a strong complement to the Katy Trail. While the Katy runs along the Missouri River and adjacent to wide-open flood-plain agricultural areas, from what I have seen of the Rock Island plan, it runs through entirely different, mostly wooded, hilly areas. The terrain reminds me of the Tunnel Hill Trail in southern Illinois, a very attractive, scenic destination where the trail cuts through hills. Rock Island will offer a much different scenic experience than the Katy.

Finally, should Missouri choose to forfeit this asset and transfer the property to nearby individual landowners, we would forever lose what could be a beautiful addition to Missouri's outdoors mix. The towns along the trail would miss

out on the economic benefits now enjoyed in Boonville, Rocheport, Hermann, Augusta and others. Please do not turn down this opportunity.

Again, for the sake of our future in Missouri, I urge Missouri and the DNR to proceed with developing the Rock Island Trail.

I would be extremely disappointed with those sitting in Jefferson City for passing on this opportunity. Think about all of the small towns that will have an economic impact due to the trail. The Katy Trail has done amazing things for the communities along the trail, as well as bring visitors from all over the world to Missouri. I'm tired of those in Jefferson City doing more for their own interests than what the people are wanting done. Missouri citizens have LONG been supporters of State Parks and it's time our ELECTED officials make decisions based on what Missourians are wanting!

This only makes sense. Allow development, and work toward getting actual developers. The land is a gift. Bikers from all over the world would come, small towns would flourish, increase MO travel & commerce.

Why not?

Adding the Rock Island Trail to the Missouri trail system would increase the accessibility for pedestrians and bicyclist. Statistics I've seen, show that improving places for people to walk and especially ride bicycles, brings in more revenue to those places. This would greatly improve tourism in all areas that connect to the new trails. I have friends who bicycle from KC to Jefferson City and back. As trails improve, many more people would be riding through the entire state to see and use our trails system.

My family and I love riding and running the Katy trail. An addition trail would be wonderful! Gets the family out of the house and is always fun!

I'm an a joining land owner . cdl holder that has traveled a large number of mo. roads that are in bad need of repair .causing me back problems .not to say how un safe they are. the rock island trail project is an invasion of privacy and liability concerns to a joining land owners. our tax dollars need to be spent to benefit all mo. people . roads/schools/ needy/ seniors / not 1 or 2 percent of pop. that wants a trail to use probably less than 6 months a year..

Please don't are the trail.

I am a property owner with potential to put a business along the trail. I believe the trail is a great asset to Missouri. I have spoke to people from other countries that come here to ride bicycles. Trails are a cross-state welcome mat for our communities.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

I support the Rock Island Trail Project! Cycling (as well as other recreation) is good for the communities it touches and connects as well as for the people who use it.

This would be amazing. To have a trail like nowhere else in the world right here in our back yard. Would be a great bonding adventure to plan a ride on the entire loop camping out and staying at hotels in cool little towns along the way. Less serious riders could plan smaller day trips but would still benefit from the improvements made along the trail made possible by increased traffic. Smaller restaurants like Turners Cafe in Hartsburg MO may have better luck staying in business instead of changing names all the time and business may pick up enough to expand hours to 5 days a week. Previously there was a big bike race in Jefferson City that brought cyclist from all over in town. It was a huge event. One year some of the higher ups put a halt on it and they never showed an interest in coming back and Jeff City lost. It would be a shame if this didn't go through over some litigation nonsense.

I am in favor of the development of the Rock Island Trail Project moving forward with the help of DNR. A dormant rail system in a community provides little benefit. The trail project that would run through the city of Owensville would be a benefit for the health of this community.

I do not know the details of the Interim Trail Use Agreement, but I am trusting those more informed to have done their due diligence.

I am wondering how the trail is monitored in high traffic areas, like within a city's limits, that would prevent the trail from becoming a place where bullying and other unwanted behavior could occur without being noticed. I'm sure this has been discussed in the other trail projects, but I was just wondering.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please, as a small town business owner in Chilhowee I beg of you to continue to expand the Rock Island Trail. I can't begin to tell you what the trail has done to boost my sales with the spur being open. If it weren't these people would have no reason to shop at my store. Thus trail could potentially be a single handed saving grace to my struggling small community. Opening the other 144 miles would draw even more cyclists to our wonderful town. Why would we not want to increase Missouri tourism? It benefits us all, state, county and city sales tax alone, not to mention the boost to the small business community. This decision to me is simple, plan for the future and this trail would be a long term gain for us all!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Trails are a huge draw to Missouri recreation and would be a great asset to develop the Rock Island trail. Please follow through on this great opportunity for Missouri !

Of course the state should accept this corridor and develop a multi-use trail. I'd ride on it.

Yes! Please accept the Rock Island Trail project! It will be great for the state and it's citizens.

Please go forward with the Rock Island Trail Project. It will promote tourism (as does the KATY Trail, and give thousands of cyclists a safe place to ride.

Developing The Rock Island corridor into a cross state trail would have two significant long term benefits to the State of Missouri: 1/ expanded opportunities for recreation and health benefit for residents o Missouri; and 2/ much like the KATY Trail has and continues to do, draw the kinds of visitors and tourists from others states and countries who will help support the State's economy.

Please accept the Rock Island trail. My family use our current Missouri trails and look forward to this one.

Please accept the rail corridor!! This is important to our state economy, especially the small towns along the route.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the rock island trail project

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. My husband and my friends are frequent riders and walkers of the Katy Trail and would love to see this extension that is closer to home.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please support the Rock Island Trail. Our state will benefit for generations to come from the businesses created and the improved health of our citizens.

I urge you to accept the Rock Island Trail Project. This will be a wonderful addition to our state parks.

A bicycle and pedestrian trail is by far the best use of this property and therefore the ITUA should be signed.

The Rock Island corridor needs to be a state park trail or some form of high speed transit across Missouri.

I think the Rock Island Trail could be a significant asset for the state of Missouri. I hope the project will continue, and that the Rock Island corridor will be turned into a park not unlike the Katy Trail.

Accept the Rock Island and make Missouri a destination ride for cyclist. The Katy Trail has proven to be an economic and recreational success for Missouri and the the communities along the Katy. The Rock Island can provide the same benefits for the communities along the trail. Make the right decision and accept the Rock Island.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I think the Rock Island Trail would be a wonderful asset to the State of Missouri drawing thousands of visitors to the State.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. The Rock Island Trail is a wonderful treasure for families of Missouri!

Please allocate! So many small towns will benefit!!

This trail would bring bicyclists to our state and enhance the lives he of many Missourians. Please accept the Rock Island trail

Please Accept the Rock Island Trail. This is a fantastic opportunity. My husband and I have completed the entire KATY on our bikes. It was a wonderful experience. All the towns along the corridor benefit from trail users. It's a great economic boost. Plus, being outside is wise and good.

PLEASE ACCEPT THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL

To quote some past presidents of our great nation:

“The spiritual uplift, the goodwill, cheerfulness and optimism that accompanies every expedition to the outdoors is the peculiar spirit that our people need in times of suspicion and doubt...No other organized joy has values comparable to the outdoor experience.” Herbert Hoover

“...we must strike a balance so that the protection of our irreplaceable heritage becomes as important as its use. The price of economic growth need not and will not be deterioration in the quality of our lives and our surroundings.”

Richard Nixon

“If we’ve learned any lessons during the past few decades, perhaps the most important is that preservation of our environment is not a partisan challenge; it’s common sense. Our physical health, our social happiness, and our economic well-being will be sustained only by all of us working in partnership as thoughtful, effective stewards of our natural resources.” Ronald Reagan

“We must not only protect the countryside and save it from destruction, we must restore what has been destroyed and salvage the beauty and charm of our cities ... Once our natural splendor is destroyed, it can never be recaptured. And once man can no longer walk with beauty or wonder at nature, his spirit will wither and his sustenance be wasted.” Lyndon B. Johnson

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project and approve the Interim Trail Use Agreement.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

This would be good for Missouri and good for the small towns along it's path! I support entering into this agreement!

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

The State, in the person of Governor Greitens, should accept the generous gift from the railroad and develop the trail. The new recreational corridor will be a tremendous resource and an asset for all Missourians.

This is an important opportunity to promote nature and get families out of the cities and discover via trails. Please enter in this agreement.

I rode on the Rock Island Trail in May and loved it. It is a welcome addition to the Katy Trail. We stayed in Windsor and the folks there use the trail for their own benefit. I believe it helps the local economy and is a state park to be proud of. The friendly folks in Windsor embrace the trail and I believe we should help support the local economy. Please don't pass up on the opportunity to expand the trail.

I have ridden the full length of the Katy Trail many times as well as many day trips with my family when I was young. It was a wonderful way to see and experience the state of my birth. Although I would love to see more passenger trains crossing, adding the Rock Island Railroad corridor to Missouri's trails would a wonderful addition. The economic benefits are great; I wish I lived along the either the Katy or Rock Island. When riding the full length of the Katy the one issue I had always had was the logistical issue of having to get back to the other side of the state. By creating a big loop, the State would create a a very enticing opportunity found no where else in the country.

I would like to see the Rock Island Trail Project move forward.

Please PLEASE accept the land gift and implement the trail. I'm not even on the same side of the state as where this trail will be, but I KNOW the long-term positive impacts of trails on our society.

I urge the Governor to support expansion of the Missouri trail system. The recreational and health value of the trails is tremendous. Personally, I have ridden the entire Katy trail ending my journey in St. Charles. You can be sure the event generated tourism dollars for Missouri and a great fitness experience for me. Please add new trail options at Windsor!

I think this is very important for Missouri and their residents. I support this fully

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please do the right thing and accept the Rock Island land donation

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. My wife and I bike on the Katy and Rock Island now and are eagerly anticipating the addition.

As a cyclist, I love living in Missouri. The beautiful sites that you can see while biking are breathtaking and I can honestly say that I am so thankful for the trails in this state. I love using the Katy Trail, but more Trail opportunities will draw cyclists and walkers to areas. It will be a great deal of help to local economies along the trail and it will encourage a more healthy Missouri. I know that I would absolutely use this new Trail for recreation.

Another trail like the Katy trail will be a valuable addition to the state park system. Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please except this rail corridor and continue the Rails to Trails thing. These trails are awesome.

Please accept the rock ialand trail

We need this trail. Help!

I support the interim Rock Island Trail Project. I am a resident of Lees Summit MO and would use the trail frequently for safe exercise. The number of pedestrians and bike riders injured in vehicle accidents in Missouri are among the highest in the country. The ability for bikes to ride off the roads should be enough to support adoption of the trails. The health benefits and revenue generated would also be additional reasons to support the adoption of this additional state park.

Please build this trail. More places for people to ride bikes is a good thing. I recently rode the Katy trail, which I have done for the past 20 years. The difference in development/growth along that trail in that time is significant. More restaurants, b & bs, etc.

Please do not use my email or phone number to put it in some contact list. If you wish to contact me directly about this particular issue, feel free, but I do not want extra contact about other issues non-biking related as a result. thanks.

It will draw more people in the towns along the trail and improve economic growth, like Katy trail did in its time.

What a great new economic resource for Missouri ! Yes, we should definitely accept the Rock Island Trail.... the KATY trail has been a huge economic boom for Missouri and this addition just makes it a bit sweeter !

Please accept Ameren's gift of 144 miles of Rock Island trail on behalf of our state. This is a unique opportunity that will bring improved recreation opportunities and create new tourism business.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This would be a great asset to Missouri.

Trails like this are a public asset -- they provide opportunities for citizens and visitors to see the state, to enjoy nature and to improve health. You only need to visit the Katy Trail to see how many people utilize these trails--it's not unusual to pass hundreds of people each way on a nice day.

Please accept and develop the additional 144 miles of the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Many people comment on the KATY and how it helps the area communities with awareness and tourism dollars.

This is a great idea and a real asset for the people of Missouri. Do not pass up this great opportunity.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. MO is truly growing as a destination state and gaining a reputation for its trails and push

toward outdoor life. Adding yet another fantastic feature can only benefit MO, its residents, and its visitors. Thank you.

The Rock Island a Trail will be a huge asset to the people of Missouri. Please accept the donation

Please accept the rock island trail.

Please continue to develop and support expansion of the Rock Island Trail Project as a vital part of Missouri's commitment to health, fitness and recreation. thank you.

Please approve agreement for establishment of Rock Island Trail.

When we visit other states we love to explore the bike trails there and spend our tourism dollars in other states. If we had another cross state bike trail we would be spending more time in Mo exploring our own state. We spend tons of time on the Katy Trail and have biked it end to end a couple of times and then other parts but would love another trail to explore.

I am in favor of the new trail. Any money spent developing the trail will be good for Missouri's economy.

This is a rare chance to positively impact the economic development opportunities for Missouri. Please don't screw it up.

Please go for it! I would use this trail.

Please accept this corridor and develop the rock island trail. Thank you.

This is so important for all residents of Missouri. It will provide both a source of income and physical activity, a perfect combination. Please help all Missourians improve themselves.

████████████████████

Please complete the Rock Island Trail! Missouri needs to say yes to these recreational opportunities because they make sense. They're good for Missourians, they're good for tourism, and they're good for our lands. Nothing else teaches people about the importance of our watersheds and natural resources like the connections we make when we are enjoying the outdoors. Lead by example and show that our state sees these as a priority.

I support the development of the Rock Island Trail. This would be a wonderful thing for Missouri, say YES!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I fully support the DNR accepting the Rock Island corridor for conversion into a recreational trail. This will be great asset for Missouri as it will bring tourism dollars and can help improve the overall health of our citizens.

Don't be short-sighted, get the Rock Island Trail done!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Great idea. Please do this.

Please accept the proposed Rock Island Trail. This is a great gift that must be taken advantage of.

144.3 mile recreational trail, nothing short of awesome! This needs to happen!

I support the acquisition of land for the Rock Island Trail. Our state would greatly benefit by the increase of tourism. Missouri small towns need this.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. The River Des Peres Greenway Trail (nearly completed), in which I use it for a bicycle ride and not far from where I live, has made my life richer. Just a few days ago I saw a Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, and a Mississippi Kite while riding this trail. Without a doubt, I know that the Rock Island Trail will add enrichment to the lives of Missourians. Don't let this opportunity pass.

This is wonderful opportunity to further the development of the Missouri Trail system. Missourians need more access to safe places in which to hike/bike. With more people on cell phones our road ways are not safe even if we are to "share the road". The Katy Trail is a awesome example of the success the rails to trails can provide not only our citizens but attract people from all around. I have visited with people from other states and even other countries who have use the Katy trail. This opportunity can not be passed up.

The trail would be a great addition to a thriving biking community. We could really use your support. Thank you.

Would love to see this addition to the State of Missouri!

Please approve the Rock Island Trail Project!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This is a great way to reduce cycling on streets, encourage healthy lifestyles, and bring money to local business.

The State of Missouri should absolutely accept the Rock Island rail corridor into the State Park system for use as a trail in the future. To do otherwise would be extremely short sighted.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I think that the state has been granted an opportunity to be progressive and improve the lives of many Missourians through the development of the Rock Island Trail. The fact that the land itself has been donated to the state takes away one of the biggest hurdles in a project like this. With some funding and a little bit of effort, the state of Missouri has a chance to provide greater livability and offer residents improved outdoors-type offerings. For the towns along the Rock Island Corridor - this is a chance to enhance healthy lifestyles, as a trail of this magnitude going through towns that didn't have something like this before will surely entice residents to get out and walk, bike, and take advantage of the opportunity at hand. It's also a way to get rid of an eyesore in

all the towns along the corridor, replacing grown-over train tracks with a new trail.

In a state that has towns that have already taken strides to improve the lives of residents (i.e. the "Healthy Nevada") project, I believe there are endless possibilities to enhance Missourian's lives with this trail. I can foresee 5ks, bike races, walkathons, etc. coming about because of the development of the trail and to me, that is well worth the cost.

Please do accept this amazing gift to the State of Missouri! You only have to look at the popularity of the MKT Trail and how the tiny towns along it have prospered to know this is absolutely a win for the state's economy and the health of its citizens. Tourism is an even more important contributor to the financial health of a state today. Don't miss this opportunity!

The Rock Island Trail, like the KATY, would be a huge tourist draw attracting cyclists from around the world. As a warmshowers host I have hosted guests from China, South Korea and New Zealand not to mention several others around the US. They all came through Missouri because of the KATY. Not to complete the Rock Island Trail would be a huge mistake.

I strongly endorse the proposed Rock Island Trail. I'm a native Missourian, a cyclist, and a railbuff so the trail would be an obvious draw for me. I have spent many, many hours on the Katy trail. The proposed trail would benefit the state as a whole. Tourism along the Hwy 50 corridor would increase. And, for a state trying to attract businesses and a skilled workforce, outdoor recreational opportunities are a selling point. Whenever I travel out of of state, I always mention the Katy trail as one of Missouri's big attractions.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I'm all for another long trail. I utilize the Katy Trail all the time and really enjoy not having to compete with cars and trucks when I want to go for a long bike ride. When I was younger I didn't mind riding the streets but now that I'm older I really enjoy a long relaxing bike ride without worrying about getting run over by a truck. Also, I there are economic advantages to consider when these types of trails are set up. I have met a number of people who have come to Missouri from California, Nevada and other places just to ride the Katy Trail. They indicate that they don't have anything like it where they come from.

Bicycle trails along former right-of-ways provide a safe and pleasant to ride longer distances with reduced danger to riders and others. Like any park, there will be expenses associated with development and maintance. However, the opportunity to obtain the trail without cost is a tremendous benefit even if the development can not be done immediately. I am in favor of accepting this gift and making financial allocations for it's develop.

Please accept the Rock Island extension

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please give Missouri (and out of state) trail users more incentive. As the Katy has been, so shall the Rock Island trail be a boon for the small towns in its path. Having more options will bring more people to Missouri as well as Missourians, along with their wallets.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
avid trail user, bike rider, hiker.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Considering the success of the KATY trail, please enter and agree to the Rock Island Trail Project.

[REDACTED]

Please build this trail. Trails give the community a great way to experience nature and provide physical fitness. I've ridden most of the Katy trail and have even used it to travel between August and St. Charles on nice days. The trail could bring people to small towns that they otherwise wouldn't visit. I can't wait for my son to be a bit older and ride with me

Please work to develop this trail! Thanks.

Anything that you can do to improve alternative transportation and boost outdoor experience should be undertaken. The Katy Trail is an amazing amenity for Missouri; the Rock Island Trail Project would bolster this amenity and draw in more people to make the loop.

This opportunity rarely comes along and other states don't have anything like this opportunity - please take it while it's available!!!!

The Rock Island Trail has the potential to be more successful than the KATY Trail. The economic impact of the KATY to the State and communities along its path are indisputable. Creating this recreational opportunity makes good sense for our State.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I strongly urge Governor Greitens, the State of Missouri and MO DNR to complete the last remaining section of the KATY trail across the state of Missouri by entering into the trail use agreement generously afforded to all Missourians by Ameren. The KATY trail is a wonderful asset to our state. It attracts millions of dollars in tourism money and the completion of the trail across the entire state will doubtless significantly add to those tourist dollars. Please think long term rather than in short term budgetary terms.

Please approve the Rock Island Trail project. I did the Katie trail and it was one of the BEST experiences I have ever had on a bicycle. The Rock Island trail is another reason to get people to the state and allow for all ages to enjoy the beauty that Missouri has to offer.

To me the Rock Island Trail will be a wonderful way to experience and enjoy our state and will be an economic benefit. The Katy trail currently is an international attraction.

With the addition of the Rock Island and the possibility of the two trails forming a loop the attractiveness will increase perhaps exponentially. I see this as a way of drawing visitors to our state and with them an increase in the economic vitality of the region.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Help to revitalize our city.

Please accepted the Rock Island Trail. Wonderful recreation.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Governor Greitens, Please support the development of this trail which will benefit so many Missouri citizens. Thank you.

I sincerely hope that DNR will enter into this agreement. We need more outdoor spaces for people to exercise and practice healthy lifestyles. This would be a great addition to our outdoor areas in Missouri.

I love the Katy Trail and since I have been riding it with the DNR sponsored ride every year for well over 20 years I know how popular it is country wide. It brings a lot of tourism dollars to our state. I would love another cross state option! And I have to believe it would bring even more tourism to our state. Please move forward on this trail use agreement!

I think this trail would be a great addition for Missouri. The costs are low and the benefits are high. This is a trail that I would certainly use myself.

I look forward to the conversion of the rail corridor into the Rock Island Trail, not only because I'm a bicyclist, but for the economic benefits such a trail can bring to the area.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This is a fantastic opportunity.

I am a resident of St Louis MO (63110). I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

Dear Governor Grietens,

I strongly encourage you to except the gift of the Rock Island Trail. The tourism dollars that will be generated will help the struggling State budget.

With the utmost respect and gratitude,

[REDACTED]
63131

I think the Rock Island Trail Project would be a great resource for Missouri. Not only would it have a positive economic impact but it would also be a positive influence to the health of Missourians. With so many distracted auto drivers on the road, people need a safe place to walk, run, and ride bicycles. This would provide another place to do that. Therefore I think it is a "no brainer" that Missouri should accept this gift from Ameren.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. This will be an invaluable addition to the state's trail system and extend use opportunities to many more Missouri citizens.

I would love to see us continue to extend the Katy Trail. My oldest daughter and I rode the entire trail (237.7 miles) when she was 12 years old! My middle daughter wants to do the same and was looking forward to extending the ride using the Rock Island Trail. Outdoor activities, parks, and recreation should be a top priority in Missouri.

As a resident of metro Kansas City, I currently utilize several of Missouri's bike trails, and have done several overnight rides staying in B & B's along the trails. I have also organized group trail rides including lunch stops and shopping. I think the Rock Island Railroad corridor expansion would be a great addition to the Missouri's bike trail system and tourism attractions for the state.

Please accept the rock island trail project

Development of the Rock Island Trail Project will not only provide significant recreational opportunities, but it will also enhance economic development opportunities along the trail corridor similar to those along the existing Katy Trail. I urge you to proceed with doing the trail use agreement with the Missouri Central Railroad to make the Rock Island Trail become a reality. Thank you.

Gotta do it!!!!!! Katy Trail has established Missouri reputation as cycling destination worldwide. Great tourist draw and life giving to neglected rural communities. Rock Island trail will further enhance this economic engine!!!!!!

Please support the trail. It is a valuable resource

Please accept the trail!!!!

It is critical for Pleasant Hill to see a continuation of the progress on the Rock Island Trail. As a key component of our economic development plans, we urge acceptance of any donated land and further expansion of this critical tool for our cities development.

Our trails in Missouri contribute to a great quality of living for families, and I wholeheartedly support this development!! Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Yes, please accept this trail! The existing Katy Trail is a terrific draw for recreational tourists and we love driving to mid-Missouri to ride. Another trail option would be welcomed!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Dear Governor, (doubt you will read this personally but...) I have been an avid trail bicyclist for many years. My sister and I spent a week of our summer to ride the entire KATY TRAIL one year. The planning and training was extremely fun. We had to plan out how many miles we felt we could do

each day, what the weather might be, cost, what to pack and carry with us, what repair equipment we would need. I can't explain what an adventure we had planning and riding our vacation. Each year we research where we can go next. We have visited South Dakota (the Mickelson Trail), Wisconsin (the Bike Four Trails), Iowa (Raccoon River Valley Trail) and several others that were not quite that long but more so weekend trips. Keep in mind she is in her 50s and I am in my 60s. We have so much fun laughing and experiencing unknown countryside. Please Please consider promoting the addition of the ROCK ISLAND TRAIL in Missouri.

Our small towns throughout MO are special and could benefit from tourists and site seekers that would be drawn to this trail/path. I believe this will be a great thing for the people of MO! Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

There is no better use for the rock island railroad corridor. I can't wait to ride this trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Many friends and I have come from another state to ride the Katy Trail and it brings so much tourism to Missouri.

Please except the Rock Island Trail

Please Complete the Trail..

thanks

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. What a wonderful resource for Missouri!

Even more than the promise of a great trail to ride on, I believe that this is an opportunity for Missouri and it's small towns which are constantly under the threat of time. This would be an opportunity to help preserve Missouri's history as well as breathe life into the small towns along this trail system. Please proceed with the Rock Island Trail Project

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This is a great opportunity for Missouri. Existing trails like the Katy are widely used, family-friendly, and benefit rural communities along the trail. Developing this trail is a good investment for Missouri, which will provide dividends for generations.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please develop the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It is a great opportunity for families to spend time together and enjoy the great outdoors as opposed to sitting in front of a screen and not speaking to each other. It is also so nice to have access to the trail system somewhat close by rather than having to drive over an hour to begin a bike ride.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will become part and parcel with the Katy Trail, Missouri's national treasure.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept this wonderful gift to the tax-payers of Missouri. Deals like this are so rare.

Gov please support the trail project, it would be a very valuable asset to our State and increase the many out state tourist attracted to Missouri

Just see what great credit KATY has proved to be

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Yes! Please proceed

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will be a tremendous asset to the state of Missouri.

The trail is a major asset for economic activity along its length and I urge the Governor to accept and improve it for biking and hiking use.

I favor such an addition. I am a Kansans who occasionally uses the Katy Trail on bike rides. While in Missouri I spend money for many items so it would make sense for the people of your state to encourage this. I wish there were more quality trails in Kansas.

YES YES YES - it is important for our STATE of Missouri!!! AND the residents in our STATE of Missouri - AND for visitors TO our STATE of Missouri!!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I'm very excited to hear about the prospect of the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. I look forward to riding and using this new trail.

I think DNR should definitely do this. My family and friends have enjoyed many trips to the KATY trail and this would be a great addition to the Missouri park system. Not only would this trail provide great recreational opportunities through a beautiful part of the state, I have seen very clearly how this type of park has brought economic energy to towns along the KATY trail. Please accept this land and add it to the park/trail system. It will be a win for everyone, land owners, businesses, tourists and Missouri residents. Thank you.

Please complete the project. Recreational benefits are countless... Tourism dollars DEFINITELY. Construction costs minimal.... No downside...

Please accept the gift of the Rock Island Trail. Missouri is becoming a destination for cyclists because of our trails. The addition of the Rock Island Trail will be a boon to local communities and further enhance Missouri's reputation as a cycling destination.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the gift of the Rock Island Trail for the people of the state of Missouri

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

As someone who biked hundreds of miles on the Katy and Rock Island Trail this year, I am a strong supporter of safe cycling alternatives in addition to the health benefits from walking/riding the trail. Furthermore, I believe the trail promotes Missouri's history, provides access to smaller towns that may go undiscovered even by long-time Missouri residents, and offers a unique experience that attracts tourism from outside the state.

Please Accept the Rock Island Trail!

This recreational trail will promote health and well-being for the people of Missouri. This trail will attract tourist from out of state to enjoy Missouri wild life as well. The need for trails is in excess due to the need for people to explore new things. As an avid mountain biker I personally would greatly benefit from a trail of this standard and at the same time so would the entire state. Please consider the Rock Island Trail Project.

Thanks

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail gift and project! I will love it! And a Yes from my husband, too! Please and thank you!

Lets go for it and proceed to develop this trail.. If we give it up now who knows what will happen to the ROW that may be irreversible. At least with the trail many options remain for other future uses or development!

Please

Accept the rock island trail????♀□

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will be a valuable addition to the state's tourism offerings.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. The KATY trail is the standard for rails-to-trails initiatives across the country. Please consider this project favorably to add to the opportunities in Missouri and the Midwest. Thank you.

██████████

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)

Missouri needs this trail to move forward and unlock its tourism potential.

Trails are becoming a more safe transportation for all ages. Roads for cycling, running, walking are few. Road cycling is dangerous with drunken drivers, teenage drivers and the amount of individuals texting. I am 70 years old and want to continue cycling in a safe environment.

Agreement will provide an opportunity to develop a recreation area accessible to the community and bringing tourism \$\$ to the area and connect people to their community.

Please accept this generous offer and continue to improve the quality and quantity of safe biking options in Missouri. My wife and I, along with many friends are avid bicycle enthusiasts and we appreciate the availability of safe trails and places to ride. We regularly travel to Madison County Illinois to utilize their dedicated trail system and having such a resource in our own state would be invaluable. Make our state more attractive to bike tourists from within and beyond the state boundaries. This is an opportunity that should not be passed up.

Please accept the Trail Project. Wonderful reclamation of land for recreational use and an asset to the state.

Yes, me and my family and friends love having safe trails to ride, walk, and jog on!

I am in favor of this project. This is a priceless recreational resource for the state of Missouri. I have ridden the Katy from end to end several times and look forward to riding the new trail.

Please accept the new land and continue to develop the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail project!

These trails are greatly beneficial to the local economies and society in general. Please enter into this agreement.

Please accept the trail! what a benefit to the state and to tourism.

By all means Governor Greitens, you should except the land and help see that the Rock Island Trail is completed.

I hope that DNR will enter into an agreement with Missouri Central Railroad to develop the Rock Island Trail Project. The Katy Trail has been wonderful for Missouri tourism, and the addition of the Rock Island Trail will mean even more national recognition.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I think developing another recreational trail would be a great addition to MO parks. I would love to have this in Missouri.

Please accept this generous offer and continue to improve the quality and quantity of safe biking options in Missouri. My wife and I, along with many friends are avid bicycle enthusiasts and we appreciate the availability of safe trails and places to ride. We regularly travel to Madison County Illinois to utilize their dedicated trail system and having such a resource in our own state would be invaluable. Make our state more attractive to bike tourists from within and beyond the state boundaries. This is an opportunity that should not be passed up.

As a Lee's summit resident, registered republican, and bicyclist, please move forward with the bike trail proposal. Cycling promotes fitness and bike trails also serve as mini conservation areas. I highly support this effort and hope you

will see the advantages of this trail for Missourians and the region.

Thank you in advance...

██████████

I believe this corridor would provide users with additional biking options to combine this with the Katy Trail to make the region a greater biking destination.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

I think a Rock Island Trail for bicycle and other pedestrian use would be a significant benefit to the state of Missouri. My family would definitely use it and the nearby businesses that could/would support trail users. Thank you for building the foundation for healthy lifestyles and activities in Missouri.

Please accept the rock island trail

Please accept the land with which to expand the already excellent network of bicycle trails through Missouri. The expansion will add to the state's already excellent reputation as a bikepacking destination.

I hope you will develop this Rock Island Trail project. It would be used for generations!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail - thank you!

Please accept the trail agreement.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Do it. This is good for Missouri!

Trail projects like this one are pricey, to be sure, but they are key investments in our state's tourism value, public health, and livability. If you want to make Missouri a place where successful business want to grow, and middle-class, self-sufficient folks want to settle, then amenities like the Rock Island trail are a piece of the puzzle. Opportunities to do rails-to-trails conversions only come once. If the right of way disappears, then the state's not going to get another chance. Please support this project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It would be a great addition to our state .

This trail project, even though the salvage is not yet complete, has already had a major impact on my hometown of Owensville. My community has been very excited about the trail coming through town, and it has already boosted the economy, before even being built! Owensville is not a very big town, but it is one of the bigger ones along the Rock Island Corridor, and therefore has the potential to create the most tax revenue for the state from this project. My town has been a quiet town with a new business here or there every few years, but since the announcement of the trail project, there are at least four new restaurants planned, a new library, and several new businesses along Main Street, which is about a block

away from the rail line, and these businesses have all been announced within the last few months! And there have been talks about other needed businesses for when the trail is finished, like a bike repair shop, a hotel or bed and breakfast, and several more, continuing to boost tax revenue and lower unemployment. The trail will also create a safe way for kids to walk or ride their bikes to school, and although this has been talked about a lot already for kids in the town of Owensville, the trail could serve the same purpose for those that live outside of town or even those that live in Rosebud. I believe it is in the best interest for Owensville, the State of Missouri, and every other small town along the trail that the DNR to enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement. Thank you.

Taxpayer money should not be used for this project, let the users pay the full amount for development and maintenance. The smaller towns along the route, with limited budgets that are already stretched to the breaking point cannot afford to develop and maintain this project through their city limits. Landowners whose property fronts the abandoned railway should have the property returned to them, it was originally taken for use as a railroad, there is no railroad anymore. These property owners should not have to deal with the mess, trespassers, and almost certain drug activity along the most secluded parts of the trail. If this is such a popular and viable project let private money finance it, maintain it, and police it, leave the already overburdened taxpayer out of it.

I ride the KATY trail a good deal out of St. Charles and would love another option to see more of our beautiful state. We always talk that people should get out and exercise more and we should cut our gasoline usage..... we need more trails like this one to help us have more options.

Why would we not want this?? The tourism it will bring just to mention one positive , and you know Mo. Doesn't have mountains or an ocean to bring tourism in, so let's shine with what we do have!! I personally have travelled to several other states to ride their bike trails, though none compare to the Katy Trail, but point being...hotel, restaurant, gas, and all the little towns we stopped in, stayed and ate in, all benefitted from our visit!

And I have been able to get several people interested in bike riding through the trails who were not Very active are not getting out and riding!
Don't let this opportunity pass us by!
Thank You

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please allow the Rock Island Trail Project to move forward.

The rock island trails is a great boon to missouri - helping keep our tourism industry alive, keeping people outside doing healthy things.

More trails the better. Good for the body and mind makes for a good quality of life!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I support developing the Rock Island Trail!

Greetings,. We live in Topeka and we have spent several long weekends cycling on the Katy Trail. It is a beautiful showcase for your state. We hope that your administration will support the Rock Island Trail, as that too would be a wonderful destination and an great resource for your state. Please support the Rock Island Trail. Sincerely. [REDACTED], Topeka, Kansas

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The Rock Island Trail would be a wonderful addition and natural asset for the State of Missouri. Please accept the Rock Island Trail.
Thank you.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This will be another great resource for our state.

The use and value that the Katy trail is giving to the communities keeps growing year after year. The Katy is even getting annoyingly crowded in some places. Bike in breweries and restaurants are booming.
I can not imagine a valid reason not to give other Missouri communities a chance to cash in on this. A second choice would also take pressure off the Katy and make Missouri a great travel destination.

This country needs more trails to encourage exercise and it brings tourists to the state.
Please move ahead with this trail.

The larger the trail system, the further people will travel to visit it and the longer they will stay. With the Katy Trail and Rock Island Trail together, Missouri will have a trail system that will be the envy of the world and that will bring travelers from all over the world--even more than currently visit the Katy Trail.

Please give serious consideration to doing the right thing and adding to Missouri's future and accepting Ameren's generous offer. My family, friends, and I have enjoyed the Katy Trail for the last 25 years and look forward to riding from KC to St. Louis once it is completed.

One of the

Please follow through with this project. My family and I travel all over the country to ride our bikes on the rails to trails systems. We would love to be able to ride the Rock Island trail system right here at home in Missouri which would bring bicyclists and revenue from around the world to our state.

This trail would be a great use and feature to Missouri and it's residents along with visitors. Make this happen!

With the number of people driving carelessly, we need more trails similar to the Katy trail in order to promote healthier lifestyles and to provide a safer alternative to our public roads to ride/run on. This section should also give people another reason to visit our great state, and for those of us who live in the St. Louis area, reasons to visit some of our other smaller towns. Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Having a trail that leads from Kansas City to St Louis is a great asset for Missouri. As cycling is growing everyday in Missouri, it is important to have trails where cyclist can be safe and out of the way of aggressive drivers on the road. Please consider accepting the agreement in order to grow the trail systems in Missouri and to keep bikers and drivers safe.

Please accept this - it would be wonderful for the state.

Please extend the Rock Island Trail. The Katy Trail and extended parts draws much tourism, and provide opportunities for tourists as well as residents to explore and know more about their state. Let's finish this cycling and walking trail across our beautiful state!

This is a great idea! The Katy Trail has been such a big boom to areas that wouldn't normally get the amount of tourists that they do now. We live in St. Charles and we ride the Katy around here. My oldest daughter started asking more about the trail, what it was like, where it started and if it was possible to ride the entire trail. My wife and I looked at each other and answered, "Yes it is possible. It will cost money for food and hotels along the way though, so you will need to earn some money to cover that." My daughter and our neighbor spent nearly a year holding bake sales to earn money to ride the entire Katy Trail. In the end they had raised nearly \$1,000 and inspired many people with their plans to ride the entire trail. Over 4 days during Memorial Day weekend 2016, my Wife, daughter (then 12), our neighbor and her daughter (also 12) rode the entire 237.7 miles of Katy Trail while I supported them along the way. They called themselves, Ladies on the Katy. Along the way we ran into a cycling club called the Landsharks. They helped us with their bikes along the way and were very impressed with the girls' determination. Several were talking among themselves, "If these two are doing the trail at age 12, we should get _____ to come with us next time." In the year plus since the ride, we have remained in contact with members of the Landsharks and congratulated them in St. Charles this year as they completed another Katy Trail ride over Memorial Day weekend.

While we were only on the Katy Trail for 4 days, that short amount of time had an exponential impact on everybody involved and those who we came into contact with: The year of effort, work and focus put in by 11 year olds to raise funds. The months of training in order to be physically prepared to tackle the task. The will to keep going during long days in the heat and trying to outrace a storm. The monumental amount of dedication to wake up in the morning sore, tired, blistered and rubbed raw and to get back on the bike for another full day of riding. Not just once, but three times! The friendships that were cemented during those long days and the new ones that started. The inspiration that was passed on by 12 year olds riding 237.7 miles. The inspiration that was received when seeing who else was riding the entire trail-young, old, in shape, out of shape, serious athletes, carefree retirees and many 'normal' people. The lifetime sense of achievement and pride that came, not just from completing the 4 day ride, but more importantly, the months of work and planning that went into arriving at Windsor.

This Rock Island Trail Project is a wonderful and very rare opportunity. If we were to let this slip away, it would rob

immeasurable amounts of joy, pride, pleasure and economic benefit from the People of Missouri and beyond.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! What a great project to link up the Katy Trail with a trail that will cross the state from St. Louis to Kansas City. Fun, recreation, exercise, and tourism! Win, win, win!

I wholly support the Rock Island Trail project. It is in keeping with the goals of encouraging tourism along the route as well as promoting outdoor physical activity to combat obesity and stress.

We have been riding the Katy Trail since its inception. For the last 20 years we have been leading a group of 30 people on 4 and 5 day rides the length of the Katy Trail. The number of people who come to Missouri to ride the Katy Trail is unbelievable.

We strongly support acquiring and eventually developing the Rock Island Trail. The prospect of being able to ride both sides of the Missouri River in a loop will bring even more people and provide more opportunities for economic development in communities that really need it.

DO ACCEPT this agreement. And move FORWARD, not backwards.

Encourage you to accept this generous gift!! I'm visiting from CA and am enjoying the current trails.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

██████████
Lee's Summit, MO

Please accept the rock island trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I mean, why wouldn't you?

Please accept the rock island trail

I am fully in support of DNR entering into the interim trail use agreement with MCR for development of the Rock Island Trail. I appreciate all efforts of DNR regarding this potential project. Thank you.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept this gift! This would be a wonderful opportunity to explore more of Missouri!

Please renovate our RR corridor to to family friendly green space trail all can use. This makes great stewardship!

I believe that the continued development and opening of the Rock Island Trail will be a good step for Missouri. I cycle many miles around this state and meet many people who come here from all over the country and from other countries to do the Katy Trail. This expansion would economically benefit the small communities along it with cycling tourism dollars, much as it does towns like Augusta, St. Charles and Rocheport.

Upkeep of trails such as this are very minimum, and much of

the time, the users of the trails actually continually maintain them by removing debris to keep them clean.

I support the Rock Island Trail. I have biked on many rails to trails conversions and they add value to a state's economy through increased tourism, preservation of natural resources and associated economic development. Please support the RITP.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. These trails are great for tourism and the local economy throughout the state of Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This trail will bring eco-friendly tourism to the state. It will support small business in towns along the trail. It highlights a beautiful part of the state. The benefits will bring economic rewards to the state of Missouri.

Please accept the offer of Ameren to donate the right of way for the new Rock Island Trail. I am a registered voter and Independent. I vote regularly and I have a long memory. Have a nice day. [REDACTED]

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. As a MO taxpayer, it is something I fully support as being important to the economic health of our state, and to the physical health of MO citizens.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I use and enjoy many miles of the KATY trail and would use this new section of the Rock Island trail. I am sure many others will also use this new development. With the high costs associated with health care and the chance to relatively inexpensively create new opportunities for exercise to under-served areas of the state this project has the potential to lower state health care besides the creation of new recreational facilities that will be close to many Missourians.

This is so good for Missouri. It is part of the glory of this state and will help with MO tourism. Please accept this generous gift.

Missouri is recognized across the nation and the world as a fantastic place for outdoor recreation - particularly our first-class state park system. As we've seen with the Katy Trail and other large trail systems in the United States, they provide (1) economic opportunities in both urban and rural areas, (2) valuable community assets that attract residents and businesses to our state, and (3) recreational opportunities that support active and healthy lifestyles.

A rails-to-trails conversion of the Rock Island corridor is a unique circumstance to provide a significant linear park system that should not be overlooked by our state.

Communities have already begun preparing for connections to the existing Rock Island and Katy Trail systems. For example, Jackson County is currently designing a shared-use path of the 17-mile Rock Island corridor in the Kansas City area and planning for future transit use as well.

I strongly support the proposed interim trail use agreement that would advance the planning, design, and use of the Rock Island corridor for multimodal uses.

This. Sounds. Awesome!!

Please accept the Rock Island rail donation

Please accept this trail. Similar projects in other states (like Ohio) have made attractive tourist destinations.

The Rock Island Trail would be a great addition to the State Park Service and an excellent economic stimulator for small businesses. Please support the Rock Island Trail and accept the gift from Ameren.

We welcome this for exercise and tourism. Safe off-road biking is important to me as I have MS and have issues that make me nervous riding where vehicular traffic is present.

This would be a great idea for Mid-Missourians

I cannot fathom why the state would not accept the gift of the land for the Rock Island Trail other than stupidity and ignorance. By all measures, the Katy has been a resounding success. In the years it's been around and which I've used it, I've had the pleasure of meeting people who came FROM OTHER COUNTRIES to ride the trail. People who ride spend money. The Katy takes an area of the state which would have limited economic possibilities and offers opportunity.

The Rock Island would do similar in an area that has even more bleak economic opportunities since it lacks the winery tourism aspects.

With all due respect, do not be foolish and waste this opportunity. Step to the plate and create a legacy that respects people and future generations.

I'm nearly 60 years old and have been an active cyclist, walker and hiker for all of my life. I can tell you that EVERY SINGLE TIME I see a trail go in, it gets used.

People get outside and exercise. This is a big plus for these people's physical and mental well-being.

From my understanding, the Rock Island trail is being offered as a gift to the state. Why would we not accept this? I do understand that there are opening and maintenance costs involved, but surely the benefits to our citizenry (and the businesses that will benefit from the increased activities in the area), these is a win-win for Missouri!

Please accept the rock island trail!!!

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

The Rock Island Trail is a tremendous gift to the State of Missouri. It should be accepted if the Governor truly cares about job growth.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!!! Thank you!!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

PLEASE accept the donation. Another trail in Missouri is needed both for the people of the State and those who want to visit. What a great way to see the parts of Missouri we don't get to see driving a car.

Trails have been and will continue to be a major factor in where I live and work. NW Arkansas is outdoing Missouri in trail systems at the moment. This would be a great investment for our State.

I love all the trails that Missouri was already and can only see the Rock Island Trail as a great addition for Missouri. Please consider supporting the acceptance and conversion of this trail ad help make Missouri a riders destination. Thank you.

I strongly support DNR entering into an interm Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project. This would be a great addition to the Katy Trail. I think it has the potential to really put Missouri on the national map as a destination for family vacations looking to enjoy the outdoors in a safe and leisurely activity. The Rock Island Trail Project will certainly give a great boost, just as the Katy Trail has, to the many small communities along the trail.

This is a great opportunity...please accept the Rock Island Trail. Thanks!

Yes! More bike trails!

Please accept this trail. Bike trails are key to recreation activity and create a healthy person. While at the same time help decrease how much CO2 we emit. There are nothing but benefits from accepting this trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This is a wonderful gift that will enhance recreation opportunities in Missouri. Thank you.

Personally I know I would use the trail. I'm 61 and have been enjoying long and or multiple day rides for over 30 years and have seen the number of adults who bicycle and organized bicycle clubs and events increase in great numbers. For Missourian's I see this as a draw that would not only get used by Missourians but bring in visitors from out of state. A decent bicycle is not cheap. These people have discretionary income. They will not only ride but spend money in Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

Please accept the trail

Please accept the rock island trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Benefits include getting people outside to enjoy healthy lifestyles, tourism, and increased tax revenue for the state from all the businesses that will crop up on its path (like what happened with the Katy Trail).

I just completed riding the Katy Trail in June 2017 and consider it one of the Missouri's best treasures. Riding the trail gave me opportunity to not only enjoy the country side safe from cars and also visit with some of the nicest people I've ever met as well contribute financially to the communities we rode through. Any additional trail would only add to the value of your state. I live in Arizona I could have spent my vacation money any where this year but because of your trails I chose to spend them in Missouri and I am so glad I did.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project!

That would be wonderful. The Katy trail is a great asset for Missouri and another trail like it would be even better. I am sure the towns along the route would also benefit greatly from the trail

I think it would be a great addition to MO bike trails! The KATY gets old after awhile.

I am an avid recumbent bicyclist who has found road riding increasingly dangerous because motorists have difficulty seeing low-to-the-ground recumbent bicycles. Off-road trails are now the only option for me. Having more long distance hiking/biking trails is very important to me. I support the development of more trails in Missouri. These trails also attract tourists from all over the country as well as from many countries. Please add your support to this initiative.

Please accept the Rock Island trail

I think this project is a great idea. Not only will it promote good health, it will provide opportunities for families to spend time together, keep bicyclers off the road in a safer environment, and encourage a more environmentally friendly mode of transportation.

Please accept the donation of land for the Rock Island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Yes! Do this! Trails are wonderful for families and exercise and enjoying the outdoors.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This is a great asset for the State of Missouri!

I don't think the success, in terms of tourism and DNR awareness, of the Katy Trail can be downplayed. A trail that would extend Missouri's system by this much would be fantastic.

Articles can say it better than I.

http://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/invest-in-missouri-s-outdoor-tourism-industry-by-supporting-trail/article_a8c1000e-2633-5c10-81e2-0db56b3f295b.html

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please consider continued support for the Rock Island Trail. The Katy Trail has been an economic boom to the State as well as a national recognition of Missouri's place in what is done to promote outdoor sports.

Dear Governor Greitens,
I think that accepting the Ameren donation of 144 miles of the Rock Island trail is a no-brainer. Other parts of the Rock Island trail have been heavily supported by donations, and extending the bicycle trail network in Missouri should result in relatively minimal cost to the State. This is an excellent opportunity for Missouri to join other progressive states, such as Ohio, Florida, Oregon, and Washington, in leading the Rails-to-Trails movement. In every participating state, Rails-to-Trails has improved the quality of life and promoted a healthy lifestyle.

Therefore, strongly I urge you to support this effort by accepting the proposed donation.

Best Regards,

██████████
Rolla, MO 65401

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project!!!
Saving trails for cycling, creating jobs to maintain trails, promoting a healthy, family-bonding outdoor activity. There is nothing to lose!!!
PLEASE ACCEPT THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL PROJECT!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept this gift. This would be a great addition to the trails of Missouri.

Seems like a wonderful Idea. It would bring people to the area and provide a safe place for recreational exercise

Please, Please, please support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren. This will help the struggling communities like Raytown along it path.
Thank you for your support.

The State of Missouri should accept this gift which will be the basis of the Rock Island Trail, Missouri's second (almost) cross-state trail for hikers and cyclists. Don't pass up this opportunity!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail- this is a no brainer. The KATY Trail is a huge asset- we can use investment of this type to further enhance outdoor, safe recreation in Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please complete the trail

Yes! Yes! Yes! This would be a huge draw for the state.

The Rock Island trail is a HUGE opportunity for tourism across the central corridor of Missouri. Please keep with the plan of accepting this trail and developing it into another way to bring people and money into Missouri.

Please enter into this agreement and fund the Rock Island Trail construction. The construction of this trail will create jobs in Engineering and Construction for the design and construction of the trail, along with the ongoing jobs it will create via recreational use of the trail.

Outdoor recreation is essential to the health and well being of Missouri's citizens. The Katy trail has been a tremendous success, and adding the Rock Island Trail will be an additional benefit to the state.

Governor Greitens, please accept this trail as I'm sure you're as committed to Missouri's parks as its residents are. Not only that, but showing a commitment to sustainable transportation and exercise and fitness speaks to the broadness of your base. I also know that you are formerly a Navy Seal, and you understand what it means to be fit and have resources like this trail for those activities. Finally, although there will be a small upkeep cost for this trail, it's a gift so there's very little cost compared to the benefit. The benefit is in long term rewards for the people of the state through tourism, fitness, transportation and greater connection to community that the usage of the trail will create. Please accept this gift on our behalf.

This is a great idea. It can only help in making Missouri a cycling destination. The Katy trail is a jewel, and adding more trail like it in the area will be a draw for tourism. As an avid cyclist myself, I plan on using this trail, as well as the Katy, often.

Rails to trails is an incredible asset to communities. I have had some of my best experiences riding on rails to trails. The constitution trail in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois is a great example of how a community can be impacted by multi use trails that create a safe environment to all users.

Tourism is vitally important to the state of Missouri. Providing another bicycle and hiking trail in which the world can enjoy the beauty of our great state will be a boost for our economy and spirit. This is a donation. Since when do we turn away such a wonderful gift??? Please accept this generous gift and use it to build on our wonderful nature trails and opportunity to provide more tourism monies.

We need to have a nice safe biking/hiking trail nearer to us. I would like to see this project complete. thanks.

Please support this trail project.

Missouri would benefit from more trails.

We best or worlds state trails Katy trail and Rock Island Project .

Start one place be on bike for week spend money in small towns and new places open up for trail and no see things two times would be sweet wow no other state can say .
People will from all over ride trail.
People love Katy Trail you know will love these trail .
Hope you will make it happen .
I love bike touring on bike
Thanks

[REDACTED]
Columbia Mo 65202

Please help our small communities such as Raytown. Bedroom communities outside of larger cities are suffering right now. All their residents commute out of the smaller municipalities for work, night life, and weekend fun. This bike trail will help promote a cheap and healthy lifestyle while giving the larger cities a reason to come out into the country and spend time and money in smaller areas of Missouri that desperately need it.

Please accept the Rock Island trail. This will be a crown jewel in the MO state park system and will be a benefit to the communities along the trail as the Katy trail has been.

We are avid equestrians and would be very interested in this trail being open for equestrian use. Trailer parking lots need to be of adequate size to easily accommodate truck/trailer parking.

The Rock Island Trail will be great! Please accept it.

Absolutely support it! I bicycle a lot and notice more and more people getting out and bicycling. I think this is due to more and more easy access to trails that beginning bicyclist can access and feel safe on and this is great for everyone.

Complete waste of opportunity for the state of Missouri to help small businesses associated along the trail! As a current outdoorsman and bicyclist of the Katy trail, if the governor does not accept the gift of trail it would definitely be a reason to vote out the current governor. ACCEPT THE TRAIL AND MAKE MISSOURI BETTER!

Yes, a very good idea...Rock Island Trail Project.

I fully support the Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project. I have spent thousands dollars supporting businesses on the KATY while enjoying our outdoors and maintaining my fitness. I have already ridden the Rock Island from Pleasant Hill to Windsor twice this year. I look forward to doing all of above many times on the Rock Island from Windsor to Beaufort in the not so distant future.

Please enter the agreement. Health and exercise is important, we need walking trails. It improves quality of life!

I would love this trail to be developed. It would create a beautiful place to ride bikes or go on long runs as well as stimulate the communities that the trail will run through.

Please let this trail happen!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The Rock Island Trail would be a tremendous resource for MO and would provide jobs, business, and additional recreation opportunities for the citizens of MO. Not accepting and developing the trail project would be incredibly short-sighted.

This would be awesome!

I am very much in favor of the Rock Island Trail.

The Katy Trail has proven itself a tremendous asset for Missouri. Adding the additional miles from the Rock Island Line will enhance it greatly and add much greater access from the south side of the river. I am very much in favor of accepting and developing this tremendous asset.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

[REDACTED], I know the value of these trails. Our nationally acclaimed trails draw enthusiasts from neighboring states and beyond, but also from within Missouri. They spend money along the trails, and for Rock Island communities like Eldon and Freeburg, the trail will be an economic boost. Please don't fail to accept this gift to the people of Missouri.

Please accept and develop the Rock Island Trail. The trail would provide great outdoor recreation for state residents as well as attract out of state tourists, increasing local business in the small towns along the trail route.

It would be a shame to not to accept the Rock Island Trail. A beautiful area that could really benefit from this opportunity.

Completing the Rock Island Trail project will help make Missouri a national tourist destination. How many other states have a trail for biking or hiking, where you can go from one end to the other? None.

Here are two big reasons to enter into the trail use agreement. One, it is not being used by the Rock Island railroad. Second, the trail will attract tourism to the state as the cycling culture is growing as an increasing rate in America.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.-

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I have ridden the Katy Trail in it's entirety, and have been on part of the Rock Island Spur as well, spending tourism dollars on the way.

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

The Rock Island Trail Project is a vital addition to the Missouri State Parks unit, and will provide much-needed connection between the Katy Trail and towns in the south of the state. It is more important than ever that we preserve our natural lands - too often I've seen deals that chip away at our natural beauty, only to replace it with oil and lumbar fields or new poorly-built living quarters and strip malls. The vast

swaths of nature make America the beautiful country that it is - and is the one thing most foreigners envy of us more than anything else. Please help make this new trail a reality.

The Rock island trail would be an incredible value asset to the state of Missouri! The DNR should definitely accept the project! Please continue to develop Missouri outdoors opportunity, it is a very important resource to bring people to Missouri, and it is highly desirable for it's citizens.

Yes, please continue with the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the rock island trail. These are the kinds of things that make Missouri an amazing home and destination. Thank you!

Economically and recreationally, this is a no-brainer. Enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement and move forward with the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!!

Bike trails bring income and commerce to the nearby towns. I like riding the trails because they are much safer than riding on roadways. Please say yes to this proposal. Thank you, Billie Hartman

The Katy trail has 18 million visitors a year. So Rock Island trail has a great potential to more visitors to MO. Seems like a great idea to me.

Please accept the Rock Island Rail/Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail, my dog (Zoser) and i would enjoy using the new trail

Dear DNR and Governor,

I have been a cyclist as far back as I can recall. Having a safe and enjoyable area to share a moment of cycling is not always possible in some areas of Missouri. The local government of Platte County and Kansas City, Missouri has done an excellent job of creating the Line Creek trail system which has allowed cyclists a safe and beautiful place to ride and enjoy our scenery. Along the route other parks have sprung up and business supporting cycling have grown as well. The citizens of our area are linked safely to many business so foot and bicycle traffic can use the path and further cut down on emissions. I have participated in several rides that use the Katy Trail between Boonville and Columbia. It is great to see how the Rails To Trails program has brought life an tourism to communities along the route. It gives individuals the opportunity to create businesses, help local distributors and employ more local people. It makes good cents, to expand the Rock Island Trail Project so that MO residents can have more jobs and economic development. It also helps the image of the state in providing more healthy ways for Missourians and others to see our fine state and to support local businesses. Please, I urge you, accept this gift opening up the door to economic development, more tourism and healthier life styles.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The DNR of theState of MO should accept the Rock Island Railroad and develop it as a hiking/biking/running trail similar to the KATY Trail. I've ridden on the KATY Trail a number of times and greatly enjoyed its beauty and peacefulness. I've met groups from England and Japan biking the KATY as well as many riders from other states and of course many from MO.

The Rock Island Trail will bring more riders, runners and walkers to our beautiful state.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail Project. Please accept the Rock Island corridor!

Please accept this gift. This will bring alot of economic income to the state.

I would love this

Help make Missouri healthy! Give us the Rock Island Trail!

I hope you will accept the Rock Island Trail. There are two good reasons: 1) It's a gift and it's free! 2) It offers cyclists a safe place to ride away from traffic.

With two world class trails in Missouri, Missouri will become the destination of multitudes of bicycle tourist. The benefits for Missouri communities will be emence and will grow exponentially in the future..

The value to, and the example to the entire country (USA)wI'll be very beneficial to Missouri.

Please accept this gift of trail systems. It would mean a lot of traffic to small towns along the trail. As a biker and hiker in the Kansas City area, this would be an amazing way to connect a lot of existing trails together. The Rock Island Trail would not only generate income in some areas but is also a great way to get people outside and off their couches which creates fitter, happier people! Even if development comes at a later time, we need to accept this gift now or it may never be available again!

I do not think we should spend our tax dollars on this project. Take the money and give the State Workers a raise.

I believe this would be a great addition to Missouri's park assets base. This asset would continue to promote healthy outdoor activities which drive down health care cost and encourage healthy lifestyle.

Bicycling continues to grow in popularity and this asset will contribute to the continued popularity.

Please strongly consider entering into this Interim Trail Use Agreement.

As a resident in the KC metro area who has lived in many other areas of the country, the KATY trail is a unique and beautiful feature of Missouri not available elsewhere. One of the most unfortunate aspects of the trail is that it goes largely unnoticed by visitors and newcomers to Kansas City.

With the proposed Rock Island Trail expansion, the trail would be much more accessible to the KC area and a great way for countless people to be exposed to the beauty of the Missouri trail system.

I am strongly in favor of the expansion and would invite you to contact me with any questions or for any additional comment you may need.

Please move forward with developing the Rock Island Trail. When combined with the Katy, this will be one of the best rides in the country, bring in numerous tourists.

The Rock Island Trail would be a great asset for the state of Missouri. My wife and I ride regularly on the Katy Trail and have met people from all parts of the county who come to Missouri just to ride on the Katy Trail, some as far away as New York. Once the Rock Island Trail is completed, I could see people riding across the State on the Katy Trail then riding back on the Rock Island Trail. The Katy Trail has had a tremendous positive impact on many towns along the trail. For example the town of Rochport has several places dine and five bed and breakfasts. With obesity rates rising in the state of Missouri, the Governor should set a good example by building new trails and encouraging people to get outside and hike, walk, and ride their bikes.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please make the Rock Island Trail a reality. My family (husband, 2 kids) absolutely love to ride our bikes on trails and this would be a perfect place to ride. The history, exercise, family time, and revenue for the area are worth it.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I regularly go on bike trips including the MKT trail, Katy Trail and River front Trail spending several hundred dollars in the process. I would definitely add this trail to my list.

Please Accept the Rock Island Trail Project, it will do wonders for the state and tourism.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! Thank you.

I encourage the State of Missouri to accept and utilize the Rock Island Railroad property/corridor.

Please accept the railway that will become the Rock Island Trail project. I have biked on the Katy Trail many many times even though it is far from where I live in Kansas City. I can attest to the economic impact it generates for the state. Please don't lose this opportunity to acquire what will be another tremendous asset for Missouri.

Please accept the trail agreement

Please make Missouri a state with a second cross state trail. It will help many small businesses along the way.

We need this

From an avid bike rider and lover of Missouri trails: Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Gov Greitens, Please accept the trail!

Please accept gift of Rock Island Railroad corridor

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I wish Warrensburg had such a trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I wish Warrensburg had such a trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail for Missourians and visitors to enjoy. We spent part of July 4 on the Katy Trail and look forward to more outdoor recreation on the new route!

Having used the Katy trail during drill weekends in Sedalia it would be great to be able to utilize the Katy Trail from my home in Raytown. The extension would be .5 miles from my house. I look forward to seeing this project completed, utilizing the trail daily and maintaining my APFT and Height/Weight.

Accept the gift and develop it, economic windfalls will follow, as did the Katy Trail system.

Please extend the Rock Island Trail!

Please complete the Rock Island Trail Project. It will be a vital tourism attraction and a great recreational resource for Missouri

Good thing for Missouri

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island corridor. What a gift for every Missourian and beyond. Show off our beautiful Missouri countryside. My ancestors on my Mothers side had what is now my uncles Century Farm. I am waiting for the day to ride with friends along the trail to see the log cabin where my mother was born. I hope that will happen soon. Please don't miss this opportunity.

Thank you, Joe

This is a fantastic opportunity. I lived in MO for 30 years and now, when I come back, it's to ride the Katy with old friends. Having this new option is very exciting. Clearly, using myself as an example, it is an attraction to bring out-of-state dollars into the state. As you well know, my one dollar has a factor of ten when I bring it to MO. The value of this gift cannot, in my

opinion, be overstated. Do not let this opportunity pass--
GRAB IT WITH BOTH HANDS!

The Rock Island Trail is something that most of us in the area have been very excited about and patiently waiting for since the idea was first presented. Our small communities along the Rock Island Line could all benefit from the boost in economy that will come from increased tourism and business expansion. Opportunities like this don't come our way often, so it's very important for us to embrace them when they do. I understand money is tight with the state, but I guarantee it's tighter in our small towns. We would love to see Eldon, as well as, Barnett, Versailles, Stover, etc. have a chance to grow and thrive, but we need your help to do it. Without your support, I don't know how that would be possible. PLEASE approve this agreement. It is so important to us. Thank you!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project donation. We have enjoyed the beauty and safety of the Katy Trail and would welcome the addition to enable more cyclists and families to enjoy the healthy recreational opportunities that would be possible with a new recreational trail. This will promote opportunities for families, youth groups, and individuals to enjoy Missouri and maintain a healthy lifestyle. The trail will also support small businesses along the trail, a great opportunity for all.

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project!! Creating more recreational opportunities for the state of Missouri is essential as well as more incentive for bicycle tourists to visit :)

Complete the Rock Island Trail. It is a great opportunity that will not come our way again. It will be a valuable asset to Mo. and great economic benefit especially to the towns it passes through. I fully support this project and am willing to pay more taxes to do it.

These trails are a recreational opportunity akin to a local lake. My home state of Nebraska has already utilized these old railway corridors for trails. They are a unique opportunity.

Gov. Greitens:

Please accept and develop the entire Rock Island Trail. The Trail will present development opportunities for the small towns along the route, which all need a boost. The business development along the KATY Trail is amazing and similar things can be expected along the Rock Island Trail. In fact, it has already started; a new restaurant has opened in Chilhowee, MO, after that section of the Rock Island Trail opened.

As we have more population growth we need more and more green spaces to relieve anxiety and tensions of daily life. Families need places to go to promote "family values". As an RN I seen the need for places that people can walk and exercise for free. This Rock Island Trail Project is such a place. My husbands family homestead is next to the Rock Island line and we think it would be an honor to have this in our state. Please commit to this for the sake of all Missourians.

Please approve this project for those who will walk and ride the trail. I have ridden the full length of the Katy Trail and look forward to this project being completed so I can use.

I am in favor of re-purposing the former Rock Island Railroad corridor for a recreational trail. My family has enjoyed the Katy Trail and sees value in having another health and fitness avenue, as well as another economic draw for the center of the state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

It's well established that trail networks generate disproportionate economic and cultural impact as they connect isolated peoples and towns in new ways, and help retain and attract TALENTED YOUNG WORKERS to Missouri. We will never have mountains or sea fronts. But a countryside connected by walking and biking trails is an exciting amenity that this young generation and future generations will be happy we created.

Please take the longer view. Invest in our countryside, our economy, and our people.

YES, Missouri needs the additional revenue and attention the Rock Island trail would bring to the state. Please develop this trail. It is good for the state and for everyone involved.

Cycling is a very positive sport, that helps to promote healthy living and lowers the cost of health care.

I think this would be a wonderful addition to the state parks. I have often used the Katy trail and parts of the proposed Rock Island Trail would be closer to my home in Rolla so I am greatly looking forward to using it even more.

There is no downside to this. Adding additional reasons for people to get out and enjoy the beautiful landscape of Missouri is a great idea and should be absolutely embraced. This will also bring in money from other states when bike enthusiasts come to ride our trails and spend money in MO. Lets do it!!!

As a active citizen and an employee in the Eldon Mo community, I hear a lot of buzz about the possibility of the Rock Island Trail passing right through town. The potential economic effect from the recreational trail would be huge for this small hometown community. Development in the Eldon area is taking place daily and having the Rock Island Trail passing through would only aid in local business and community growth. Our downtown area has recently taken a facelift and new business are moving into the area, and the trail ride would only help those businesses thrive.

I love the Katy trail and most years ride all of it. It would be awesome to have another.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I am absolutely in favor of developing the Rock Island Trail as a Bike/Recreational Trail. Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This would be wonderful for Mo. There is not a lot of places cyclist can safely ride their bikes. A lot of roads have signs up to share the roads but vehicles are still irritated by us cyclist by either intentionally trying to run us off the road or gesturing/shouting obscenities. More bike lanes need to be available. This would give recreational cyclist more safer options, not to mention the possible tourism benefit and revenues.

Please accept the Rock Island rail land. It will significantly enhance the trail system in MO and attract people from all over the state and nation, thus helping to boost tourism and strengthen the economy!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It would be foolish not to do so when this gift, which costs the state nothing, could improve the lives of our citizens and attract people from numerous countries to our state, resulting in a boost to our economy. Do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss this further.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

We live at [redacted] Leslie, MO, 63056. We are right across the street for this trail. We want this trail developed. This trail will allow us to have a really close biking and walking area within feet of our property. It will be a nice senic trail with safe use that you will not have to worry about traffic or being attacked by a dog. The Katy trail has alot of use in small towns like Dutzow and Augusta which bring in business for these small towns. The Rock Island Trail will do the same for the small towns on it's trail. Small businesses are already investing money based on this trail coming to their towns. If this trail does not get developed these businesses will have spent alot of money for nothing. This trail is a positive asset to this area, Missouri tourism, and business.

[redacted]

People are looking forward to the Rock Island Trail if our governor does not go through with this he is going to make alot of people angry! Let alone the small business money that was spent for nothing! You think these small businesses can afford that? This issue makes us angry, we want this trail! This should be a done deal! If people want to argue what a bike trail does for small business, we have personally seen what it does on the Katy Trail. On any given day the parking lot for the trail in Dutzow is packed and the lot in Augusta gets about 1/2 the use as Dutzow. People use these trails!

[redacted] Now you have our true thoughts!

[redacted]

Please accept the Rock Island Trial Project. I use rails to trails commonly.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Like the Katy Trail, it will be a strong asset for Missouri tourism.

Please save this trail so important for the citizens economic development and tourism.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This will be huge in tourism for the state of Missouri and bring in lots and lots of money for the state.

Thank you,
Carrie

Please Accept the Rock Island trail

Governor Greitens,

I have biked the Katy trail end to end two times, and have done numerous day and overnight trips on it as well. Please accept the gift of 144 new miles of trails that can be added to our existing rail-trail network. I feel that it would be a valuable addition and would turn an unused corridor into a path that provides enjoyment to local and out of state citizens.

What a wonderful future project that will inject needed economic benefits to rural communities along the route. And it will increase the influx of tourist dollars into Missouri. Jobs, jobs, jobs!

Please make this happen! This would be great for the people of Missouri for years and years to come.

I support the development of the Rock Island Recreational Trail.

Bike trails are a great way to improve the health of our citizens by offering a safe place to walk, run or ride a bike. This trail will be a great asset to the State of Missouri. As a family that travels throughout the USA, using bike trails where we travel to, we know this will be a great addition to our state.

Please continue project development on the Rock Island Trail, for all active Missourians to enjoy!

So excited about this project and the opportunity to have it open to equestrians. I am sure that you have already been quoted these figures from the American Horse Council:

MISSOURI

· The Missouri horse industry produces goods and services valued at \$718 million.

· The national industry has a \$1.3 billion impact on the Missouri economy when the multiplier effect of spending by industry suppliers and employees is taken into account. Accounting for off-site spending of spectators would result in an even higher figure.

· 125,100 Missourians are involved in the industry as horse owners, service providers, employees, and volunteers. Even more participate as spectators.

· The Missouri horse industry directly provides 42,200 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs. Spending by suppliers and employees (in Missouri and other states) generates additional jobs in Missouri for a total employment impact of 56,000.

· There are 281,000 horses in Missouri, over 70 percent of which are involved in showing and recreation.

Trail riding is one of the most enjoying activities and continues to grow in popularity. People that travel our state and trail ride with their horses spend money, and lots of it. Thank you for your consideration to allowing horses on this epic trail.

This trail will build community relations with each city/county. We will need to assist others on the trail line so that all involvement will create the synergy for our state and encourage recreational activities.

This is the best thing going for an attraction to the state as well as small business opportunities. Yes, enter into the agreement..

Yes, we take entire weekend trips to the Katy Trail. We know a lot of businesses that rely on the bicyclists. This is a huge opportunity to grow bike tourism.

I want to express my sincere hope that the Department of Natural Resources will accept the additional 144 miles of rail corridor and develop the Rock Island Trail further. Living in Columbia, I consider myself blessed to have the Katy Trail pretty much in my backyard. The trail is where I spend much of my free time in the spring and fall when the weather is nice and I see a great number of others doing the same. People from all walks of life use the trail, from hardcore cyclists riding all 240 miles to families simply out for a Sunday stroll. The incredible views of the river and the towering bluffs make the Katy Trail a relaxing and inexpensive way to enjoy the natural beauty of Missouri as well as a way to exercise and be healthy that is available to everyone. In fact, I rode my bike on the Katy Trail almost daily one summer and lost almost 30 pounds. Without the trail, I would not be as healthy nor as happy as I am today. My love for the Katy Trail is certainly not unique. Columbians, with our many recreational trails in the city, know very well that public, outdoor spaces impact our lives in a positive manner. I believe that developing the Rock Island Trail will allow more Missourians to live better, healthier, happier lives.

In addition, there are more tangible benefits that developing the Rock Island Trail would bring. The number often cited as the economic impact for the Katy Trail is 18 million dollars a year and a good deal of that money comes from out of state and even out of the country. Over the years, I have met people from as far away as Canada, Venezuela, and France, riding their bikes on the trail. They travelled to Missouri, stayed in hotels, ate at restaurants, and bought souvenirs in part because of the Katy Trail. Furthermore, I have seen people from all across the United States spending money in Missouri because of the Katy. I have seen Oregonians using the Clinton airport, Kansans buying Katy Trail memorabilia at the depot in Sedalia, New Yorkers shopping in Boonville, Alabamans eating at Dotty's Café in Hartsburg, and Idahoans visiting the wineries of Augusta. The Katy Trail helps these small towns not only to survive, but to thrive. Developing the Rock Island Trail would have the same impact on the many small towns along the rail corridor. The people living in those towns want

the trail to be developed and to have access to the many benefits that a major, cross-state trail brings.

Please, accept the donation of the rail corridor from Ameren and develop the Rock Island Trail. It will positively impact the lives of Missourians as well as the state's economy in addition to making Missouri the undisputed rails-to-trails capital of the world.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail, I think this would be a great addition to our Hike and Bike Trail System!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This would be a great benefit to our state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please enter into this trail use agreement - we need this to put Missouri on the map for greatness in bike trails. This will be a huge benefit to tourism in Missouri and to the health of Missourians, and quality of life. Many many bike enthusiasts have been waiting years for this to happen - please promote more bike trails, and the linking up of more of them in Missouri. Please enter into this use agreement!! We need this!

Please accept the rock island trail.

Over the last ten years I have ridden on the KATY trail dozens of time even though I live in Kansas City. I have only done one long ride of more than 200 miles on it but it continues to be one of my favorite destinations. I have also ridden along the Erie Canal in New York and the KATY is generally a better ride. I am in hopes you will continue to extend you trail network, they get a lot of use.

I am in Virginia but definitely in favor of the Rock Island Trail Project. The first part of the cross-state trail, the Katy Trail, is part of the coast-to-coast American Discovery Trail. This extension of the Rock Island Trail would also become a part of the American Discovery Trail. We have been planning on this happening since 1991. Trails are an economic boon to local communities. Look what happened in Rochport, MO on the Katy Trail!!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. The Katy is already a major asset for the state attracting people from around the country and even foreign countries. The Rock Island will make this even better. Please support it.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the rock island trail. What an opportunity for cycling in Missouri. Travel across the state one way on the Katy then back on RI, never having to see the same scenery twice.

Please accept this wonderful gift, it's a no brainer. Make Missouri the undisputed king of rails to trails, greatly help the small rural towns such a trail would pass through by bringing

in tourists from around the country and world, and help develop another great local attraction for Missourians.

I am in support of expanding the trail and finishing the link between Kansas City and St. Louis

Please accept the rock island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

There is no cost to the State to accept this, and if it were accepted, the state has no obligation to immediately build the trail. In fact, this could be left to non-profits and local jurisdictions. In 2012 The KATY trail generated \$18 million in total (direct and indirect) spending.

The communities with the most to gain are in rural areas.

I have been on the Katy Trail many times. While a Scout Master for 14 years at Troop 145 from 1999 to 2014, our boys traveled that trail every year at least twice and they still on occasion visit it. Our scouts have rode almost the entire length of the trail and they have earned their Bicycle Merit Badges on the Katy. We have met many trail visitors from all over the United States and many foreign countries. Halloween weekends are the best around Columbia because it brings out some many college students in costume. That is their favorite weekend. Knowing how much this trail means to Missourian's and our visitors I can only imagine what a second trail could possibly do for our economy, especially along the trails, and for state tourism. What a draw for bicyclist, hikers, and nature buffs from all over the world, two signature trails, connected for round trip adventures, awesome, love it. 'SHOW ME' the TRAILS !!!!!!!!!!!

Please don't discount the Rock Island Trail because of "lack of interest". Comparatively there are few riders vs the general population however those of us would get a lot of use out of it, just like the Katy Trail. I don't know the overall economics of it, it may be expensive for the state, but this is something that promotes the health and well being of its users and brings economic development to the areas it touches. Population wise maybe that isn't the same as matching grants for stadium building, but for overall state perception I think this is a much better cause. I encourage you to spend some time on the Katy Trail and ask fellow citizens and tourists about the RIT before saying no.

Do not support. Per the agreement made long ago, the land is supposed to go back to the landowners. We own land close to where the trail would be and it would cross our county road, Highway 50 between Leslie/Gerald, and Highway Y (north out of Gerald), all roads I drive daily.

Please develop this trail. It's great for missouri.

Please accept the gift of land for the Rock Island Trail!

Thank you

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

As civic leader you must take action and affect change where you can. Today Missouri has an adult obesity rate of 32.4 percent. That's a third of the adult population facing long term

health problems. Access to healthy activities is critical in creating change in our culture. Although this might seem like a simple trail network the return on investment will be realized for generations to come. Help lead America in a healthy and active lifestyle! Accept the Rock Island trail!

Please accept the gift of the trail! Huge tourism dollars.

Accept this trail!

I am in support of this project going forward let's get this trail connected and help make our state more accessible for different ways of seeing all of our natural beauty. I wanna bike across Missouri on a trail not on a highway.

I am an 73 year old still working cyclist.

I ride speed machines and off road bicycles.

I would like to see State government support places for me to ride.

Cities and counties can not create 100 or more mile places to ride.

Please support the Rock Island trail Project.

I feel this would be a great addition to the Missouri Park network! I frequently use the Katy trail and the talk of extending the trail by adding this stretch is exciting to me. I would love to see this happen.

Please accept.

Please accept this gift.

I am very supportive of the Rock Island trail project!

I have ridden on the small existing rock island trail and it was a wonderful experience. It was full of others biking and enjoying the natural beauty of Missouri. I believe it will bring communities together and create a sincere affection for the state especially in young children who grow up enjoying the trail. As a resident of Kansas City the rock island trail is the only way I can safely connect to the Katy trail on bike and I would love to see it completed.

please support this trail project. we need it!

Couldn't have said it better...

<https://www.railstotrails.org/experience-trails/benefits-of-trails/>

Please enter into the agreement and develop the trail.

Development of the Katy Trail resulted in a 20:1 net economic benefit:cost ratio, and there's no reason to expect RITP to be any different.

This should be done. This will be a wonderful attraction and addition to the state.

I would love to see this section of trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I truly believe this is an appropriate use of our tax dollars.

Thank you for your consideration.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. As has been seen with the Katy Trail, this can be a huge boost to the economies of the small towns along the trail.

In these revenue short times, figure a way to not spend any money for 2 or 3 years, or get corporate sponsors to fund most of it, it will be an asset for the state and the area and worth trying to get.

Please do accept the Rock island trail. Love our state's trails.

I support development of the trail. Additional recreational uses will help the attractiveness of the state.

The Rock Island Trail Project is absolutely vital to the image of Missouri as a tourism destination. Along with the Katy trail, this will help drive revenue dollars from regular tourism. It will drive it to many needed areas of the state as well. Missouri already lost the tour of MO and gave Colorado and California tens of millions of revenue. We can't afford more lost initiatives.

PLEASE ACCEPT THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL DONATION FROM AMEREN AND SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS TRAIL. I am not a cyclist - BUT I do enjoy using bike trails to walk and hike. But my support for the Rock Island Trail rests more on the economic benefits for very small rural towns that lie along the trail. I witnessed the rebirth and growth of small towns located along the Katy Trail when it was developed in central Missouri and I've seen the number of people who travel to Missouri specifically for the biking trails. Some of those small towns were barely hanging on and the trail provided the lifeline they needed. These trails provide great opportunities for people to exercise, enjoy nature, learn more about the history and culture of the areas the trails run through. Even more importantly, rails to trails projects provide economic opportunities for the people who live in very rural areas where such opportunities are rare. There are communities in my area that are very supportive and excited about the prospect of having a state park bike trail running through their jurisdiction. In some cases they have started some local development in support of the trail. Killing this project by rejecting the donation will be a great disappointment to many people in our area who see the trail as a way to improve the quality of life and the economic development of the area.

Please move forward with this project! These trail systems are a boon to tourism and bring visitors fro across the country to businesses in small towns along their path. They also make Missouri a more desirable state for other to relocate to.

The Rock Island Trail will enhance the economy of the state just as the Katy does. Ridden the Katy end to end several times and on each trip I have met numerous people from across the country who have come to our state to enjoy this wonderful park and trail system. Keep it growing with the addition of the Rock Island

It would be very disappointing to learn that Missouri DNR refuses the gift of a railway corridor that could be used as another trail in Missouri.

It is very hard to understand why a refusal is even being considered.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please support the Rock Island Trail Project. Projects such as these are an economic boost to the small communities along the trail. The KATY trail is very popular as will the Rock Island trail.

Please complete the rock island trail.

Please do not stop this project. It is going to run through our city in Raytown MO. This town struggles as it is to bring people to our city and a lot of businesses have already started new projects based around the completion of this trail. We need this in our city.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please say yes to this trail. I would come from Nebraska to ride on this trail. Rail to trail conversions are great!

Trails have provided great economic development opportunities to rural areas as evidenced by the Katy Trail. The creation and maintenance of the MoRIT would be an excellent opportunity for many small, rural Missouri communities to develop tourism and economic development benefits for their town.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

There was opposition to the Katy Trail back when it was proposed. Now it's a viable venue bringing millions in revenue to the state for local businesses. It's a domino effect. Build it and people will come. The same holds true for the Rock Island project. Build it and more people will come.

I believe the Rock Island Trail would be a very positive thing for our state. I would love to see this project come to fruition for our citizens.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I am a strong supporter of the Rock Island Trail addition! As a Columbia resident, I have the opportunity to reap the benefits of the Katy Trail, and have seen the positive impact it has had on our community. The communities along the Rock Island Trail should receive these benefits, as well! It would bring in revenue, and continue to let the cycling world know how committed Missouri is to this type of recreation. Rock Island would be a GREAT addition to our trail system!

To whom it may concern:

I hope the DNR moves forward and enters into a Trail Use Agreement for the Rock Island Project. As an avid user of the Katy Trial, I believe the proposed Rock Island project would

be a great compliment to the Katy and serve as a great tourist attraction.

Please accept and approve the Rock Island Trail! It will be an economic booster for many rural Missouri communities.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I ride trails weekly since retirement. I support those who value trails.

Accept the Rock Island Trail.

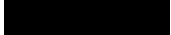
Yes! Please accept and do what you can to develop this trail. What a great tourist site this can be. Boosting businesses and tax dollars along the route.

Please go ahead with the agreement and the trail. This provides high value outcome and differentiation for Missouri. Help brand our quality of life advantages.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

While I am not a resident of Missouri, my daughter is. She is an avid bicycle rider and since moving to Missouri has come to enjoy riding the existing trails that are available. Please consider the possibility of extending these trails with acquisition of the Rock Island corridor. The potential for economic development along this corridor exists for anyone interested on starting a small business along the route. Please consider this acquisition.

Respectfully,



I absolutely support the Rock Island trail. As a physician I believe supporting healthy activities is crucial

Cycling is fast becoming a big industry in Missouri. Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The Rock Island trail just like the Katy Trail could bring much needed life and commerce to towns along it's path. It would also bring many tourists to our state which would have a ripple effect.

Not going forward with the trail will have a ripple effect on election day as well!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please make the rock island railroad tracks a bicycle trail. It would be a wonderful addition to Missouri parks!

Julie Reno

I like it, please accept the Rock Island Trail donation. Seems like a no brainer

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I am in support of state funding for & development of the Rock Island Trail. It will be another way to support outdoor sports, health & wellness in Missouri. It will create jobs for bike rental companies, restaurants, shops & lodging. It will promote tourism in the beautiful state of Missouri.

Please enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project.

Missouri is becoming a premier destination for hikers and bikers. I feel we need to keep adding to our trail system to maintain that status. Having a second cross state trail would be a big bonus and lure more outdoor enthusiasts to Missouri.

Please accept this deal.....more safe reliable trails are needed.....thank you

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Dear Sirs,

I urge that you accept Ameren's gift of the Rock Island Rail for Mo. State Parks. To get to the Katy trail from Rolla is a four hour drive up and back which leaves little time for a leisurely excursion on the trail. The small towns impacted by this trail would benefit from this as a bike trail as would the many riders like myself in this part of Missouri. Katy is a nationwide treasure for Missouri. Think of what a great addition the Rco Island would be!

Yours truly,



Please accept the rock trail land donation.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The Rock Island Trail should become an important complement to Missouri's beautiful Katy Trail State Park and its spectacular hiking and biking paths.

Please accept the generous donation from the former Rock Island RR to make a wonderful recreational trail in central MO. It will bring tourists from all over our country and abroad to use adding revenue to our state.

Yes! These trails are a valuable resource for Missouri, bringing beauty, exercise and vacationers to the area.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I represent a non-profit that provides education for parks and recreation professionals state-wide. We know first-hand of the very real value that trails connections of all kinds bring to Missourians' quality of life, regardless of age, income and physical ability. In addition, the KATY provides the premier example of the economic impact of a well-planned and maintained trail system to local economies, encouraging further connections for residents and visitors alike. Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

I'm all for it. Great for families to get out and exercise together.... Exercise is a key contributor to health and well being. Young and old alike. Kids nowadays are on their digital feeds and games constantly and need to get out and about. Many schools have reduced gym time and/or focused on competitive sports too much, taking the sheer enjoyment out of it. Biking is ok for all people. Low impact, tolerant of all skill levels and FUN.

Riding on streets full of texting and telephone talking auto drivers is Dangerous now. Young families can't risk it in many areas....

Accept the trail. It will provide a good source of revenue for the State.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Rails to trails bicycle paths are bringing tourist dollars to Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin and even Georgia!

Women in particular like to bicycle away from the dangers of car traffic.

Please accept the donation of the Rock Island Railroad corridor for use as a recreation trail to make Missouri an even greater place for visitors!

Please accept the rock island trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

As a former resident and a current absentee voter, I very much support this trail. People from around the world ride and talk about the Katy trail and how great it is. Not to mention the businesses that have sprung up next to and related to same. There's no reason the the Rock Island Trail shouldn't see the same sort of activity, if not more. Please, accept the gift of the trail.

Just FYI - I'm a former Kansas City resident, trail builder and designer as well as the former Western Missouri International Mountain Bike Association representative. I now reside outside of Zurich, Switzerland where nearly everyone rides a bike either for fun or for transport.

Thanks,



Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the donation and develop the trail. Cross state multi-purpose trails are an asset for rural Missourians that bring much needed tourism dollars into their communities.

Governor Greitens, please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This would be wonderful!

The Rock Island Trail Project is a good project for Missouri! This trail will provide added tourism to Missouri and the communities along the trail. There will be need for food and lodging businesses.

This trail is a healthy addition to Missouri, providing a scenic form of exercise. Studies prove that exercise is a benefit to

body and mental processes and delays aging and age-related illnesses. Exercising in nature is exponentially better.

Please don't let the work of so many for so many years go by the wayside.

Please say YES to the Rock Island Trail Project's continuation and completion!

Missouri's legacy with regards to conservation is one of it's largest accomplishments. The public lands, parks, and monuments are something that every citizen of any stripe can enjoy. We must continue to develop these resources so that all Missourians have access to healthful play, adventure, and outdoor learning experiences. Please accept this consolation from Ameren after their negligence devastated one of Missouri's greatest natural treasures at Taum Sauk Reservoir. They were extremely lucky no one perished...

Please accept this land, develop it, and open it to the public to bring tourism to this rural part of Missouri.

I support the state of Missouri accepting the land for the rock island trail. I believe this project will promote tourism in Missouri and benefit communities along the trail path. Please also assist the land owners privacy rights along the trail by educating trail users with state funding for signage that reminds visitors not to trespass on private property.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. We are becoming a sedentary nation.

I wholeheartedly support the DNR entering this agreement and think the state should do everything possible to develop the Rock Island Trail Project as quickly as possible. I will be voting on this issue.

I urge all appropriate agencies within the government of Missouri to support the acquisition of the Rock Island Trail. Not only would it be of recreational benefit to its citizens, but I feel it would be an economical boon to cities and towns along its pathway, like Versailles.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Opportunities like this to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Missouri, as well as provide tourism opportunities for the surrounding area, simply don't come along that often. Seize the moment!

Finish the trail!! Missouri will have the most famous rail trail in the US! So many communities will benefit. More business opportunities, improved health etc

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It is a great opportunity to provide an important recreational and transportation corridor in the western part of the state of Missouri.

This would be a fabulous opportunity to further develop the beautiful trail systems in Missouri. To offer exercise and encourage outdoor involvement with all types of people and activity is a step in the right direction for Missouri.

Please accept this offer and develop the Rock Island Trail!

A note to Gov. Greitens. Missouri needs to develop a trail system similar to one in Colorado.

A good trail network is a valuable asset to the State of Missouri. Accept the offer. It is to the advantage of Missouri.

Please accept the donation of rail line from Ameren MO and create another cross state bike, hike and walking trail.

Governor Greitens keeps saying he wants to "create" more jobs, this is the perfect place to it. People removing old rail line to the businesses that will open up along the trail serving tourists(who have money to spend) this is the perfect time and place to say YES and get this project moving forward.

Please complete the rock island trail

This would be a great asset for our state and a wonderful place for my family and friends to hike, bike and walk on. Please accept this wonderful gift from Ameren

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. This will provide a direct economic benefit to rural communities.

Please accept the rock island trail.

Please go ahead with the Rock Island trail. We bike the Katy Trail often, and would love to ride this new trail. The Rock Island Trail would be a great benefit to tourism. Bikers all over the country are envious of our bike trails. We often meet people riding the Katy Trail from out of state.

Please do this! My family loves the Katy trail and think this would be a great addition to our states trails!

As an avid trail user, I fully support the state accepting ownership of the 144 mi trail. Our grandchildren and tourists to the state will thank the state for doing this.

Please approve the conversion of the former Rock Island Railroad corridor into a 144.3 mile long recreational trail from Windsor, MO, to Beaufort, MO.

thanks

Please accept rock island trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept this gift. What a wonderful opportunity to highlight Missouri's tourism industry

This is an excellent idea. The trails are an invaluable resource for Missouri. It would be a terrible mistake to not pursue this agreement!!

Great idea! We need more bike trails to stay off of the roads.

We really enjoy this beautiful trail!

I am in agreement that this trail is greatly needed! The economic benefits to such a recreational experience is huge but the long term effects on individual health and getting multiple states to look at Missouri for events would be a positive plus in our favor. I would personal make it part of my

life as I have done with the Katy Trail, Ozarks Greenway Trail and the other trails that exist around the state. Whether it's walking, running or biking these trails, it can give an escape that we all need to connect back to nature and revitalize our spirits. We need more opportunities like this one to continue building positive experiences across this great state. Thank you for listening and understanding.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please complete the trail.

As a voter of Governor Greitens this would be a perfect opportunity to show his progressive side here in the Midwest. I've had extensive travels to the Pac Northwest and there National forests and Parks are amazing... Not to mention the trail systems. I'm sure if cost is an issue many cyclist, mountain bikers and trail runners walkers would gladly do volunteer work which would help with overhead cost as far a labor is concerned.

The Katy Trail has become one of our biggest assets and now we have the opportunity to develop the Rock Island Trail. Trails help a lot of small communities along the way. This should be one of the easiest decisions to make. Have a great day!

The completion and incorporation of this trail will be a legacy our state will forever have to value and will last generations. I have cycled the Katy Trail (200-miles in 2 days) 10x and this resource changed my life. This addition will further enhance the trail system. If we are to have an impact on health outcomes for our citizens, fitness/movement must be part of the equation. I cannot even count how many people I have told as a Missouri primary care physician to go out to the Katy Trail and cycle or even just walk.

I am a regular user of the Katy Trail, and think the Rock Island Trail would be a welcome addition. Please accept the land. This isn't a stadium with PSL's that we're talking about, and the bang for the buck would be hard to match.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept and develop the Rock Island Trail as soon as possible.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Yes - love the idea of the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the gift of the Rock Island Trail project. The Katy trail is a great asset for the state and a Rock Island trail will prove to be great as well. Thank you!

Please accept this amazing gift!

I think it's a great idea. It's land and a corridor that is currently being unused as far as I can tell. And the biking community in KC has grown exponentially in the last 10 years. This would be another great addition to promote a more healthy community and fun family activity.

Please, we need the Rock Island Trail!

I am in favor of this. This will give many Missourians and visitors great opportunities to explore the state and enjoy physical fitness while doing so.

Do the trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Our public trails are a critical source of revenue for the state, people from around the country visit as tourists and many people choose to live in and around cities with key trail-heads. These trails also serve as key opportunities for new small family owned businesses. Entering into this agreement is beneficial to all parties involved and will serve to further elevate Missouri above surrounding states as a desirable location to vacation and live.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

The Katy trail and other trail developments don't just provide recreation for rural areas, but it also provides commerce to largely struggling towns. The Rock Island trail will help continue to bring tourists to Missouri and help it compete with r creations destinations such as Bentonville, Brown County in Indiana, and Denver. We need to promote Missouri as a recreational destination and get Missouri residents moving to cut healthcare costs in the future.

Would be an awesome bike, walking and running trail.

The trail would be of benefit to many people. It's a great use of land.

Take the trail!!!

This is an excellent opportunity on a proposed trail that I would be using multiple times per year once completed. The existing Katy trail already generates a lot of interest, even outside of the state of Missouri. These opportunities are rare and should generate a lot of tourism dollars as well as make the state a better place for its residents.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It would be a great way to promote healthy living and bring tourism to all connecting trails in Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I love the idea of the Rock Island Trail.

It would be great to have another long trail in Missouri!

The simple answer is to look at the Katy Trail. It is a fantastic resource for the state with people coming from as far as Europe to ride the trail. I ride the trail almost every week and I will always meet people from across the country riding the entire length of the trail. The Katy has been a remarkable

success even with all the controversy that surrounded the acceptance of the trail. I would have thought by now that everyone would realize what an asset to the state the rails to trails program has been. The addition of the Rock Island trail will enhance the Katy by offering a Kansas City connection to cross the state. Only good can come from a decision to accept the Rock Island Trail.

I am in favor of more trails of all kinds connecting runners and bicyclists to other communities across Missouri.

To whom it may concern: The completion of the Rock Island Trail Project is vital to our community and all of those along it's route. I have ridden the Katy end to end 3 times and biked solo and with family and friends countless times with excellent results over the past 21 years: improved physical and mental condition, opportunity to view beautiful scenery, and knowledge of communities along the way that I would never have known had it not been for the Katy. I ride Katy today when I can but it is 25-30 minutes one way drive for me to access from home. Having a completed Rock Island Trail would cut this commute from 25 minutes to 7 minutes. This would insure that I could bike more and would give me a chance to share with family and friends...an opportunity that presently does not exist. Trail completion and subsequent up-keep is a strategically important contribution to our community and businesses throughout the territory through which it passes. Please strongly consider allocation of adequate funding and resources to complete and maintain this important state and national resource.

Thank You... [REDACTED]

Please accept this awesome offer. It's a winner for sure!

Thank you. [REDACTED]

Please make the Rock Island Trail a reality!

Please accept the Rock island trail. I think more trails is always a great idea. I travel around to explore new trails and know others would come in to enjoy the trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Thank you.

Please accept and complete the trail It pumps so much \$\$\$\$ into the small towns along the way

It is a great idea!

I endorse DNR entering the agreement and accepting the land donation from Ameren. This will be a boon to economic development in the rural part of our State. Thank you

I think this would be an amazing idea and provide a much needed and safe place for families to ride.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. The Katy Trail has been an amazing success story -- great recreation for residents and a tourism draw for the communities around it (like my home town). The Rock Island trail will bring more of the same.

I feel the developing of the Rock Island Trail Project will benefit the State of Missouri economically in the areas where

the trail passes and provide further opportunities for Missourians to be outside and in better shape.

Please support the Rock Island Trail. It will pay back to Missouri in travel dollars!!!!

Please keep the Rock Island Trail Project, a wonderful development for Raytown and MO families. Keep people in MO and not KS!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! Thanks!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Outdoor recreation is a highly sought after activity and an economic boon for communities near long distance trails. Often when companies relocate, they choose communities with good quality of life amenities, which includes trails. The Rock Island Trail, when completed, will become a part of a national trail, the American Discovery Trail. As a past traveler on the ADT, I was able to experience Missouri on a personal basis, get to know its people and history, and, of course, spent money along the way.

I ask you to please accept the Rock Island Trail.

A fantastic opportunity not to be missed. Railbanked trails are the best

This trail would be fantastic for Missouri bikers and walkers! It would attract tourists from around the USA and beyond.

Please accept the donation, this donation will definitely be a great source of tourism in the future. No initial cost of investment and the ability to earn great. Seems to have no negatives to it from an economic perspective. Plus, on a personal level, the residents of Missouri will have another great area for recreation. Obvious Win-Win here.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

I have supported Rails-To-Trails, a national organization, for 25 years (I'm only 52.) Benefits abound from Rail-to-Trail projects.

I have followed the opportunity to receive Ameren's land/RITrail since it became a possibility. I have read numerous accounts of economic development, and improvement in tourism, for small/rural towns for the Katy Trail since before I moved back to Missouri almost 20 years ago!

I expect similar enhancements to the rural economies along the Rock Island trail. Furthermore, with partnering with St. Louis area Greenway organizations/routes, people will be able to plan _extensive_ vacations for a variety of routes -- all in MISSOURI !! This is a NATIONAL travel destination opportunity.

I am not employed; I am a STEM volunteer in Rolla, MO. I support trails for a variety of reasons, which I will not detail here in respect of brevity, though these include reducing health care costs for citizens of Missouri. I realize development costs for this land will likely make completion

take a long time, years. But the opportunity for this land is NOW!

Repurposing for multi-mode transportation along rail-trails has occurred in other states. Having this asset may allow impossible-to-replicate opportunities in future cross-state transportation (e.g. high speed transport w/new tech. like "Hyperloop"), and with technology may allow other sector advantages not now seen.

Please support the Rock Island Trail -- and reap economic benefits and enhance the tourism reputation of Missouri! Seize this opportunity NOW!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The Rock Island Trail Project is necessary for keeping alive the communities along it. I just rode the new Flint Hills Trail last weekend, and at every town it cuts through, I was certain to spend my money and converse with the locals. It build communities and relationships. I've ridden the KATY Trail twice, and I would love to do the Rock Island next. Please make it happen. The trail matters more than you realize.

This train project is extremely important or many reasons: economic/tourism, safe and active transportation (critical for addressing overweight/obesity issues in the state), and healthy communities.

The Rock Island Trail would be such a plus for Missouri for recreation, tourism and attraction for potential residents. Please consider funding the project for Missouri

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail !

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I hope the Rock Island Trail Project will continue! I live in Windsor, which is a struggling small town like so many others in Missouri. I've been surprised how many people already travel to Windsor due to the Katy Trail and feel that number would be exponentially larger if the Rock Island Trail is completed.

Small towns in Missouri have a hard time attracting dollars, and this is a great way to achieve that!

Do it! Scenic bike trails are great experiences for Missouri citizens and others nationwide. My wife and I have ridden the Kathy Trail from St Charles to Clinton, 15 to 30 miles at a time. This allowed us to stay in B&B's and motels in small towns along the way. We've eaten at many excellent restaurants in these towns.

The scenery along the Missouri River is fantastic.

We also take a several day trip to bike along developed trails in other states every month or two. We've met many couples from other states that would ride this new trail just as we ride their Starr's trails. The new trail would be good for Missouri's image and economy.

Gov Greitens, Please accept the trail!

I am in favor of this project. Please approve. My community would greatly benefit from this trail. My family, friends and dogs will use it on a regular basis.

Now that we are retired, my wife and I have bought a small camper and will travel all over the United States riding the best rail trails that we can find. My wife has already ridden the Katy Trail and I want to do the same. It would certainly be great to have another long distance trail in Missouri so we could do both. I'm sure that we will help many small towns along the former rail lines with our expenditures for lodging, food and supplies.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.
The more multi-use trails we have in Missouri the better!

This is an amazing idea and represents a huge bonus for Missouri. It will be an asset to citizens and also to those from elsewhere who will come to spend their money enjoying another great amenity in Missouri. It is also going to be a boon to the many small communities through which it passes, just as the Katy Trail has been.

.please accept the rock island trail

PLEASE ACCEPT THE TRAIL! IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO FOR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND HEALTH REASONS. IT WILL MAKE MO A DESTINATION FOR 1. COMPANIES WHO WANT AMENITIES FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES, 2. RETIREES, 3. TOURISTS, AND 4. SMALL BUSINESSES
THANK YOU!

Please leave the trail alone for those of us who value the ability to enjoy nature. thank you.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project! It would be absolutely wonderful for Missouri!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please Accept The Rock Island Trail Project. Thank You.

I use the Katy trail as part of my commute and for leisure in the St. Charles area. I support the state accepting the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Railroad

Since the creation of the KATY Trail State Park, I have sent hundreds of hours riding, and thousands of dollars in small towns across the state. I have taken long weekends and full weeks of vacation and stayed in hotels, B&Bs and public and private campgrounds across Missouri to enjoy the KATY.

Were not for the KATY, I would never have considered visiting, and spending money, in towns like Clinton, Windsor, Boonville, New Franklin, Rocheport, Rhineland, McKittrick, or Marthasville. My money would have gone elsewhere - likely out of state.

Missouri has a diamond just waiting to be polished. Please don't let it go to waste. Complete the Rock Island Trail.

I think this would be a great resource for the state. When I ride across the Katy trail now I meet lots of cyclists and even a few hikers going cross country from out of state who are very complimentary of the trail. It'd be a fantastic addition to an already fantastic park.

As someone who spent many years living in Central Misosuri, I was an avid user of the MKT Trail and Katy Trail. Now that I live in St. Louis, my young family and I are exploring the bike trails in the area. I have been thinking that a companion to the Katy Trail would be an excellent addition to our state and the Rock Island Trail fits that bill.

This would bring tourism to the state, and possible could be the home of a Missouri version of RAGBRAI, one of the biggest tourism events in Iowa.

I have recently given thought to doing a family vacation across the Katy Trail and it would be wonderful to be able to go out on one trail and back on the other. Rock Island would provide lots of opportunity to the state and to small business owners operating campgrounds, shops, cafes and B and Bs.

I have used the Kady trail on several occasions. I have ridden the entire trail twice (over 240 miles). It is a beautiful and safe way for riders to see the beauty in our state. I have two fellow cyclists that rode it with me and our wives would pick us up each afternoon at various trail heads. The wives basically shopped their way across the state while we rode. We then would stay at area hotels along the way and have dinner and breakfast together before departing for the next leg of our journey. We have also done trails like this in Kansas, Iowa, and South Dakota. I would love to see another trail in Missouri that we could visit.

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

The more trails the better. Please accept this donation to our state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.
We need more safe bike trails.

I totally support this gift to the State and it would be great for the Region. Governor please accept this gift on behalf of the State of Mo.

Thank you,

This will be great for bikers and hikers!

I am in favor of developing the Rock Island Trail. I have biked most of the Katy Trail and have loved it. This sounds like a great opportunity to have another great trail.

Please consider supporting this project. Families will enjoy this experience for generations!

Why would you even want to reject this? More trails for walking, hiking, and cycling.

Accept the Rock Island Trail!

Do it. It is great for the local economy and people from all over the us come to our fine state to ride

I think it would be foolish not to pursue this opportunity. Missouri's tourism industry survives on our beautiful countryside. 144 miles of trail added to our already amazing park system would be a huge benefit to tourism in the state. Not to mention to residents of the state who enjoy our scenic views and trails already. Please consider accepting this proposal.

Please accept the rock island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Dear Governor Greitens,

I strongly recommend that our state develops the Rock Island Trail Project into a recreational trail between Windsor and Beaufort. Having a gem such as this will pull trail users from our state, nation and around the world.

The resistance was strong among adjacent property owners when the Katy Trail was proposed. Those same property owners changed their resistance to support when they learned that the trail users were families, tourists and their neighbors who wanted to incorporate walking and bicycling into their daily lives to regain or maintain their health (even those with joint damage can bicycle for their daily cardio workouts).

The greatest benefit was realized by small business owners along the trail. Their businesses began to boom. Bicycle tourists need places to sleep, eat and shop for souvenirs. I have not seen statistics for the amount of money pulled into Missouri by the Katy Trail, but I have seen the research collected over a single week for a professional-level bicycle race in Missouri in 2007 called the Tour of Missouri. That single bicycle event pulled in \$25 to \$30 MILLION. Bicyclists and their families have money to spend in Missouri!! We need this boost to our economy!!! Many thanks for helping us little business owners.

Sincerely, [REDACTED] Nonmotorized Training Solutions, Topline Training Solutions, former State Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator

Gov. Greitens, please accept the trail!

Please accept and approve the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!!!

I believe this is a very important project for MO and for the Midwest as a whole. This trail would set MO apart from most other states. Few have such a beautiful trail system. This trail, like the Katy, is great for all ages and skill levels. It would be a great alternative for the hundreds of folks traveling across the country from all over the world. Please make a positive use of this rail road line.

I think the Rock Island Trail project and Trail Use Agreement represent opportunities too great to pass up. The Katy Trail has been a great success and attracts large numbers of Missouri citizens and out of state visitors to enjoy such a unique experience. I know this personally because I use the Katy and I talk to people on the trail who enjoy it also. Some have been international travellers. Please proceed with this project which will contribute to Missouri being an outdoor activities magnet. This new project will help establish a continuous biking/hiking connection from St. Louis to Kansas City. The popularity of this facility will only increase since "gravel road cycling" is now a fast growing facet of the bicycling community.

The trail will definitely boost the economic outlook for Missouri tourism and outdoor sports & activities.

This will be great for the local community, and even tourism. This will be huge for the local cycling community too!

Please accept the trail as a gift.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. We would use it. Frequently!

I have used the Katey trail numerous times, I think that a second cross state trail would be a welcome addition. I picture myself and family using it as well.

I want the trail

Please do this. The opportunity to cross the state by bicycle and provide tourist opportunities to the small towns along the way is too great to miss.

In addition to providing recreational opportunities to Missourians, there are many cyclists from around the world who would come and ride the trail simply because it is there. Those bicycle tourists and recreational riders would bring revenue opportunities to the communities along the trail.

The Katy Trail has brought in millions of bicycle tourism dollars right through the center of Missouri. All Missourians benefit by having day trippers and out of state tourist coming in from all corners of our Missouri. A bike path that goes all the way across our state is not something many States can claim. Let's support this and build it up the best we can!

I love riding on biking and walking trails for the safety aspect and the beauty aspect. I can get close to nature without cars and trucks buzzing by me and feel much safer doing so. I've ridden trails in Iowa and Missouri will ride the granddaddy of them all, the Katy Trail, this fall. Another long trail in Missouri would benefit cyclists as well as the towns it goes near or through. Cyclists SPEND MONEY and that helps local economies. I'll also pay gasoline taxes to drive to these trails. The Rock Island Trail would be a great addition to Missouri.

I would support and use the Rock Island Trail. More recreational trails are a benefit for the residents and visitors to Missouri.

These trails are vital to our cycling community. The fitness and safety benefit is unmeasurable. Rail to Trails have proven to be revenue producers for States. Please don't squander this amazing opportunity.

The week before last we took a week of vacation and left Pleasant Hill and rode the Rock Island to the Katy and on to St Charles. Five nights in hotels and restaurants and AmTrak tickets back to Lee's Summit. We met couples from Colorado, California, Iowa, Nebraska and three old college buddies from New York, Maine and Georgia along the way. While it may not be a huge impact directly to the State the trails are a HUGE economic engine for these small towns that have almost died and don't provide great opportunity for the people growing in these communities. We need to continue the support our trails for both health and financial reasons.

We need more trails. Besides the economic development and tourism these trails provide these trails allow Missourians to enjoy the natural beauty of our own state.

This is a no-brainer! The success of the KATY is evidence that small businesses benefit, towns are enlivened, tourists come from all over the world to MO! Parks and Recreational opportunities are NOT partisan issues. All persons are healthier and more joyful when they play and exercise. So, why would our governor wish to be a joy-robber? Let's get on with it and get this trail open.

And, while you are at it get some people employed by Mo-Dot who support cycling and pedestrian accommodation, too. It seems to me they fight every single idea that is about anything other than high speed vehicle traffic.

As a life-long Missourian, I am in favor of the proposed development of the Rock Island Trail project. The potential benefits associated with this project are many and include economic, social and health outcomes that numerous individuals, communities, and organizations can receive.

The Rock Island Trail would be a tremendous addition to our local trail network! Not only would the trail itself offer a fantastic experience, but it would create so many additional opportunities to enjoy connecting trails. That's the beauty of new trails (especially one as significant as Rock Island) -- they open up a variety of new destinations. They give cyclists access to new towns and new ways to explore Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

My experience with rails to trails projects like this is that they are a great success both for local economy and for tourism. It would be foolish to miss the opportunity for the state to receive and develop this resource!

Take the gift!!! Do the right thing! Create and preserve our beautiful state and make trails accessible for our citizens to enjoy

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! It's a no brainer! :)

Please accept this property and complete it like Katy Trail was done. It will be a great tours attraction and may make Missouri the No. 1 bicycle attraction in the USA.

Please accept the Rock Island trail corridor.

Please accept this trail!!!!

We need to continue supporting healthy lifestyles that encourage outdoor recreation and physical activity in Missouri. The Rock Island Railroad corridor project would substantially increase Missouri's visibility as a premier destination for cycling and hiking, and would produce significant economic benefits along the corridor. Please ensure we continue making progress on this important project!

Accept!!!

The Rock Island trail would be an immense contribution to the state of Missouri. The Katy trail has been an instrumental contribution to rural communities throughout the center of the state and has enable a strong growth of tourism that would otherwise be non-existent.

The addition of the Rock Island Trail would allow that to grow as well create a whole new level of opportunity for access to the great state of Missouri.

The rails-to-trails system in the state of Missouri is one of the top systems in the world and brings in people from around the globe to experience a safe, active lifestyle that shows the grandeur of the state and brings a positive economic impact to communities from east to west and everything in-between.

As a biker who regularly rides the existing Katy Trail, and has taken it end to end a couple times, I whole heartedly support the state acquiring and developing the Rock Island Railroad corridor. Living in Boonville, which is on the Katy Trail, I see how it has benefitted our community from the bikers and hikers who travel the trail and events it brings to town (Pedalers Jamboree and Missouri State Parks Katy Trail Ride). I feel strongly enough about the trail that my wife and I have adopted a mile of it near the Boonville trail head as a way of supporting it and giving back something for the enjoyment I get out of the trail.

Please develop the Rock Island corridor. The trail brings in revenue & visitors to our state. We have one of the most beautiful trails in the country - let's make it even better.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept Rock Island Trail. It would be revitalizing to our town, Raytown, MO.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I would love to be able to ride this trail.

This is a great opportunity for cyclists and hikers. Having done most of the Katy Trail, I would love to see another option that would take cyclists through a different part of the state of Missouri. Tell the governor to accept this offer and to fund it.

These rails-to-trails projects are a tremendous asset. Iowa is a leader in developing them and they are widely used, as is our own Katy Trail. Anytime we can add more miles of trail, I believe we should do it. I am a cyclist and appreciate the trails - not only for the pleasure of riding, but also for the benefits to physical health from such exercise. I STRONGLY encourage the state of Missouri to seize this opportunity. Projects of this type enhance the quality of life for Missourians, as well as for potential residents and employers. They help make our state more attractive and that can mean economic growth. It is difficult to think of a downside.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Experience has clearly *shown* us in Missouri that rails-to-trails projects provide a wealth of economic benefits. I truly hope that the Missouri DNR will approve this project for Rock Island, which will intersect with the KaTY and multiply the benefits. Please contact me if I am able to make a donation to the project once it has been approved and begun construction.

This is a much needed asset for our small town of Stover, MO. The small towns in MO are not thriving and anything to bring revenue into a little community would benefit the state as a whole. I know as a taxpayer that the ultimate decision would be costs involved but the long range future of some communities are depending on this great project. Please proceed with this great project.

Please accept this gift to our state that is worth millions of dollars.

It is a fantastic idea and I heartily support it.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!!!! Please! Please! Please!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I have met people from around the world on the Katy Trail and this will be a reason to bring them back and persuade future cyclists to stay long since they would be able to do a loop. I strongly support this

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project

I'm constantly heckled by my sister who lives in Iowa who tells me how wonderful the bike system is and how horrible it is in Missouri. We need to start embracing physical activity that promotes our future generations a healthy lifestyle. Riding on the roads is a scary endeavor with distracted driving being the new norm. I would feel much safer on dedicated trails and what an adventure to ride across the state!

I'm from Excelsior Springs but my wife works as a traveling nurse and we have traveled to many places across the country. The trail systems in many other states are wonderful and it would be great to see Missouri continue to add and improve existing trail systems to the DNR's existing systems as we move through this century. Providing recreational facilities and activities that the residents and visitors can use is just another factor in creating a well rounded living experience to

draw people to the state. Please consider accepting and developing the land from the Missouri Central Railroad.

It is wonderful to have a safe bike and hiking trail to explore the parts of Missouri that can't be seen from the roadways. Even those of us that can't ride a long distance are able to gain the trail from our smaller towns and enjoy riding or walking without cars, motorcycles or dogs bothering us. Please make this a part of our state!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I think this would be a great thing. The more options such as this we have the better. These rails to trails bring people into these communities from not only all over the state also regionally and nationally individuals visit as well. There are so many beautiful places this state has to offer and having access to trails allows us to visit places we likely would not otherwise be able to see.

This is not only good for our citizens fitness and positive for our mental health. It brings cyclists for all over the US and around the world to Missouri to spend their money. Even if we must wait a while for construction money, donors will come. The KATY was built with lots of donor money.

Please accept the Rock island trail.

Do it. For goodness sake let Missouri be on the cutting edge of something. Get off the sidelines and join the game.

I love the idea of another trail offering in Mo. That sounds wonderful. Thank you for considering this.

I think it will be a great addition to the Katy Trail which is nationally known as one of the first and best rails to trails. This will make it a loop which will attract even more people.

I believe the state should seriously support bicycling infrastructure on all types, and especially fantastic opportunities like the Rock Island Trail Project. Bike trails attract young professionals, the kind of folks that will be important job generators. The state cannot afford to squander such a chance.

I currently ride the Katy Trail many times a month and look forward to riding on this new trail. I look forward to seeing new sights, new towns/business. I strongly recommend DNR entering into an agreement for trail use as I believe it will strengthen the communities along the trail, but also for Missouri. As I read a number of bicycling articles and magazines, the Katy Trail and Missouri both are known nationally for their forward thinking in regards to providing this asset for their citizens and developing this project will only enhance that.

Thank You

Please complete the Rock Island trail project

Please accept the trail

I fully support the state of Missouri accepting the Rock Island Trail. It will supporting the growing tourism industry and be well worth the maintenance cost. I'd love for Missouri to be known nationwide for its trails, natural beauty, and state-sponsored commitment to public resources.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail donation.

The trail needs to be accepted by the state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project.
Trails allow people of all types & ages, to enjoy the outdoors & involve themselves in some type of physical activity.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I hope all of these areas have a chance to enjoy this state park like we do here in Windsor. I'm all for extending this project.

As the KT trail has proven, Missouri citizens highly value and utilize rails-to-trails project such as this. As an individual who rides the trail frequently, the number of out-of-state visitors who have come to Missouri specifically to explore the trail and ride its hundreds of majestic miles never ceases to amaze me. This is a state treasure. The opportunity to expand it through the addition of the Rock Island Trail Project should not be overlooked.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Yes, we should do this and make Missouri even better for tourists and the people who love to call Missouri home.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The communities along the proposed Rock Island Trail need it to happen. Don't let them down.

I love the idea of the new trail, any projects that promote exercise and connecting with nature will only benefit Missouri residents.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please support the Rock Island Trail project. Missourians need more resources to keep people from moving away, bringing people in, and keeping us fit.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Missouri is beautiful! Any trail that gets us out in it adds to our state.

It would be a great asset for our state. I support this new trail agreement.

Please DO accept the Rock Island Trail Project ! It will be wonderful for Missouri- something to be proud of.

I strongly support developing the Rock Island Trail and hope you will help facilitate the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year. We live in Springfield, and have enjoyed the rails-to-trails in our immediate neighborhood-- the Frisco Highline, for example-- and a couple of years back my family and some retirement-aged friends rode a portion of the Katy Trail, and it was a hoot. My husband and I are originally from "out west" and this experience helped demonstrate to us how unique the Missouri environment is and how the outdoors here can rival what one finds on the coasts or in the mountains, and the little towns along the route-- places that are nowhere near the main freeway corridor and which we'd have never otherwise encountered-- were delightful and so uniquely Missouri and it was great to spend time in these communities. This expansion of the network is an opportunity which will not come again, and I urge you to do outdoorspeople a solid and jump on this while it is possible.

The proposed rails to trails loop will be the best trail biking in the US. Missouri can't afford to lose the tourist dollars this new park would generate.

Chesterfield MO

This area of Missouri is one that could use the stimulus of tourism dollars. My family owns land along this area and we would be happy to see it turned into a destination at some point. There are little to no downsides in accepting this property and the agreement should be entered into.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the trail.

Yes! Get it done! Rails to trails are some of the best trails!! Everyone can make use of it from cyclists, walkers, hikers, runners, etc. Do it!!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Seems like a no-brainer to take advantage of this offer and potentially expand the natural trails in our state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Thank you.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I strongly encourage the governor and DNR to acquire the Missouri Central Railroad. The Katy Trail has proven to be a wonderful resource for the state of Missouri and the Missouri Central Railroad would be a wonderful addition. I have biked along the Katy Trail multiple times, my wife and I have vacation in Bed and Breakfasts along the Katy Trail and when purchasing a new home, it's proximity to biking trails and parks weighed heavily on our decision. We currently live within a couple miles of the future Rock Island Corridor trail and look forward to using it when it's completed.

The Missouri Central Railroad will provide fun and economic opportunity for cities and people who live a long it.

One of the best things we can do is provide as many ways as possible to get people outside and moving. This trail will provide great outdoor opportunities for Missourians. Whether hiking or biking. What better way to enjoy the great state of Missouri!

Ride the Katy Trail often - it's one of my favorite things about the state. Eager to ride the Rock Island Trail!

Governor Greitens,
PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE accept the Rock Island trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.
I good thing for our State.

Please accept and support the Rock Island Trail proposal.

Please complete the Rock Island Trail. I will use it frequently and have friends from outside Missouri and even from France and the Netherlands who would ride this trail and would give Missouri one of the longest, if not longest loop trails in the country.

We can't pass up such a donation. Our trails are the pride of our state and provide incredible low-cost, healthy recreation in a state plagued by obesity. Trails draw tourism, small businesses, and jobs to struggling small town economies. Access to trees, according to MDC, provide amazing health, peace, and improved concentration for kids and adults alike. Please accept this donation for the good of our citizenry and state.

Please accept the gift for the Rock Island Trail. I'm an avid cyclist and would definitely use it. It would be a great asset to our state.

I think this would be a great idea. We are becoming a more active society in the fight against obesity and one of the best forms of exercise is biking/cycling. Old and young alike can participate. States and cities are always trying to become more bike friendly and this trail will continue to build interest and participation in this activity.

Omg please accept this wonderful gift. So many of us choose to ride pollution free bikes in lieu of cars. This would encourage more people to ride.

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.
Missouri has one of the best state park systems in the country. KWMU had a program on July 3rd that discusses just that fact!

Our state parks generate collateral revenue in the surrounding businesses that far outweighs their costs.
I know personally of families that travel to Missouri from places such as Texas because of our park system.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I think it would be a great asset to the state of Mo.

Please do! This would be a great weekend get away for us to come ride the trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I frequently visit Missouri and in particular enjoy riding both the Katy and Rock Island trails. Expanding the trail to run from Windsor to Beaufort would be great.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail donation to the state parks. This will have a huge positive impact on state tourism and help small towns and businesses along the route. The trail will make Missouri a destination state for mixed use trails.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail
Do it for our state and all Missourians!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. I enjoy riding my bike and this would be a great asset to Missouri.

Please support the Rock Island Trail Project

What an asset this would be to the state of Missouri! I am excited about riding this trail, hopefully in the very near future.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Go for it. We need to have trail so people, with get out from couch

I strongly support entering the trail user agreement. Missouri is becoming known as a cyclist destination both nationally and in other countries. It can only increase tourist dollars coming in.

Please accept the Rock Island trail.
Thank you

Please accept the DNR agreement to further develop the Rock Island Trail. It is vital to tourism and businesses in Missouri.
Thank you!

This would be a great deal for the State of Missouri and bring in lots of tourism dollars from out of state. I personally plan to ride the new trail!

Governor Greitens, Please support the trail project! Let's make Missouri a destination when it comes to biking and mountain biking. Why travel to other states when we have so much land to use here?

This something that I would time and money on that would help the businesses on this corridor of the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.
Please!

I support this movement strongly. Since I live in Ballwin, Missouri, I frequently use the nearby Katy trail. I can think of no better use for abandoned railroad right of ways than the rails to trails movement

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This would seem to be one of those opportunities that rarely happens to create a resource for a wide spectrum of Missourians. I think it would add a lot to the quality of life we offer in our state.

Go for it, for sure!

As a small business owner I'm excited at the prospect of building our community through new visitors along the trail, as well as my family and I using the trail our selves.

To be honest, I was surprised to see the request for this survey. Between watching the work that's already been done on the trail in our area, and seeing the news of the first 40 miles being opened and used by people in the past 6 months, I find it odd we're still trying to decide whether to proceed with the plans.

I use the trail and so does my daughter. This trail helps my daughter and myself get exercise while being safe on our bicycles and not risk getting hit by cars. WE NEED THIS TRAIL! THIS TRAIL IS VERY IMPORTANT TO A LOT OF PEOPLE!!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail, thank you.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It's very important for the state, and the region.

I support this project not only as a cyclist but as a resident and voter of Missouri

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This is an investment in Missouri. It will lead to financial rewards for increase tourism, a more positive view of the state and a healthier population. These types of opportunities don't repeat themselves.

Please allow this to happen.

Please accept the trail agreement.

Please accept the rock island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please except the Rock Island Trail

This is a wonderful opportunity for Missouri to continue to be the nation's leader in rails to trails. These trails bring in tourist dollars and improve the economies of many small Missouri towns. Just look at the long term economic impact of the Katy.

Many out of state bike touring companies have Katy trail tours and the Rock Island Trail will add to this.

I'm so excited about the Rock Island trail. Please accept this gift for a recreational trail. We use the Katy Trail and will use this trail.

Outdoor recreation is a highly sought after activity and an economic boon for communities near long distance trails. Often when companies relocate, they choose communities with good quality of life amenities, which includes trails. The Rock Island Trail, when completed, will become a part of a national trail, the American Discovery Trail. This benefits not only the hikers, but also the communities that the trail goes through/near.

I ask you to please accept the Rock Island Trail.

██████████

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Missouri needs the Rock Island Line as part of its rail to trail system because it extends the system to western part of start. It connects east to central to west. Everyone benefits. There are many people from all over the US and internationally who use our trails. Missouri is a major cyclist destination which is good for marketing and tourism promoting our great state. Governor Greitens grant Missourians the Rock Island Line Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trial Project

Complete the Katy Trail across the state of Missouri.

I think this trail project is just what the people need. Let's get going on it!

The KATY Trail is the first place out of state bicyclists mention when Missouri is mentioned. The Rock Island will only enhance a great trail experience. Please consider accepting Ameran's ceding of right of way. what a great draw to Missouri

I believe we definitely could use this trail. I love the idea of a state-long trail. We have ridden our bikes across the Katy Trail but won't do it any more because it's not paved. We ride road bikes and would definitely ride a trail like this regularly and stay in B&B's or hotels along the way. It would attract thousands of other cyclists from across the country who seek these trails out!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year. I really enjoy walking on the current trails and believe that there is lasting value to providing a space where people can "get away" and exercise outside.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please support the Rock Island Trail Project! What an asset for Missouri families and visitors!

I think you should accept the Rock Island trail. Whether you develop it or not can be decided later. For now accept this expensive gift.

I support the State of Missouri accepting and converting the former Rock Island Railroad to a Rails to Trails State Park. My family has enjoyed biking the entire Katy Trail, but the closest trailhead is almost an hour away from our home. If the Rock Island is developed as a trail, we will be within 10 minutes. We will be able to enjoy an evening ride without the worry of traffic on a State Road without shoulders.

Please allow completion of the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This is important to Missouri and would continue to make Missouri attractive to recreational tourists. Please accept the offer from Ameren.

Support the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail...a dream come true!!!!
Cycling without worry!!! No cars to fight!!!! Pure fun and exercise!!! This will improve the health and we'll bring of so many

Please except the Rock Island Trail Project!

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Preservation of as much natural, visual, and otherwise healthy resources is of a very high importance to me. This trail would entice a much needed corridor of activity in a more pleasant recreational area. Please consider future growth in these connective corridors a certainty.

My wife and I drive all the way from KC to access the Katy trail. Connecting the Rock Island trail gives us the opportunity to add to our enjoyment and adventure.

Please allow us and other recreational cyclist to have even more fun.

I would love for the Rock Island Trail to be completed! Not only would it be a wonderful tourist attraction, but would also encourage many Missourians to be fit and active. I currently travel to ride the Katy trail. The Rock Island trail would go through my town, Belle, and I think it would revive our community. People are talking about biking and hiking on it when it comes through! How wonderful it would be to have others ride through our town, eat at our restaurants and enjoy how beautiful it is here.

My family are avid bikers and we really enjoy riding converted rails-to-trails as a family. We love the Katy Trail

and would like to see another trail in Missouri similar offered. We are Kansas City residents. We travel to many different states to bike them. I can only think by accepting this trail will only lead to more tourism and use of the trail for Missouri!!

I support entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project.

A recreational trail brings in tourism dollars to rural areas as well as providing residents and visitors a beautiful trail to see Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please complete the Rock Island Trail. When you see the life the Katy Trail has brought back to so many small towns along the trail, it is worth it!

I cycle all over the United States and Missouri and I see the impact that trails have on the health, community, infr and the human spirit. My question is how you can not build trails. It is always hard to support something if you don't have a passion for it or the educational background. I hope you look again at this issue and the importance it has to Missouri.

Please accept Ameren's generous land donation for the bike trail. My family and many friends love to bike (Katy Trail, etc.), and a Rock Island bike trail would help many rural and city folk enjoy this healthy and beautiful activity.

Please accept the donation, it will be a major economic boon for the state and all the communities along the Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Wow! awesome! Would be amazing. What a no-brainer! Look forward to this trail!

I have ridden the Katy Trail several times, usually with large groups. I think just as many people will enjoy the Rock Island Trail and will bring as much money to Missouri as the Katy does.

Please approve the Rock Island Trail agreement. This trail will open opportunities for the towns along the route and increase Missouri's destination attractiveness for tourism.

Please approve the trail! We live close to the Katy Trail which has been an economic and big health benefit for our community! The aging demographic of the US will seek out activities like bike touring growing local economies!!!

I encourage you to accept the trail, which would be an asset in any case, but all the more because it would become part of an amazing American treasures , the American Discovery Trail (ADT).

Biking is a healthy way to exercise & enjoy the great outdoors.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It's a vital resource for the area.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Absolutely do it! It will be a fantastic asset to the state!

I'm very much in favor of this project. I like the linear park model and think that it provides a really nice way for Missourians and tourists to enjoy the varied ecologies and topographies of our state. Please make it happen.

Why would you not? [REDACTED]

I have rode this trail since I was 5 with my grandparents, and now get to enjoy it with my son. This trail is great for making memories and bringing families together. And too add to this family history my great great grandfather worked on the railway. Please keep these trails around so more families can enjoy them and share memories with their children.

I fully support this.

This would be another great tourism draw for the state.

Gov. Greitens, I want the trail! Thanks!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Accept the Rock Island Trail, please. It promises to be a great resource for hiking, biking, etc.

Please accept The Rock Island Trail.

This needs to happen. This will be a boon to MO tourism for years to come.

The Rock Island Trail would be a great addition to Missouri bike riding and would promote healthy outdoor activity. I would be extremely disappointed if the state didn't accept this wonderful opportunity.

Please, please do not kill the Rock Island Trail project. There are multiple and consistent success stories with other states that have invested in and promoted bicycling infrastructure, and as a result have seen large increases in tourism dollars and revitalized rural communities. The Rock Island Trail has the potential to bring a lot of money in to many small towns across the state, and would be a feature that Missouri could promote as unique in the entire world. No other trail system exists that could challenge what would be created by linking the Katy trail with the Rock Island Trail across the State of Missouri.

Any concerns about ongoing maintenance costs should be easily offset by the economic benefits this trail system will provide:

<http://www.peopleforbikes.org/statistics/category/economic-statistics#economic-benefits-of-bicycling-facilities-and-transportation>

<http://www.peopleforbikes.org/statistics/category/economic-statistics#economic-benefits-of-the-bicycling-industry-and-tourism>

As noted in an online publication out of Sedalia:

"One difference between the Rock Island and the Katy Trail, are the large amount of small towns scattered along the Rock Island's route. Bringing the trail through small Missouri towns would boost the economy for each. According to information from the Missouri State Parks website the Katy Trail has 400,000 annual users with an economic impact of \$18 million. In anticipation of the Rock Island Trail, Eldon is building Rock Island Village while in Gerald the Rock Island Trail Retreat is being created. On the spur recently opened in December, Pilliard said the towns of Leeton and Chillhowee have prospered. "They are excited," he added. "These towns have been abandoned for 30 years, and all of a sudden they are seeing some people. So, the little convenience store is getting a little more business, and maybe there will be a grocery store. It's already happening to a certain extent in those two towns. "The Katy Trail (goes) through Windsor, but by being the crossroads of the Katy Trail and the Rock Island they are seeing a lot more activity," he said. "The hotel has done improvements and is full on a number of nights. It's bringing commerce and the restaurants are are being affected. One lady is building cabins as a result of the trail, so there is economic activity."

I strongly encourage entering the trail use agreement. Would be a wonderful extension of the Katy Trail which is a prime attraction to Missouri. I have ridden trails in other states and talked to other trail riders and we all agree that the Katy is one of the best. Brings visitors and spending to Missouri.

Love it! We need to make it easy for people to make the healthy choice. Adventure is part of living a healthy lifestyle! This is a fiscally responsible decision.

Please accept the completion of the Rock Island Corridor. This will do so much for the state as a whole, as well as the city levels. It also promotes healthy lifestyle choices, so we really should be on board with this!

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail Project

The Rock Island trail will further compliment Missouri's existing cross-state trail network. This will be a boon to residents, visitors and businesses.

Please accept the RI Trail!

Please please accept the Rock Island Trail!!

Please accept this wonderful gift to the state

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! The Outdoor Recreation Industry is the best way to bring visitors and jobs to Missouri. As an avid fitness promoter himself, I would sincerely hope that Gov Greitens would see and understand this as only beneficial and positive.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the Rock Island trail! Bikes are good for Missouri!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please. Great asset for the state

I feel that continue on this adventure would be a great asset to the city and continue to drive the bicycle culture in KCMO. Let's do this!

A second trail will be wonderful! Please do approve the Rock Island Trail Project. I am one of many old 'Nam vets who use our trails often. Thanks.

Please accept the use of this trail

This is such a great, cool project. It is an important link that will allow bicyclists in the states of Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska, to ride a huge loop. The Katy Trail is already pretty cool and attracts cyclists from all over to come and ride it. This would make more people come to Missouri to ride. Parts of existing trails are already there and this would be an awesome connection. Please make this happen!!!

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

Please accept this amazing gift for those of us who are active.

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

Please support the Rock Island Trail project. Missouri needs more trails for walking and biking.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It would be a huge mistake to let an opportunity like this to go by.

This trail will bring millions of dollars in revenue to the state of Missouri

These trails are wonderful resources for the state of Missouri. I have spent much time on. Please support the agreement and project. Thank you.

Do it! I ride the KATY almost every day in the summer. It brings in tourists from around the country and the world. Almost any day will find out-of-state multi-day users on the trail. This is bringing tourist dollars as well as great recognition to Missouri. We are known as a trail leader in the country. Keep the good times going! Support development of the entire Rock Island Trail. In a few years this will be recognized as one of the best decisions state government has made.

Please accept the donation of the trail and make the 144.3 mile long trail part of the Katy trail in Beaufort , Mo .

Would love to use this trail!! Please build it!!

Please accept the trail

After riding the Katy Trail, I believe having the Rock Island Trail will be advantages for cyclist's destination. It will also give people another outlet to exercise and be healthier. I say YES!

This trail will be an incredible asset to us in South Central Missouri, please accept the trail as a State Park!

I have traveled with a group of 4 to the Katy Trail, spent collectively in excess of \$5000 on food, travel, gas, souvenirs, and lodging. I am truly looking forward to a return trip and would love to do the Rock Island Trail.

I enjoy this type of outdoor activity. It beats going over to Illinois to ride the trails over there and I spend my money over there in another state.

It's a fun clean family attraction.

Dear DNR

I am hoping that you will consider using and developing the Rock Island Trail Project. I have ridden the entire Katy Trail and parts of it many times. I have spent a considerable amount of money for hotels, bed and breakfast and campgrounds along the way.

This would be a feather in MOs cap as a national attraction for like minded people. The Katy Trail is listed in national publications as one of the best bike/hike/run trails in the US and this new trail would be an additional attraction for our state.

How could the state pass this up! We are already known nationally as one of the premier biking agendas with the Katy Trail. Accepting this is a must for our state.

I am a resident of Columbia, Mo and have been an avid cyclist for years. A large part of our recreation and exercise is riding the Katy Trail and visiting all of it's small communities along the way. I strongly support the Rock Island Trail to add to the wonderful trail system that we have. I hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

This would be a great way to bring young families to MO. I for one would love another pedestrian trail to take across the state! Already love the Katy Trail. Could MO become as fun as Colorado!? Accept!!

This new bike trail would be a wonderful addition for Missouri. Our local bike trail in Saint James gets hundreds of bikers coming to our city to take advantage of the trail. When the bike riders come, they spend money; food, gas, trinkets, etc. Bicycling is a very large pastime for people all over the country. A trail like the one being proposed by Rock Island would be a huge draw from bikers all across the United States. Don't let this opportunity pass us by. Please agree to let Missouri take advantage of this new bicycle trail opportunity. I'll be ready to ride the trail as soon as it is open.

Please accept this gift of the trail. We need more of these public resources in the state

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

While I don't live in Missouri, I do come over to use the KATY Trail. My, and others, visits bring revenue into your state. Adding this section to the present trail would increase tourism in Missouri and would benefit the communities located on this trail. I'm sure it would be a real plus for towns like Pleasant Hill, for one example. Please consider adding this section. People have been wanting this for years as it would ultimately connect with Kansas City and make this a true cross-state trail.

The DNR should definitely do this! The Rock Island Trail Project is something many Missourians would enjoy.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! I am an avid cyclist, who commutes by bicycle to work every day. I love the Katy Trail & the idea of adding another long rail-to-Trail conversion in our state, the Show Me state!

Please accept the Rock Island corridor.

Please accept the Rock Island trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail to encourage people of all ages to enjoy walking or biking in Missouri

Please accept the trail.

Please Mr. Greitens sign the papers for this project! My husband and I are in our 60's and stay healthy by cycling! We spend a lot of money when we are cycling!

Please accept the completion of the Rock Island Trail project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

PLEASE ACCEPT THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL.

Please proceed with the trail. My wife and I are cyclists in Kansas city. Last year we rode the gap trail, then on to the C&O Canal trail. All the way from Pittsburgh PA, to DC. Thousands of people experience and love bike trails.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I support the DNR entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad for the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. This trail would provide benefits in tourism, redevelopment, community improvement, property values, health care costs, jobs and investment, and general consumer spending. It would truly benefit the citizens of MO as well as others.

I rode the Rock Island trail last weekend (50 miles out and back). It was a great experience. We stopped at 3 stores in the small towns along the trail and bought food / drinks. I would encourage further development.

This trail would be awesome! Please accept!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will be such a benefit to the Osage county area where I grew up.

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

If the state can support two trails I'm all for it

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It would be foolish not to.

The Katy Trail is a big financial plus and an attraction to our state and should be expanded.

Please continue the RIT project and make awesome bike paths!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. The economic benefits to Missouri would be tremendous. This is an exceptional opportunity.

Please accept the trail as a gift to the state of Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail,
Thank you!

Hope you will choose to support the Rock Island Trail Project!

Please accept the rock island trail

Please except the Rock Island Trail. It is rail banking for the future and athletics for the present.

I believe the State should take advantage of this great opportunity and accept the donation an opportunity to make Missouri a world class trail state
I would be happy to discuss my opinion further

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the rock island trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

As a resident of Lee's Summit, Missouri, I ask that you please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I'm in favor of the trail proposal. It helps more people stay healthy, active, and enjoy the outdoors. It will get used every day!

Please consider developing this trail. As a bike user and trip taker it would really help connect Missouri with the significant parts of the bike system (e.g. Mississippi River Trail) that already exist in the area.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail - it's going to be awesome, and will attract tourists and dollars to Missouri - look at how successful the KATY is - we bike on it several times each year.

As grandparents and your constituents, we urge you to accept the Rock Island for the future fun and revenue in our dear Show Me State!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Adding to Missouri's cross state trails gives more safe options for outdoor biking/walking.

Please accept the Rock Island trail

Please accept the rock island trail! It would bring in tourism and be an amazing resource for our citizens!

Please accept the Rick Island bike trail.

The Rock Island Trail is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Missouri. With this trail, Missouri will have a truly world-class trail system, second to none in the United States. This gift absolutely should be accepted to provide all Missourians a statewide treasure. The trail will bring in people from all over the world and help revitalize communities adjacent to the trail, and provide safe places for exercise for both adults and children.

We who live in the Lee's Summit and Raytown area are very excited about the new trails.

Please support the project. Feel free to call me for more information and thoughts.

Please let this happen. It will be a great attraction for visitors and a great health line for residents of MO.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year

I think you ought to enter into this agreement with the railroad because there seems to be a lot of interest in biking and walking trails. Johnson County Mo. just bid a 7 mile biking/walking trail which is going to have a start date I believe in the middle of August and future planning was going to hook up to the Rock Island Trail in the western part of the county. I know money is tight right now and I never read if there was any cost to the State or DNR or who was putting the money in for the Rock Island Trail. I think this will bring monies into the towns, cities, as well as the state if this section of the trail is done. It's hard to tell how much use this will get but I have read they've got a bicycle ride across Iowa that brings in lots of people from all over the nation and world to it. By looking at the proposed trail connecting across the state maybe this is what Missouri needs to help the economy across the state cause people will have to be paying for lodging, food, etc. I was asked to fill out my views on this subject and so I did it whether they are right or wrong.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Thank you.

Act for the benefit of Missouri and its citizens and please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I use the Katy Trail for biking and I love the trail! I believe the Rock Island Trail would make a beautiful and well used State Park in the great state of Missouri for biking, running, hiking and many other recreational activities. Please consider entering into the Interim Trail Agreement for the Rock Island Trail project.

Sincerely,



Lets make Missouri the cycling destination of the country!

The rock island trail will be one of the best moves missouri makes as far as tourism. We are in the middle of the trans am, and the missouri river trail. Having a loop/addition to the trail makes it significantly more attractive vs. An out and back.

People like to bike during the summer i host several touring cyclists coming through. Many from different countries. The trail systems are the only reason they pass through.

This represents a remarkable opportunity for the State of Missouri - surely Gov Greitens will accept it gratefully, as an extremely valuable asset for the State's cyclists and recreational riders!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. The Katy Trail has demonstrated that protected bicycle paths are heavily used by riders of all ages and experience.

I am in support of this project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

We need this trail. I will support however we can get this.

Please accept the generous gift of the Rock Island Trail. Residents along all trails in Missouri have seen an increase in property values. Small towns have seen an increase in local revenues due to the spending habits of hikers and bikers, who, interestingly enough, will buy food and bottled water wherever they can find it. These trails end up supporting themselves through that increased revenue stream.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please build the trail. Not only is it a way for people to go out and enjoy nature it also is an avenue for all to enjoy the state of Missouri even more!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The Katy Trail is among the most renowned trails of its kind in the country and it has contributed millions to rural communities across Missouri. I ask you to please complete the Rock Island Trail Project make the Katy Trail even better and help the rural economy in NW Missouri. This is a common-sense investment in the tourism industry of Missouri.

The Katy Trail is the crown jewel of the Missouri State Parks. It has heavy, consistent use and the fact that it is a linear park that will soon traverse the state makes it accessible to more Missourians than any other park. It attracts cyclists from out of state and even from other countries. It was once the hands down best rails to trails conversion, but other trail systems are catching up. Adding the Rock Island would not only be a huge benefit to Missouri trail users, it will keep Missouri a premier trail destination for out of state riders. It will breathe new life into the little towns along the Rock Island, just as the Katy has done for the little railhead towns that time has passed by. We have a beautiful state, and there is no better way to see it than on a bicycle or on foot. If Missouri turns down this gift, it will have wasted a once in a lifetime opportunity to add to it's already wonderful trail system. This should not be viewed as an expense, but an investment. Be creative in the funding. Seek private help. But do not pass up this golden opportunity.

I am strongly in favor of the Agreement with Central Missouri Railroad to be able to develop the Rock Island Trail Project. I simply don't understand why anybody could be against the addition of another recreational Trail in the State of Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.
Do something right.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! This will be a wonderful cycling trail that will help Missourians enjoy the wonderful scenery of our state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Oh please please expand the bike trail! We love the Katy trail and ride it often but have to transport our bikes many miles to a trailhead. We live in Lee's Summit and getting on at Pleasant Hill would be awesome. We have traveled on trails in Europe and many riders are now aware of and making plans to come to Missouri to travel our trails. Having a trailhead so close to Kansas City would really be convenient. It would also increase tourism in KC and St Louis as visitors could fly in to those cities and enjoy what they have to offer at the beginning and end of their bike journey.

Please accept the Ameren donation of land to complete the Rock Island Trail. As a bicyclist and outdoors woman I think it is very important.

I love riding on the Katy. This trail would allow me take ride with my son to see his grandparents in Beaufort. Added bonus to have two trails to ride during the summer!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail project.

The more trails, the better! As long as it's sustainable.

Please accept the rock island trail, it's a good thing for Missouri!

Please enter into the Interim Train Use Agreement and complete the Rock Island Trail, as described above. It will provide in-state, healthy entertainment for Missouri residents and positively impact tourism/economic development for our great state. Thank you!

I am a cyclist and I ride the Katy trail often. There are many people on the Katy enjoying and exercising on the trail. An additional trail like the Rock Island would add many visitors spend their money in our state.

Please except this generous offer and convert the trail for health reasons only.

Please accept the trail.

The KATY trail has started many efforts and alternate tourism initiatives around the US. The KATY is one of the star "Rails to Trails" projects. I have traveled its length 4 times and have had a wonderful time visiting and vacationing in Missouri. The one last item that has always made the trip burdensome is finding a good path home to Kansas City. Please complete the Trail by finishing the Rock Island Trail and making the ride a complete Show Me state wonder.

Make Missouri Great Again ..!!

Awesome and needed!!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock island trail. It would be a great asset for Missouri.

The Katy trail has been a huge hit for Missouri. The Rock Island Trail will continue with its success!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This is a very important project that only comes around once in while. The governor is crazy to let this go. Find other wasteful spending like tax credits to lower wasteful spending. While I probably won't use it I believe that so many others will and will be something that can last forever. Don't waste this chance to leave something for future generations to enjoy.

I thought this was already going to happen. Would be great for the area. Please go through with this.

Please complete the trail! It would be wonderful for our local community and our state!!

Great I would use this.

Please accept this gift. It is a great gift to the people of Missouri.

Every bit of trail in a Missouri only increases the value to existing residents, and makes Missouri more appealing to new residents. Please accept the gift of the trail to further great outdoor recreation in Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The fact that the 144 miles will be gifted is amazing. Please Governor, allow this to happen. How amazing would it be to have an opportunity to turn this beautiful landscape into something all Missourians can enjoy.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. cyclists need more areas to travel by trail! :)

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project and revitalize our small suburb of Kansas City! As a community member and educator in Raytown, I know this will enhance and strengthen our town.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will be a treasure for generations of cyclists to come.

There is no other trail system in the country that will (can) match Missouri's when this link is completed.

Don't let us down!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This would be a great place for walking, hiking and bike trail so everyone can enjoy it.

Any project that will allow both Missourians and out-of-state visitors to enjoy our state's natural beauty should be a priority! I cannot tell you how many visitors have told me how surprised and delighted they are when they visit Missouri for the first time. Projects like this will only enhance our national reputation as a destination. Please consider the broader impact on our citizens as well as it's impact on tourism and economic development. Thank you.

Please the accept the Rock Island Trail

I would like to see the rail line developed into a recreational trail. I enjoy walking and bicycling on trails throughout the state and would love to see more land available for the public to enjoy.

This would be a great addition to our trail system. Please accept this offer. Thanks for your consideration...

Please accept the Rock Island trail. This trail is right for recreation and economic development for Missouri.

Would love to see more progress through Winsor, MO.

Govenor Greitens,

I stongly urge you to support the gift of the Rock Island Trail from Ameren to be used as a new Missouri state park. This trail will see extensive use by many classes of Missourian and out of state guests that will generate more jobs and more tax

revenue for the state. My wife and I are retired and will use the trail and bring guest along with us too.

Please accept the rock island trail to go forward. The small town that this will benefit are the ones in most need of help.

You can never have enough bike trails! Easy maintenance once it's completed. I'd pay a tax to make it happen.

Trail riding has helped me out through rough times. It has made me a better individual and community member. I see people on trails, smiling and greeting strangers as they pass. I saw numerous small towns on the Katy Trail and wondered at their individuality and culture. Trail riding / hiking has connected me to strangers, friends, and communities I would have never experienced if I didn't go down the gravel track. I can't imagine not having this option - it is truly a blessing, and a good way to measure how invested a town / city / state is in the community.

Please accept the Rock Island trail Project

Please accept the land donation. Small Business will grow around the trail

Would love it!

The Rock Island Trail Project will be a beautiful and functional addition to the beautiful green spaces of this state. In addition, the trail will be a cool homage to the history of Missouri.

I'm excitedly waiting to see this fantastic project move forward!

I think it would be excellant. We make it up to the Katy trail as often as we can. We would enjoy the new trails and tunnels. It would also bring more tourism and finances for the state like no other state has. We are all for it.

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail project. As a frequent user of the KATY I can attest to the experience of riding across our beautiful, diverse state. My cycling friends and I have long anticipated being able to ride to Kansas City from the Katy. Many small businesses benefit from cyclists who use trails such as the Rock Island

Please do it will be amazing!

This seems like a win for Missouri

This is a great way for me to see Missouri and ride the Katy from my home in KC by connecting to the Rock Island trail.

I've always enjoyed the Katy trail, and I believe that having another trail to bike on will only improve the amount of enjoyment Missouri citizens will have, not to mention added tourism. I don't see a down side since this patch of land is being donated for free.

I currently use the trail systems in St Louis and surrounding areas at least twice a week, I would use the new trail system as well, .. Thanks

For Missouri to be the first state to have an across the state Rails to trails would be significant to bring cyclist into the state and encourage tourism. I will be one of the Missourians who will plan to ride the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

As an Army officer stationed in the KC area, I would appreciate the ability to utilize the Rock Island trail for long Bicycle rides and runs. I think this will better the area and hope you choose 4th support the expansion.

railroads converted into bike trails encourage biking safely away from traffic

I do not want my tax dollars to be used for the Rock Island Trail Project in a time when too many programs are seeing cuts especially higher education and transportation funds for schools. In a time when the State of Missouri cannot properly maintain the current roads and bridges, state money should not be diverted to the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Only if disabled and aged folks are allowed to use motorised vehicles. Mobikfed is all about sharing the trails and roads as long as someone else is doing the sharing. Their campaign to defeat last years bill to allow disabled and over 60 year old folks to use utv's on the Katy trail was successful and they should be ashamed of themselves. Open it to everyone or no one. No taxpayer money for a very small percentage of the population especially one discriminating against the handicapped.

Please accept this project so more people can hike and cycle through some of MOs most beautiful scenery. Thank you!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This will be a big draw for Missouri!

Please push forward with the Rock Island trail. Good for our health, communities and brings in tourism revenue.

It is very important to me that you enter into this agreement. This is a great asset for Missouri.

This will set Missouri apart as a destination committed to smartly using its resources

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project Proposal! I would love to have such an expansive trail so close to home.

Please accept the gift of the trail.

Why would the citizens of Missouri NOT accept this agreement? It seems like nothing but benefits for everyone. Please enter into this agreement on behalf of those of us who enjoy the great outdoors of Missouri.

We need the trail for the betterment of Missouri!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

You've got to save this bit of land for a linear park. Rail Trails have been so successful!

Please complete the Rock Island trail!

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year. I love Missouri parks and trails! They make me proud of my state!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Fantastic!! Safe trails that cross the state safely and have multiple uses. Love it!

Please accept the rock island trail gift!!! Because that's exactly what it is, a total gift and opportunity to benefit so many Missourian, and out of state visitors. Thank you.

Please accept rock island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This is good for Missouri and the health of the citizenry.

Please accept the trail. It makes sense. Thanks.

Developing such bicycling trails makes MO a much more attractive location for high paying companies that need to attract highly skilled workers.

Please accept the Rock island trail

Please add the Rock Island Trail as a bike trail. My family loves to ride each weekend and we would love another wonderful option in our state. What a great use for this piece of land. Thanks

Please support the Rock island trail project to bring more tourism to this state

This would be a great addition to the trails already in Missouri. Any time we can add something like this it will draw more people to Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please move forward with the next segments of the Rock Island Trail

I biked the Rock Island Trail from Pleasant Hill to Windsor a couple weeks ago, and I think that section is a great addition to the Katy. I think an extension to Beaufort would be a great addition to the already established trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept this trail. Support healthy lifestyle and bicycle riding!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It is good for Missouri.

I urge Governor Greitens to accept the Rock Island Trail. The trail would make Missouri a more attractive place to visit and live, and thus help the economy immediately and significantly.

Please accept the rock island railroad to make it a trail.

At the end of the day we all get that opportunity to look back at what we left behind to our friends, family and others. Rails to Trails is the simplest way for that transition to happen between the corporate community and that of man. Please make no mistake when you ride a bike through a train tunnel you hear the whistle blow and hope you out run the train. I can not think of any better use of a train track. It's original design and plan was people transportation and commerce. Think about it. The commerce continues along the trail (on a bike emission free) and so does the transportation. Bottom line is it ain't broke don't fix it. Any other use of an unused train track is nothing short of economic "Greed". I have no doubt we will see what are elected officials are worth. I truly wish I was more confident of the out come. I have little faith in their intelligence. Sorry, sometimes the truth hurts since the idiots don't listen. Please feel free to prove me wrong. (please note my no use of 4 letter words, stupid uses 6 letters)

Please support the trail across Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trails.

We need more family friendly trails instead of riding on the road.

Thank you for your consideration.

DNR and Governor Greitens,

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This is an incredibly rare opportunity for Missouri. The RIT, is an incredible asset for the people of Missouri. The economic potential to attract out of state visitors to the small towns along the RIT corridor is simply amazing. The bridges, tunnels and natural beauty along the RIT will invite visitors from near and afar to visit Missouri. This is an investment in the State which should not be overlooked!

I have already visited Windsor to ride the open section of the trail and spent money while visiting. I'm looking forward to many more opportunities to do this on many more miles of trail.

I have already shared these thoughts with my Reps Jeanie Lauer and Will Krauss and will be following up with them. Thank you.

Having bike/pedestrian trails throughout Missouri will improve health, inspire tourism and be an asset for the state.

Please accept the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. The boost in tourism alone is worth it! I have personally traveled to several states just to ride their converted rail trails. Help make Missouri the nation's crown jewel destination in rail trail tourism.

In recent years I've been putting an emphasis on biking, and it has benefited me profoundly. I save money (commute to work) and have become more fit. I also enjoy trail riding and have seen the Katy become very popular. I've seen the economic benefit as well, from the towns on the trail to events like the Pedelers Jamboree. The Rock Island trail will become an important link and will add further value to the state, please support it.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail donation. As a frequent rider on the Katy Trail this addition will add to the gem already created!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I would use it everyday for exercise. As an avid cyclist we need more new trails in Missouri! Thank you!

This trail would be an economic boost to the communities it would reach. My wife and I have stayed at countless bed and breakfasts along the Katy trail in towns we had never heard of before the trail went through. We would absolutely do the same with this new section of trail. We are both avid cyclists and love the unspoiled scenery the trail provides along with the chance to see our home state from this unique perspective.

PLEASE ACCEPT the Rock Island Trail. It will be great for Missouri.

Absolutely...this railroad and every mile of every railroad to be abandoned in the future should be adopted by Missouri's DNR so that these rails truly become the trails in our future. Populations will only increase through time and these corridors will become even more valuable as mental & physical retreats.

The costs to build these rail grades was greater than anyone can even fathom. To not adopt them for little or no cost would be beyond belief.

Furthermore, a cost-free means of maintenance could be to engage low-risk prisoners across the state to mow, tree-trim, etc. In a 2-for-1 the state's rails-to-trails corridors could be maintained, as individuals on the job improve both their mental and physical conditions.

Please...think ahead and take pride in creating a Trails state like no other!

I fully support this trail. It would be incredibly short-sighted and foolish if Missouri passed up this opportunity to create another world-class trail.

My hometown has a rail line that has been similarly abandoned. Every time I visit, I see the overgrown rail corridor and imagine that it could one day be something great -- miles and miles of park land, just waiting for exploration.

But there it sits, decaying along with the rest of my hometown as young adults and businesses move away and the town becomes nothing more than a place to fill up your gas tank on the way to some other destination. I imagine that there are many communities along the Rock Island corridor that are in the same situation. Give these communities something to take pride in, something that will bring in visitors.

Please accept and support the Rock Island Trail Use Agreement for development and use. I'm an avid cyclist and commute to work and ride recreationally. I just rode the Katy and MKT Trail today and thought how grateful I was for these excellent trails. Great tourism for MO but a great recreational opportunity for Missourians. Thanks for supporting the development of this Trail. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please allow the Rock Island Trail Project. It would do much for Missouri.

Support the Rock Island Trail .

This sounds like a great idea. Missouri can be a leader if the trail is accepted and developed. please don't miss this outstanding opportunity.

Please provide more trails for recreational use. Hiking, biking, bird watching and enjoying the great outdoors must be a priority!

The trail would add incentive for tourism and provide recreational opportunities for all missourians.

Complete the trail and bring millions to the state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will be put to good use and benefit everyone.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

I support the project..

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island trail!

Boy, is it hard to picture any plausibly good reason why it would NOT be accepted. This isn't just a no-brainer: refusing it would raise every suspicion in the world.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail on behalf of thousands of bikers in the State of Missouri.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Keep it open.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Trails like these provide an excellent way for the people of Missouri to appreciate and experience this great state. Missouri is called the "Show Me State." There are few better ways to show the beauty and vastness of Missouri's wildlife and natural environments than by providing a way for it's people and visitors to get out and immerse themselves in it. The Rock Island Trail would provide a new way for this to happen, and give even those most experienced with Missouri's outdoors a new place to explore, and new ways to love this beautiful state. This is not solely about a trail, but it is a matter of Missouri pride and heritage.

Trails are important to the citizens of Missouri to explore the splendor of our state. The trail system also is a great attraction for visitors to Missouri to provide a unique outside adventure. It is deserving of development and support of our elected officials.

Please ACCEPT the Rock Island Trail from Ameren! It would be a huge boon to the citizens of Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

My School-Gasconade County R2 Schools- Faculty/Students will be able to ride/walk to school from town.

My Community- Owensville residents will be able to benefit from the physical activities associated with the trail. Commerce and Business within our community and communities along the trail will be able to experience growth and revenue.

MO- Our residents of the state will be able to enjoy our state along the central corridor.

US-It will be another opportunity for the state of Missouri to keep itself as one of the best places in the US to visit.

Please do this. We can compete with the western states & Arkansas trail systems. I know that I travel out of state often to ride because of other states great trail systems! We also have the wonderful Mark Twain National Forrest just waiting for some awesome off road trails just waiting for out of state riders to enjoy!

This is such a tremendous chance to have a fantastic trail for riders from across the country. As a conservative in favor of 'The best government is the least government' since I was 13 years old, this seems to be a chance to take an unused corridor of a bankrupt railroad, and make it something of great and lasting value. Please favor this project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will benefit Missouri's families including my own for years to come. My husband and I both commuted by bicycles for college on similar trails. I can personally attest to the difference that having a well-maintained, public trail can have on someone's happiness. Thank you in advance for helping this trail come to fruition.

Yes, yes, please do it!

We've been traveling to Seattle and back to KC, driving and stopping to ride bikes in different towns. We are way behind on bike friendly trails. Let's do it and get caught up with the rest of the country!

If it's free take it [REDACTED]!

This is a great idea that will drive tourism and opportunities for business. Please accept it.

Please accept the rock island trail. I love riding the Katy trail and have done a trip every year for the last ten years. This could really set the star apart and make it such a great destination.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Thank you

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

The Rock Island trail would be wonderful! Another great attraction to bring visitors and their dollars to rural Missouri. Please accept it!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will benefit Missouri families!

Please support the Rock Island Trail!

Yes, we want to develop the Rock Island Trail.

Expanding the trail systems in Missouri improves access for hikers, cyclists throughout the state and also attracts tourism. As other states have built trail systems through cities and surrounding areas, it not only attracts new residents, it has helped existing industries grow in addition to creating space for new industries. Creating healthy spaces such as these trails is investing in the health of Missouri residents as well as our economy.

This is a wonderful idea! My family supports this trail. The more ways we can recreate outdoors and appreciate our beautiful state, the better. Emotional, mental, and physical health is enhanced by attractive, easy to access outdoor facilities. Full speed ahead, please!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It is a wonderful resource for our state.

Please accept the rock island trail gift for the benefit of all Missouri residents. I am a resident of Missouri and I ride trails frequently. They are an engine for economic development and opportunity. They bring in visitors from around the area (as compared with other possible uses of that land).

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will benefit Missouri families.

Projects like this are excellent investments. They provide recreational opportunities for Missouri citizens as well as

attract people from other states who then spend money in Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail this would be great for our state.

Thus is an amazing gift that would become a crown jewel for our state. Turning down such a gift worth millions of dollars and millions more in future revenue would surely cause the Governor's legacy to live in perpetual infamy for such profound financial malfeasance.

Absolutely a needed thing for us in Missouri! We must start planning, thinking, and being intentional about promoting Missouri trails. We have to change how families get out to spend quality time together or safe ways to bike

As a business and property owner at Rock Island Village Assisted Living along the trail, I can tell you how important I think this is for central Missouri. Help us turn our small towns into revitalized contributors to the Missouri economy. Please do not impede this project. We will all help take care of it together.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Eric,

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. We should promote and continue to develop the trail system in Missouri and advertise it nationwide. Arkansas advertises their system nationwide and continues to bring tourists and their money to their state. Missouri can do so much more and bring people here to enjoy the beauty of our state..

[REDACTED]
Liberty/Missouri City

Please do the trail! What a great opportunity for Missouri

Please keep the trail! And keep improving the trail! Its brought so many people together in my town and out of my town! I've met people from other states that have come just to check out the trail and ride on it!

Please give Missouri yet another beautiful trail. We would appreciate your good decision. [REDACTED], Sedalia

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I support The Rock Island Trail Project, and I hope you can help sustain the natural beauty of our state and all the wonders it has to offer.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. We love riding the Katy Trail and look forward to having another trail to ride that is close to where we live in Kansas. Thank you!

Please accept the Rock Island trail

This is a great economic and recreational opportunity. Please accept the Rock Island Trail .

I live in St. Louis, Missouri. To ride my bike without stopping a hundred times for lights, buses, or someone's driver door opening into me, I have to carefully find my way at 6am to either the Missouri Riverfront Trail, or head to West County where drivers like to throw beer cans at me, buzz me with their truck, or occasionally threaten me with a gun, despite the law stating that we share the road; sometimes it takes 40 minutes to find a safe place to bike, and there are less than 4 options.

Please build more recreational trails, and thank you for considering it.

██████████

Please accept the Rick Island Trail. Great for Missouri tourism
Thanks

Please accept the gift and development the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept this trail donation, citizens of the state and tourist will use this trail.

I support the development of the Rock Island Trail and hope the DNR enters into this agreement. Riding on trails such as this proposed trail is a safe alternative to sharing the road with automobiles.

Please except the Rock island Trail.

Please allow the Rock Island Trail. It is a great attraction to Missouri and a safe route for cyclists that can save lives.

I support the recreation trail!

Governor please accept the Rock Island trail

his is good for Missouri and good for Missourians.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This trail, in conjunction with the Katy Trail, will be used extensively by me, my family, and countless other Missourians.

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

Please accept Rock Island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I love riding my bike on rail trails!

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

Please accept the the Rock Island Trail Project. Similar projects in other states have been beneficial to the economy and health of the people who use and live near the trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. It connects the people and communities within our state. It connects the present to the past. It provides recreation, exercise, and lasting experiences for individuals, families, and friends. An asset to our State

I am totally in favor of the Rock Island Trail. It will be a great resource and investment for our community and Missouri!

We need this trail for our state and the many whom will enjoy. Please pass

This is a no-brainer. At little cost we can increase tourism and encourage use of our outdoors. Let's stop making Missouri a laughingstock.

I am very enthused about this project and look forward to exploring more of our beautiful state. What a gift. And an economic one,as well for every time I am on the Katy Trail it seems I meet someone from out of state who traveled to Missouri for the sole purpose of exploring the trail

Please complete the Rock Island Trail Project. This and the Katy Trail are gems for Missouri.

This would be a boost to the economy of all towns along the trail. Our town of Windsor and nearby Leeton and Chilhowee have already seen additional businesses open, an increase in community pride, and economic enhancement from the addition of the Rock Island connecting with the Katy. Farmers that own land along the Rock Island that were previously against the trail are now seeing potential for the economy of their local communities.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. What a spectacular return you get on this investment.

It's good for Missouri tourism and image. Make it happen.

The addition of the Rock Island trail would set Missouri apart from almost every other state for bicycling and hiking trails. These trails already bring in tourist revenue into our state. The average bicyclist is 52 years old and has an above average income. They spend money when they come here to ride. The trail would be an income generating asset for the state, not an expense.

Please don't stop this great advance forward.

Why would you not complete something wonderful like this that betters everyone's health??? This is one of the only things govt does that gets me excited is putting in trails.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock ISLAND Trail.

The Katy Trail has become a wonderful part of Missouri. Its great for people and the economy of central Missouri. Please support the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

The benefits to our state will more than outway the cost. Rail trails are great for tourists and the towns along them . Please consider this project as another positive asset to our area.thank you.

Please enter into the trail use agreement for the Rock Island Trail Project. It would be good for Missouri in so many ways!

Thank You

Please accept this trail!

Accept the trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I would like to see the ground given back to the people who own the property around it. While the trail may seem like a good idea it will have it's bad points too. How many ATV's will go down the trail? How much trash will people leave along the trail? How much trespassing onto someone else's ground?

Case in point: We farm along a creek in Gasconade County. The portion of the creek that runs through our property is not public. Yet again and again we have people swimming, fishing, etc. We have told people they are trespassing and that night our mailbox is smashed. Coincidence? I think not.

People have had parties and left trash and taken their vehicles up and down the creek and gotten stuck. At one point someone set off a homemade bomb on the bridge and blew his finger off.

People had to give up their land for the RAILROAD not a trail so I think it should be returned to the people who live along the railroad property.

Please consider moving forward with this great opportunity.

Please accept the gift of land to the state of land for the Rock Island Trail Project. It is small things like this that add up to only improve our state. This is a great opportunity for a popular state improvement.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! It will bring tourists to our great state of Missouri and provide citizens with a wonderful opportunity to walk and bike the trail.

Please consider finishing the rock island trail.

I really like using the equine use portion of the Katy trail and now the Rock Island portion that is close by for riding. I believe conversion is a good use of the rail beds. However, I do not believe it should be a top priority for the State budget. There are many other needs that are more important, I.e. Taking care of our Vets, Education in rural areas, even roads.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please enter into an agreement to develop the Rock Island Trail Project. As the railroad once brought economic development to communities along the route so can a well developed trail.

Thank you for considering this issue.

Development of the Rock Island Trail Project as proposed for recreational use would be a wonderful recreational opportunity for the citizens of Missouri and a economic benefit to nearby

communities. I fully support the DNR proceeding into an interim trail agreement.

I think this would be a tremendous addition to Missouri's recreational capacity that would have both social and economic benefits for the state. Please do go forward with the Trail Use Agreement!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I have ridden the Katy 4 times from end to end spending hundreds if not thousands of dollars along the way each time. Bike Tourism is huge. Each time we have ridden we have met people from all over the country who have traveled to Missouri to because of this great park.

I also believe it was one of Missouri's most used parks if not the the top one. Thank you for listenting

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the rock island trail.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year. I live in Wisconsin, where we enjoy using the bike trails but visit family & friends regularly in Missouri. It would be awesome to also get to use these trails when we visit.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! Thank you!

I think this trail would be awesome! Please accept it.

Plas accept the rock island trail.

Missouri has the opportunity to become one of the top international cycling destinations. People already come from all over to ride the Katy Trail but I would expect much larger numbers with the addition of the Rock Island Trail because they could ride a loop back to their starting point. Please take this gift. It is a choice that will increase recreational opportunities and make money for the state due to increased tourism.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. The states needs more long distance bike friendly routes.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Governor,

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

PLEASE approve the trail. It is so much safer to ride a trail than the streets and way more scenic.

A trail between Beaufort and Windsor is an outstanding plan. It could potentially link with the Katy on both ends creating a state side loop and also one of the longest trails in the US. I've ridden the Katy end-to-end several times and greatly enjoy the small communities it goes through. It would be great to see

these communities get a some economical support from the people who would use the trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail, it will be a wonderful asset for Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

This is a huge opportunity for Missouri to improve the state's image across the country as the premier "rails to trails" state. Locally it will add to the free outdoor activities that individuals and families can enjoy. Please make this happen.

Please accept the rock Island trail!

These trails bring money to these smaller towns that they pass through and what a boost for the little towns. And it is nice for the rural areas to have nice trails to enjoy using. I definitely hope that this Rock Island Trail Project is a project that will be done. Thank you.

Another multi use trail would be a great addition to the system.

Missouri needs the Rock Island Trail!

Dear Governor, I am a bike rider, so I am biased, but I believe the Rock Island trail will be an even greater asset in making Missouri an even greater bike destination. Please accept the donation. Thank you for the chance to give a vote.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It is a wonderful opportunity with benefits years to come. The project will bring people from all over the Midwest to the area.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail as a valuable addition to our beautiful Missouri State Park system. The combination of this trail and the Katy would make a truly unique destination in the heart of our state. It would draw cyclists of all kinds, families, adventurers, no doubt, but could also create a canvas for more events to blossom with the safe connection of more regions within Missouri.

The Rock Island Trail spur from Windsor to Pleasant Hill (47 miles) opened in December 2016 and has already been a tremendous success. It has prompted the opening of several new businesses that cater to bicyclists and hikers. At the same time, it adds much needed service and revenue to small towns like Leeton and Chilhowee. Many of our small towns are dying and the Rock Island Trail will provide much needed energy and excitement for these small towns to survive. In addition, this will provide our state more opportunities for exercise and the ability to enjoy our wonderful state parks. It will also make Missouri a destination site for those wanting to take advantage of our parks and trails. I strongly recommend extending the Rock Island Trail. Many of those small communities where the trail will hopefully arrive are already making plans and gearing up for this wonderful opportunity.

Please accept this gift. I don't have a MO area code, but I am a MO resident and voter

As a Missouri resident, a cyclist, and an employee of the outdoor industry, I support the Rock Island Trail Project and an Interim Trail Use Agreement. I am proud to live in a state that encourages outdoor tourism, and I'm proud to be one of those tourists myself. Every time I ride the Katy or float the Niangua, I spend money in small Missouri towns. Every time I outfit someone for a bicycle tour, those customers pay my rent and then also support the rural economy along their route. Fiscal responsibility goes both ways: not only must you save money, but also you must invest money. We've seen the success of the Katy Trail. Let's give rural Missouri another economic boost and build the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Seeing the state of Missouri on a bike, free of traffic, is so important to cyclists, especially kids, seniors and people new to biking.

Thank you. Looking forward to seeing you out there!

Please accept the donation of the Rock Island trail from Amerindian. It will be great for recreation and spur tourism in the state. Iowa attracts thousands of riders every year from all over the world to ride RAGBRAI a week long ride across the state. We could do the same by extending the Katy trail
Thank you for your Consideration.

This project must go forward!

Governor:

Please help and do whatever it takes to make this happen. Trails keep cyclists safe from car traffic and bring riders, tourists and revenue to our state. I meet people from all the over the world riding the Katy Trail and the Chain of Rocks Bridge.

Sincerely,

Please accept this wonderful gift. I would definitely come from Tulsa with several of my friends to use it. Our group makes 1-2 trips each year from Tulsa to use the Katy Trail and be tourists in your beautiful state.

Please consider this opportunity before you make your final decision

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the donated land for the Rock Island Trail. It will become a huge draw for tourists and bring much needed dollars to rural Missouri.

Thank you.

What a magnificent gift for Missouri economic development and citizen tourism pleasure! Please accept all the benefits of entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

As a Boy Scout leader of 30 plus years, I have always appreciated Missouri's commitment to the high quality of outdoor recreation. Please accept and extend this trail!

I would love to see this old stretch of railroad track converted to a bicycle pathway.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please build this trail, many people depend on it for fitness, fun, vacation, transportation. Think about all the surrounding communities that benefit from all the thousands of dollars spent from the riders. Thank you

Please accept the rock island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I think the trail will add value to the towns it goes through, similar to the KATY trail. I am excited to have another trail across the state crossing through towns I grew up around.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please do this project. Trails like these are important to our area.

We don't want to miss an opportunity to get this donation from the RR. It could be forever lost. The rails to trails system is a wonderful nation wide success and supporting this is to the betterment of Missouri and contributes to bringing more people, industry, and small business to the state. The tourist business will absolutely benefit and as we know, that means restaurant, hotel, etc.

Missouri trails are what keep us in Missouri. The trails are the first thing we mention to people that we encourage to visit. They are a source of pride, health, and income to the state and the communities surrounding the trails. Please develop the Rock Island Trail.

My family currently resides in Raytown MO and think this trail would be a fantastic addition to the community. We love trail traveling and have been looking forward to this trail. We would be incredibly disappointed if it does not happen.

I was excited to hear of the news concerning the donation of the Rock Island Trail that will connect the Katy Trail to Kansas City. In addition, I was excited that the trail would run right through my hometown of Raytown. But, news of Governor Greiten's uncertainty on the project has greatly disappointed me. This extension would be a great economic driver for the state and would be a significant loss if the donation is bnot accepted.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

As a Hospitality business owner in Versailles I am excited to welcome visitors to travel through our town. This is another

way to be connected to recreational type folks. Our community is excited to be a part of this adventure we want to be able to meet the needs of these folks as they pass through Versailles area.

I totally agree that this trail should be developed. I have had many good experiences on the KATY trail. I've met numerous people from all over the country. What a great advertisement for our state. I recently road my bike on the Rock Island trail from Pleasant Hill to Windsor and really love it.

It would be GREAT to have bike trail to connect our 2 biggest cities! I have friends who have ridden across other Midwestern states and would surely bring their groups here. There are some good southern MO rides but this would be accessible to so many MOre. Say YES to more rails to trails, I can't be running up to Wisconsin every month...

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This would be a boost for Missouri tourism as well as for individual Missourians.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I agree DNR should enter into an interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project.

This would be a wonderful addition to Missouri biking amenities.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will provide economic opportunity, increase employment, and provide a haven for pleasure and healthy exercise for the residents of Missouri. The benefits are clear. It makes economic, environmental, and health sense.

Please accept this important gift of trail land so Missourians can enjoy walking and riding on this trail.

Please accept the trail donation

PLease accept the Rock Island Trail. This trail can help Missouri become a biking/hiking center. Providing our citizens with healthy recreation and bring tourists to Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I agree on DNR entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project. This would benefit many small communities along the trail with the influx of trail users spending money along the trail.

This would be a great addition to the Missouri State Park system and a one time opportunity not to be forgone. Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This trail will be a significant addition to Missouri's rich outdoor resources and will provide Missourians an exciting new opportunity to enjoy our state via fun and healthy activities. Please accept this gift and not lose a once in forever opportunity

The Katy Trail is a unique and amazing State Park. One which my wife and myself use many times a month. We often meet people from out of state and even from other countries using this Trail as well. The rock Island railroad corridor is an exciting opportunity to expand on the success of Katy Trail and bring this unique State Park to more Missouri communities.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Not only will it provide another avenue for those of us that ride bicycles to explore our state, but it is also an opportunity for rural Missouri cities to increase tourism. It has the potential to have a significant positive economic impact for both the state and small towns in Missouri.

Please develop the MO Rock Island Trail!! We need this economy boost in our small towns!!

Please accept the rock island trail

I say yes to the Rock Island Trail addition. My husband and I and two others are planning a trip in August to ride the short part that's currently open. We have ridden all but a short part of the Katy Trail. We hit the Katy Trail at least once a year, more if possible. Biking is becoming more and more popular. Let's make our state a premier biking destination!!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail donation.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!!!!

I can't even imagine how great this would be for Missouri from a bike-tourism standpoint eventually. Please accept it !

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the rock island trail

I believe that the Rock Island Trail project would be a huge enhancement to the outdoor activities offered in Missouri, as well as a benefit to Missouri's residents. Not only would the Rock Island Trail offer a safe environment for bikers, runners, and walkers to exercise outdoors, but it would also allow more Missouri small towns to be explored, similar to how the Katy Trail draws individuals and families outdoors and to the trail towns. I urge decision makers to proceed in developing the Rock Island Trail.

Please support the Rock Island Trail!!

The positive economic impacts of the KATY are proven. Adding the Rock Island will create a unique loop system which will bring even more revenues to mid Missouri and help keep Missouri as one of the leading trail states. Remember, Missouri was voted "Best Trail State" by American Trails at the 2013 International Trail Symposium.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This is a great way to stimulate tourism and small business growth in rural Missouri. I know it's not glamorous. But, please support small town economic growth by supporting the Rock Island Trail Project.

Your Missouri constituent,

██████████

Columbia, MO

I think this trail would be a great asset to all of the communities surrounding for tourism and a great way to spend time in our beautiful area. This is such a beautiful part of the country and we should share it with others. The Katy Trail has been a wonderful asset to our state and I think this trail would be the same.

1. Tourism dollars - including in-state residents who don't need to leave the state to spend time riding away from motorized traffic. (Who wants to finish their big trip trying to find a shower in Clinton?)
2. Fitness and decreased expense on health of state citizens.
3. Part of marketing for recruitment of outside industry.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

This should be approved, we need to focus on making Missouri a healthier, more bike friendly community.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

It seems odd to me that when state sales tax is down, that the state not accept ways to increase it. Trails bring people to the state, who then in turn spend money and increase the tax. Don't believe it? I speak from experience as I travel to other states and enjoy their trail systems as I visit my grandkids. Last trip to Minnesota (great trail system by the way), lunch cost me over \$100 for the family. When they come here it would be nice to have good trails as well. More trails also means more people wanting to ride, more riders means more bike sales. My last bike came in at over \$10,000. That added to sales tax collected. Why would you not want to?

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the rock Island trail

Please accept the Rock Island railroad corridor.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

Adding the Rock Island corridor to the state park trail system should be a "no-brainer". The value added is magnitudes greater than the cost involved and it promotes healthy living while helping to bring life back into small rural America. Obtaining use of the Rock Island corridor would be an unbelievably huge step forward for the state! The addition of this corridor to the state's existing trail system would create several loop trail opportunities for cyclists with the possibility to rejuvenate numerous small towns all while increasing healthy recreational opportunities for local residents and

cyclists from around the world. Missouri would be a top destination for cycling enthusiasts everywhere!
Look at the Katy trail.... there was opposition to it's development as a state park trail in the beginning but if you ask anyone along the trail now, the vast majority love having it pass through their town and region. Look at the tourism industry the Katy trail has created in the small towns along its route. Having the Rock Island trail as a companion trail with different geography - open Missouri rolling hills and landscapes vice the Missouri river valley - and several connection points would enhance the draw for tourism immensely.

Please accept Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

This will be a great addition for tourism as well as recreational use for mo citizens.

Please accept the Rock Island Corridor

Please complete the Rock Island Trail project Missouri can always use more tourism dollars!

I am in favor of the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail, we know that it will bring revenue, visitors and encourage outdoor activity.

As a cyclist, outdoors lover and frequenter of many state parks and government cared for lands, I highly encourage our leadership to take the necessary steps to continue the Rock Island Trail Project to completion for our citizenry to enjoy. There are several communities along this trail that are looking forward to the added bonus of having travelers of the trail in our communities, purchasing from local businesses. Please help keep these communities alive! Thank you for your time and your attention to this matter!

I think the trail will be a great opportunity for our community to grow for the better. It will bring beautification and income to our community, and possibly more jobs.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

please accept the rock island trail gift from ameren. it is a unique and valuable gift that will pay back over time much more than the maintenance costs.

I am an avid user of the Missouri trail system, and am excited at the possibility of this addition.

Please approve this project! Trail projects like this provide significant economic benefit to the small towns nearby and increase tourism generally. Not to mention the inherent health benefits for those that use it.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Trails provide Missourians with a place to exercise and have family time together without having to worry about the hazards of the road. Trails are also an inexpensive way to travel. Many

Missourians use the Katy Trail to travel across the state, stopping at small towns along the way. These small towns along the trail benefit economically from trail tourism--the Rock Island Trail would be no different. This is an opportunity to not only see economic growth, but to also make Missouri a healthier place overall.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! This would be a significant addition to our wonderful trail system. MO State Parks has done a terrific job with the Katy Trail, and this is just another opportunity for our state to shine, not to mention the additional benefit of helping out some small towns. Let's make this state world class at something!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It would benefit many real areas between Urban centers.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please except the Rock Island Trail opportunity. The Katy Trail makes Mo. more highly rated than Iowa as a bike friendly state. We need a more health population and tourism industry. This gift will help insure both. Thank you

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. I would be a great benefit to the State of Missouri and it's users. Thank you.

The state of Missouri needs to accept the donation of the land for the Rock Island Trail from Ameren Missouri and enter an Interim Trail Use Agreement with the Missouri Central Railroad to develop the Rock Island Trail Project. Significant effort and actions to build the trail have already used state funds and the initiative needs to keep moving for this significant cross state connection. It will enhance economic activities in the corridor for the many cities along the corridor and further Trail Oriented Development.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I believe that a trail use on the old Rock Island Railroad would be immensely beneficial to rural communities across middle Missouri. It would help to unite Kansas City, St. Louis, and the Ozark region, drawing visitors from outside of the state and injecting new life into beautiful, classic Missouri communities. It would also encourage healthy living for Missourians, generating dividends in healthcare cost savings. For the enormous return on investment and the symbolism behind uniting Missouri, this deal is common sense to me, and most Missourians I talk to about it.

As an avid outdoorswoman who finds solace on the trails that connect me by bicycle and foot, I implore you to please accept the Rock Island Trail.

TO: The Honorable Eric Greitens, Governor of Missouri
Carol S. Comer, Director, Department of Natural Resources
FROM: [REDACTED] BikeWalkKC

DATE: July 7th, 2017

RE: Rock Island Trail Project Interim Use Agreement

BikeWalkKC enthusiastically supports the Rock Island Trail Project and urges the Department of Natural Resources to approve the Interim Trail Use Agreement with the Missouri Central Railroad.

Missouri has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build on the success of the Katy Trail State Park and build a world-class destination for bicycle tourism, economic development, and outdoor recreation. As the Katy Trail State Park approaches its 30th anniversary, it is clear the trail has been a huge success with:

400,000 annual visitors

18:1 return on investment

Revitalization of small towns across the state

Economic development through bicycle tourism, supporting numerous lodging, restaurant, retail, and tourism businesses

Established reputation as an international tourist destination

The Rock Island Trail Project is an opportunity bring these benefits to many more towns across the state. Here in the Kansas City area, our communities are investing local resources for our own segment of the Rock Island Trail. We are eager to connect to the rest of the state and look forward to future corridor connecting the Country Club Plaza to the Gateway Arch. We are excited for the opportunity for Kansas City to become a hub of bicycle tourism by connecting the Katy and Rock Island Trails to growing trail systems in Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa.

The Rock Island Trail project is an important investment in Missouri's future. I urge Director Comer and Governor Greitens to approve the Interim Trail Use Agreement and move this project forward.

About BikeWalkKC

BikeWalkKC is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit that partners with neighborhoods, businesses, and government to improve walking and biking in Greater Kansas City through public policy, education, and community-building.

Hope this happens!

Governor, DNR staff and others concerned,
Please accept this agreement to secure the future of the Rock Island Trail. This trail is a great investment in MO. I'm sure you have seen the economic data on the Katy Trail. The up front investment will reap great returns for the State and local communities. If more data is needed just look at other states, Michigan for example, and their economic impact studies. Please don't pass up this opportunity. I've ridden the whole Katy Trail in a single trip and ride the Katy Trail regularly. I'd make good use of the Rock Island Trail also.

Thanks

██████████

Maryland Heights MO

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please convert the Rock Island railroad corridor into the 144.3 mile long recreational trail. Please accept the trail. It would be a great benefit for Missouri and its residents.

This trail is a beautiful and wonderful addition to the struggling network of Missouri cycling trails. I firmly support

and encourage any efforts to maintain and improve the trail system

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! It's an important linkage in connecting the state through active transportation means!

What a great idea for Missouri residents and the national attention would be a great way to let others see what an exceptional place we have and why employees and companies should move here.

Please accept the 144.3 mile long Rock Island corridor into our amazing bike/rec use trail system of the State of Missouri. This trail will actually bring dollars into the state as the word has gotten around the country that Missouri's trails take a backseat to no other state. This is an investment in our state's future.

A great idea for expanding cycling in Missouri. Benefits tourism and a healthy lifestyle (could lower health costs). I'm all for expanding cycling trails.

Please accept the trail. We need it!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Thank you for your consideration

I am continually amazed at how large the bicycle community reaches. My wife (law enforcement) was sent to training in New Mexico. While there she had an instructor discuss the trails in Missouri. He mentioned specifically coming to our state to ride the Katy Trail. This has been echoed most places I travel. I can only imagine how much more attention we could attract with additional trails.

The State of Missouri should accept this gift from Ameren. Bike trails are a great way to improve the state economy by bringing in recreation and tourism dollars. They also improve the well-being of the citizens of the state by providing health and wellness activities.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

It is a fantastic idea to turn the railway into trails. More and more research has stated the importance of individuals getting back out in nature. Please accept the offered land for the health of Missourians.

Thank you

Something as impressive as this trail should be part of Missouri's tourism culture and help many towns along the route

Please accept the rock island trail. We need more safe riding trails in the area.m

I urge you to accept the gift and complete the Rock Island Trail. It would encourage tourism and elevate the state of Missouri in the eyes of many active people.

This trail would provide an economic boost to all cities it touches. It will give cyclists the attractive opportunity to do a circuit, taking the Rock Island in one direction and coming back on the Katy Trail in the other. This agreement with the Missouri Central Railroad is a "no-brainer". It is an investment in Missouri's tourism draw; a win-win.

I am in favor of accepting the Rock Island trail donation. New visitors and activity enhances small town economic opportunities, which is good for Missourians.

Please support the rock island trail!

Any expansion of our trail system is in investment for our state. Take a lesson from our neighbor to the North, Iowa and develop our old rails to trails. I meet people on the trail every week that only come to our state to ride, hike, and explore the Katy. Iowa has trails that connect small towns to large communities and the people in Iowa use these trails to travel the state. Look at events like RAGBRAI as a source of how important biking is to Iowa...that could be Missouri.

I fully support the Rock Island Trail Project, as a resident and taxpayer of Missouri. The Katy Trail is a tremendous resource for the state, both for its citizens and as a magnet for tourism, and the Rock Island Trail Project has the potential to improve Missouri's position as a premier bicycling tourist destination. I cycle portions of the Katy Trail weekly, and have numerous conversations with other cyclists who have traveled from other states to bike the Katy, spending time in our hotels and restaurants, and supporting the many small towns along the route. As a Missouri citizen, the Katy is my favorite cycling route, as it is free of cars, largely shaded with canopied trees, well maintained and safe. It is one of the reasons why I moved to Missouri 11 years ago. The Rock Island Trail Project will have the same effect on other parts of the state. We cannot miss this opportunity!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I support the Rock Island Trail and would be a frequent user. I am proud of our state's trails and think we should continue to lead in acquiring and developing corridors for our residents and visitors to enjoy our great state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will greatly benefit public health, tourism, and environmental conservation. My family lives in Kansas City and will be users!

Please we need more trails. More & more people are riding & the present trails get really crowded on the weekends. Also, more people are walking & biking for exercise, since it is so beneficial for your health. Think of the bike trail as another way to reduce health care spending.

I am from Nebraska and have ridden the entire Katy Trail twice and sections on several other trips. I can honestly say I would not have been in Missouri if it had not been for the trail to ride on. Therefore, another trail across the state is a great idea and sure to attract many riders from other states who

enjoy peaceful rides in great scenery. Therefore I am for an additional trail but obviously to do not live in Missouri.

I support the rock islands trail.

The Rock Island Trail would be a huge benefit to the state trail systems. Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Support the Rock Island Trail Use agreement.

This gift or interim agreement between MDNR and MO Central Railroad/Ameren ("Ameren") should be accepted by the State and incorporated in the Katy Trail network. It should be conditioned that: i) Ameren remain responsible for any environmental issues or cleanup related to their use and ownership, including any chemicals or contamination they might have used or caused for maintenance of the corridor; and ii) Ameren will not seek or file for any income tax credits or offsets, so effectively there is no tax "hit" to the state of MO related to this transaction.

My family loves these trails and the parks that seem to pop up around them. We find ourselves visiting small communities all around with the chance to ride or walk, have lunch, and enjoy a family outing. Here in Pleasant Hill we walk or ride the trails just opened once or twice a week. More trails and parks are a great way to make use of old rail corridors.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. My husband and I are from Oklahoma and have traveled several times to Missouri to spend a week riding the Katy Trail, staying in hotels, B&Bs and eating and drinking along the way. I have told many friends and family what a wonderful outdoor experience we had and many have taken the same vacation afterwards. if you want more tourism dollars in your state, accepting the Rock Island Trail would be your easy foot in to more revenue for your state. Your grandchildren will appreciate it too!

I like the idea of this, but have it start in Greenwood. Then have Kansas City build light rail to Greenwood. Perfect small town to use as rail head. Lots of small antique shops and other opportunities to develop small business.

Please move forward with this trail proposal. Just returning from a two-week ride on Ontario back roads and trails. Trails were a highlight of the trip.

Please accept the trail project a happy boon for Missouri.

Please accept this wonderful donation! The Rock Island Trail will be a great addition for Missouri families who are looking to engage with nature, teach their kids, and stay healthy.

I feel that Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project should be completed. It will make our parks and recreation a better place.

Investments like this turn the state into a destination for thousands of trail fans. When they come, they spend their money and leave millions in local economies. For abandoned railroad corridor, this usually means in areas that otherwise have little economic opportunity.

On top of that, trails like these offer an exceptional recreation opportunity for Missourians. As a citizen who has often ridden the Katy Trail, this keeps my recreation money in the state and makes it a great place to live.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. My family spends many weekends on the Katy Trail spending money in parts of the state we would normally ever visit. We look forward to exploring the Rock Trail and many communities along the trail we have never explored.

The state of Missouri is being offered a truly amazing gift. Please accept Ameren's offering of the Rock Island Railroad corridor.

This would be a very positive checkmark for the State. Two cross state trails that will bring tourism and boost small town Missouri by repurposing facilities and business. Not just "Show Me" but rather "Show Everyone."

would be great to have that trail

I think it is a great idea. Love to ride the Katy trail and this would be a great addition.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

It should be created for biking or hiking as the Katie is. Many people will use it and will be able have access to space for better exercise and beauty beyond 4 wall of a gym.

Many people not experience it the out of doors may take the opportunity if it is afforded to them and they find others others talking about it. What a blessing!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

It is important to have areas for people to get exercise & fresh air-families will use this trail for relatively inexpensive holidays. The value to the state would be

Great

especially

Because

The land would be

Free.

Trails provide a much-needed boost for Missouri's rural communities, as well as providing all Missourians with healthy transportation and recreation options. The national draw of the Katy Trail is proof of that.

The trail would be a great appeal for Missouri to those that are from and out of the state. Please take this into consideration, and allow those that enjoy the outdoors for another place to escape and explore.

Thanks.

Living in Greenwood, this trail would be a boost to our local economy and increase our home values. This would be a huge benefit to our area and near by communities.

Please accept the great offer of the Rock Island Trail. Amazing value for Missourians and others who enjoy the great outdoors!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Development of the Rock Island project will continue the economic development of mid-Missouri, especially in smaller communities along the trail route. Personally I ride the Katy and anticipate riding the Rock Island, on average, 15 time per year and on each occasion I spend money near one of the trailheads. I have already completed that part of the Rock Island that runs from Pleasant Hill to Windsor.

The continued development of the Rock Island is strongly anticipated by the biking community in Missouri. More critically, the Katy generates tourist income from riders from out of state. On many, if not most, of my rides on the Katy I end up chatting with someone who has come to Missouri just for the riding. With the addition of the Rock Island the draw of riders, and their money, will only increase.

It's healthy, it's fun, it's pretty. Why not?

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please except the rock island trail

I am a bike rider that enjoys long trail rides. Although I am not a Missouri resident we often come to the Kansas City area and I along with many others would take advantage of the Rock Island trail project. Please accept the gift to the state of Missouri to contribute to the wonderful tourism opportunities in the area.

Greenwood is right on the edge of our metro area. Having this line of the Katy trail open up, this would get a lot of use from all the local Scout troops and packs. As it is now, we have to travel a ways to get to the trail.

Please continue the growth of cycling/hiking trails by using the Rock Island Trail. It would continue the growth of tourism started by the Katy Trail.

Please make this project happen. This could mean a lot of easy free things for families to do in small towns along the way.

This is a perfect way to connect communities with one another and those that might be close, in the days of electronics this is a perfect way to be seen face to face.

Please, please accept the Rock Island Trail..

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I think this is fantastic. What a great asset to the state. This will bring in revenue to those towns along the Rock Island Trail.

This is fantastic opportunity for our state - please do not give up on completing this much needed boost for our citizens and tourists.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Gov G:

As a frequent user of the bike trail system in MO I urge you to sign off on the GIFT that Ameren is making to the state. Don't be short sighted like you were with the UMKC Art's project!

I think this is a good use of an abandoned rail bed if no cost to the original landowners and they agree to the use. I ride the Katy Trail frequently and would also use this RTT if developed.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

No. No. No!!

Give the land back to the adjacent land owners!

Considering the popularity of the Katy Trail and the nation wide interest of bicyclist in coming to ride it, It would be just as popular and well well used to have the Rock Island Trail to travel to different parts of our state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I think this is a great opportunity, and this truly needs to be built.

I believe the Rock Island trail would be a great asset for Missouri cyclists, walkers and citizens in general. We have such a beautiful state, why not enjoy and explore it on a beautiful trail system through the heart of the state. Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project!

Greenwood is the PERFECT community to develop the starting point of the Rock Island Trail! We have wonderful small business that would benefit GREATLY from this project.

This will be a wonderful addition to Missouri's trail system! Please make it happen.

I am in favor of the project and it is a great opportunity for the state of missouri

Please accept this gift so that we can expand our network of trails through MO!

Please accept the Rock Island trail

I am very much in support of this project.

Greitens,

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. Our state needs to be better at being bicycle and pedestrian friendly, not just only in heavily populated areas (St. Louis, Kansas City, Columbia, etc) but even in our rural areas. Trails like this provide safety for cyclists, exercise enthusiasts and will make Missouri more

of a destination state when we are providing adequate space. Do the right thing (for once), and think about how this will benefit other people.

THANKS!

I believe that, like the Katy Trail, this project for the Rock Island Trail will be a great asset to our state. The attraction to this type of trail system is far reaching. People come from all over the world to ride in the US, and this will make Missouri even more attractive. Not to mention a trail like this will quickly become a 'neighborhood park' for all who live near it. People all over the US are raving about vacation spots which accommodate their leisure hobbies and bicycle friendly areas are among the most popular. Certainly if you have not already had the opportunity to partake in the lifestyle that swarms the Katy trail, you need to do so. Not to mention runners, walkers, stroller pushers and all walks of life that benefit from a local park area...now this park area will reach across the state and be a benefit to hundreds of thousands of people. I know, I have built my business on providing bicycles and repairs for people riding the roads and trails of Missouri.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Washington MO

I think this is a great opportunity for the State of Missouri to develop recreational trails. It will increase tourism and complement the Katy Trail. The Urban Land Institute (a real estate industry organization) just released a report that talks about how to maximize trail-oriented development. We need to set up a good regional planning framework so that the private sector can develop land and services for this trail. This development will lead to jobs and income for Missouri residents.

I am an urban planner and serve as faculty rep to the board of the Missouri Chapter of the American Planning Association, the national professional association of urban and regional planners.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

the current Katy Trail is a tremendous resource to the residents of the state of Missouri, and we encourage the state to enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement for the Rock Island Trail.

What an opportunity for the state! This is one of the few projects with no downside.

I support

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please develop the trail!

Please accept the gift of the Rock Island Railroad corridor for the Rock Island Trail Project, thanks.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Outdoor recreation is a highly sought after activity. Communities near trails benefit economically--and in the

health of residents. Communities like Rocheport along the Katy Trail have greatly benefited economically from the trail. When companies relocate, they often choose communities with good quality of life amenities, which includes trails. The Rock Island Trail will become a part of the country's only coast-to-coast trail, the American Discovery Trail. ADT travelers will experience Missouri on a close-up basis, get to know its people and history, and, of course, spend money. I ask you to please accept the Rock Island Trail

Another cross state trail would be wonderful for the state of Missouri. We are very known for the Katy Trail and people come from other states to use that trail. Another trail would only increase tourism in Missouri and help grow our economy. I am very for this conversion especially with it being donated!

I just spent a week biking in Ohio because they have 350 miles of interconnected bike trails. My money could have been spent in Missouri and supported Missouri businesses but we do not have the resources. Please help move Missouri forward as a biking destination.

This bike/ped trail is a boon for the state of Missouri! Beautiful in every way, the trail will connect smaller cities throughout Missouri, boosting the economy along the entire route.

Please consider accepting the wonderful donation from Ameren of the Rock Island Trail. The more trails we have, the bigger destination we become. Additionally, the new traffic created can help really small, rural towns with some inflow of resources. This would be good locally and regionally for Missouri.

This would be such an asset to the state of Missouri. Please build this trail, put people to work, connect rural communities, and help show the world how beautiful some of Missouri's scenery can be.

What a wonderful opportunity this is for Missouri. I can't wait to see this trail completed. Two wonderful trails in Missouri!

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

Please accept this donation to extend and expand a unique Missouri tourism attraction. It is a boon to the small towns and businesses that serve visitors and encourages investors to see the possibilities of locating businesses in Missouri. As they say a picture is worth a thousand economic development words- vacationers enjoying a scenic bike or hiking outing are likely to lead businesses that can find the friendliness and competitiveness of Missouri worth establishing here.

Build the trail. Great states have great outdoor recreational opportunities.

Please accept the rock island trail. I work with children and families and promoting another place for a family activity helps with fitness but more importantly brings families together which is what our country needs. Children need to experience and then appreciate nature and the beauty of our

country and planet. So PLEASE ACCEPT ROCK ISLAND TRAIL.

Please accept this project. It is good for the citizens of Missouri to have an extra resource for exercise and exposure to the great outdoors. To view the beauty that is Missouri one must get off of the couch and actually go into nature, to experience it one must be in and around it. To not enter into this agreement is to deny the fine citizens of YOUR state the right to enjoy nature and the beauty of Missouri.

This new trail will give the World's Bicyclists more of Missouri's beautiful scenery and small town B and B's and restaurants to view and use. I have used the KATY Trail twenty some times, and look forward to the new trail when completed..

The trail is an excellent use of park land.

This would be a wonderful addition to the parks in the state of Missouri and provide another safe way to experience the Missouri countryside in safe manner. Connections between Missouri communities need to be established so families and individuals can use the relaxing pace of bicycling to enjoy our state and what each community has to offer.

This gift of land is of considerable value and I think the state of Missouri must accept it. Please enter into the agreement so our state can add to the quality cycling/hiking trails and improve our state's value as a travel destination for families and individuals to experience our wonderful state parks. I thank you for your immediate attention to this matter as a registered voter in the state of Missouri.

We have some of the greatest state parks in the country. Please develop this trail that can be used for our recreation, Governor Greitens. It would be turning down a gift to the state worth many millions of dollars.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail, it would be a beautiful and healthy addition to our wonderful state!

This would be a great asset to the area. Tourism/recreation/transportation. It seems like a great gift to Missouri.

I believe that accepting this gift would benefit our state in many ways.

One is that it would create a recreational area for Missourians across the state to spend their time in nature and the our of doors. This is becoming such a popular past time that so many are benefiting from already. These trails are such a great assets for the bikers, hikers, and walking for all ages young and old. Two these trail bring business into these small towns in a way they would not have other wise. I have seen so many small towns along the Katy flourish creating many new business and permanent jobs.

These small towns have become great attrition for so many to enjoy these trails and recreation that they present. This is such a great assets for our state and the tourism that is attracted to it.

The Rock Island trail is an important tourist attraction for Missouri, please support the completion of the trail.

I think it's a great idea. The minimal cost to construct and maintain the trail certainly offset by new investments and commerce in the towns along the route. The Katy Trail has been very successful and it would be easy to replicate along this new route.

Please accept this gift and develop the trail. Bicycling is a family-friendly and healthy activity. Bicyclists get hungry and thirsty so they spend money on food and drink at local businesses. It would be amazing if at least some long portions of this trail could be paved, but I understand that could be at too high of cost. My home state of MN has multiple paved "rail-to-trail" bicycling/walking/rollerblading trails and they have become widely used and have helped the economies of multiple small municipalities along the trail.

I can tell you are a fitness and family friendly governor. While we may not all agree on various issues, I think turning down a multimillion dollar gift, even though it will require some investment, would be unwise and something most everyone could agree on. How the trail gets used and developed may require some debate, but that's a good thing to make sure it best serves your constituents.

Great for the state. I've bikepacked over many states and met a lot of bikers. They all knew about the Katy Trail and the proposed Rock Island that would make Missouri the number one state in Rails to Trails cycling and hiking. Many people have been here and others say it is on their bucket list to visit our state!

Please make the new trail happen! The Katy trail is one of Missouri's jewels, this would be another.

I strongly support this project. Outdoor recreational opportunities such as this make Missouri and even better tourist destination and are great for those of us who like to ride our bikes.

I fully support this initiative. Please do it!

Biking and hiking trails bring a surprising amount of revenue to our state. I think that a developed trail that is in this area would be a boon for tourism.

Do it!

Please support this project. The trail will bring added tourism and positively effect health and local economies.

This project would be a grest addition to several communities. It would promote active lifestyle, green spaces are good for the enviroment and help connect downtown and the suburbs.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I think it's a great idea to convert an unused railroad into something useful and recreational for the people of Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This is a great compliment to the Katy Trail system.

The Katy Trail is a great asset to the State of Missouri, being, as it is, one of the longest and best developed bike trails in the country. It's well known everywhere. As a result, the Katy Trail has brought lots of money and tourism to the state. Areas all along the trail have benefited, not only from visitors but also from locals who use the trail. My wife and I and my brothers and sisters use the Katy Trail on a regular basis. There is no reason the Rock Island Trail could not do exactly the same for a little different area of the state. It would be another great asset. And trail development doesn't cost very much compared to some other types of recreational infrastructure. Great idea. The Governor should support it.

Converting the land into a bike trail would be feasible and could lead to economic development along the trail. Old railways are often converted to bike trails as they tend to be scenic and already on flat land needed for the trains. I have been on several bike tours with friends where we need places to camp, eat, seek entertainment and lodging. The surrounding areas could receive quite an economic improvement from a small investment.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
Kansas City

I think it is a great idea for Missouri residents to have another bike trail.

Governor Greitens,

Thank your for your leadership and your service.

Regional trail systems bridge the urban rural divide, connecting diverse people and economies by providing opportunities for recreation, active living, tourism, patronage of state parks, exposure to nature and education of natural systems. The Rock Island Corridor will spur economic development activity along the trail and strengthen the progress municipalities along that line have made over the past decade.

Please consider these many benefits as you weigh the value of this agreement.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Urban + Regional Planner

Please accept the Rock Island trail gift!

Please help build this bike trail! This will do wonders for improving the health of citizens, the environment, and the MO economy.

My wife and I are avid cyclists and would like to see the state move forward with this project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!!

I believe this would be an excellent use of State funds! This type of recreational usage promotes private economic development and a healthy lifestyle for the citizenry.

Please make this happen

I live in Boonville, MO very close to the Katy Trail. The Katy Trail is very important to places like Rocheport and Boonville because it provides a safe and beautiful natural area in which to exercise alone or in groups. I draws tourism; I live next to a Bed and Breakfast and most of their guests are travelers on the trail. The trail brings commerce to our local restaurants and lodging establishments. The trail connects communities. I think the Rock Island Trail Project is very important for Missouri for all these reasons and more. On a personal note, I live with advanced metastatic cancer and my immune system is suppressed. Going to the gym for exercise is not wise. The trail provides a place for me to exercise at my own pace, without encountering so many germs, with no one waiting on me to use the equipment, where I am surrounded by beauty of all kinds. I love the birds, squirrels and other wildlife I encounter on my walks. Please make the Rock Island Trail extension so generously offered a reality. Thank you for your attention and consideration. Respectfully, [REDACTED]

PLEASE ACCEPT THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL INTO THE PARKS SYSTEM!

This trail would enrich the Missouri Experience!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail, a no-brained!

A complementary trail to the Katy Trail would be an exceptional addition to Missouri's park system. As St. Louis continues to build the greenway trails, another connection into the country and through the state would be exceptional. I hope that this project will go through to ensure generations of Missourians can enjoy biking through the state.

Please consider extending the Rock Island Trail. This is what we need for our children and society. People need to get out and exercise!!

Say yes to the trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail gift!

The Rock Island Trail is important and will be a key new addition to the American Discovery Trail.

I am a frequent user of the KATY Trail, and I have met dozens of people from other States and countries that have traveled to Missouri just to ride the KATY. The economic benefit seems concentrated on the trail's East end due to the proximity of St. Louis. I would like Governor Greitens to not only accept Amerens generous donation to the Rock Island Trail, but I would like him to create enterprise zones along the trail. The possibility of traversing an entire State on a bicycle trail is certain to draw a great many people from outside of Missouri. The Rock Island Trail will be able to utilize both major transportation hubs (Kansas City and St. Louis) for access. The economic impact may be enough to resurrect the

small towns along the former rail line and improve their quality of life.

I would greatly like the state to accept the Rock Island trail, it will be an important part of the American Discovery Trail, the nation's only non-motorized coast to coast trail. As such it will bring people from all over the world to the area where they will become aware of what Missouri has to offer and of course will spend money at local businesses. The ADT is not a wilderness trail like the Appalachian or Pacific Crest trails, there are people hiking it who spend as many nights as possible in hotels and eat mostly at restaurants if they can. There are other ways a recreational facility can benefit a state and its people too, attracting other forms of outside interest to area possibly providing increased employment and economic opportunity.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

American Discovery Trail Society

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. For over twenty years the KATY Trail has proven to be an asset to Missouri. It's positive economic impact has been proven. Many other states have seen this success and followed suite with their own rail trail projects. The combination of having both the KATY & the Rock Island Trails will provide a unique cross state trail loop that will continue to attract visitors for many years to come.

Fully support this effort and would use the trail as I use the KATY trail. Potential for an influx of tourists and revenue to the state is likely. As with the KATY trail, a number of revenue generating, tax paying businesses and accommodations are likely to follow.

Additionally, the cycling community is active and committed to issues that support their interests and volunteer hours for trail management and upkeep.

This would only further enhance Missouri's reputation as a cycling friendly state.

Please accept the trail. Trails like these help people see and learn about the state. Thats a benefit for you too. The more people know and love about missouri, the more effective its government can be.

This is a great tourist attraction that will bring revenue to our state. These trails are used quite a lot not only by citizens but also by bikers and hikers from out of state. please allow the extension to happen. Thanks Governor

We like riding our bikes on trails like the Katey and rock island it is nice to be able to take a few days and safely ride across the state would truly like to see it go across the state and rehook to the katey trail on the east end of the state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

I believe the Rock Island Trail will benefit Missouri and the DNR should enter into an Interim Trail Use Aggrement with Missouri Central Railroad. Recreational trails provide new

visitors for small towns along the corridor and increased numbers of tourist to Missouri as a whole. Rails-to-Trails type projects allows today's generations to see the same views and vistas experienced in decades past, only by bike rather than train. The success of the Katy trail should serve as evidence that these recreational spaces work. I urge the DNR to enter into this agreement and make the Rock Island Trail a reality.

Please support the rock island trail project.

I would love to see the Rock Island Trail Project! Using the Katy trail has taken me to many small towns that I would not normally have visited. Would have just buzzed by them on the highway. The towns I visited were all very friendly to cyclists, and it was awesome to spend a short time there.

The Rock Island Trail will be a huge boon to the economy for 23 towns across the state. I am a realtor from the Lake of the Ozarks, and I have found that property values are higher when trails are near homes. This trail will be a great opportunity for new small businesses to thrive, bed and breakfasts, bike shops, coffee shops, antique shops, restaurants. I really want MO State Parks to accept Ameren's gift of the 144 mile section east of Windsor.

In my travels throughout the midwest, communities that have trails are more prosperous, productive, and more attractive to live in.

This would be an amazing attribute for the state of Missouri, which has been named a Best Trails State. What better way than to capitalize on the tourism dollars such a trail would bring. The Katy Trail has had many economic benefits to Missouri and this would expand on that. I fully think DNR should enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement. I didn't realize it was up for question. Secondly, by doing so, this rail corridor would be preserved for future freight or transportation needs.

I love using the trail system in Missouri.

Fully support this project, finally connecting KCMO to the Katy Trail. It will be a benefit to the local communities as well as a destination for visitors to Missouri.

Please accept this new public land. It is an important recreational, environmental and economic catalyst for businesses that serve visitors. As a 70 year old urban dweller, I seek natural areas for recreation, fresh air and peace. As populations grow, it is essential to protect these wild places for present and future citizens.

Thank you.

Governor Greitens - please accept the Rock Island Trail. I believe this would be a tremendous asset to the biking and physical fitness community as well as an exceptional out-of-state draw for the Missouri tourist industry.

Thank you.

I absolutely support this - low cost and paying huge dividends.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

As a frequent visitor to the Katy Train and Missouri state resident, I wholeheartedly support the Rock Island Trail project. It will be a boon to the state in terms of economic benefits as well as supporting culture and the public health.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Great idea to engage all levels of cyclists enjoying Missouri outdoors

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a conservative from Linn Creek, MO. [REDACTED] and I recognize the value of the Rock Island Trail being developed across the state. Trails have proven to increase the value of homes nearby. Linn Creek is a small town, and there are many small towns that are like Linn Creek that can benefit from a trail. Anytime someone rides or visits the trail, they spend money. That is the best dollar that can be spent in a community. A dollar that comes from outside of the community. Please tell Governor Greitens and MO State Parks to approve the gift of Ameren's 144 mile section.

I support development of this new state-wide trail as it would connect to the Kansas City area and provide significant opportunities for bicycle tourism and economic development in the communities along the trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This is a no-brainer! Build the trail!!!!

This project will a great positive economic impact. Do not pass it up.

I support the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the rock island trail donation. The kaity trail is a great Missouri natural resource and expanding that natural resource would be great.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail and proceed with building Missouri's 2nd cross-state bike trail.

Thank you.

Gov Greitens, Please accept the trail!

The Trail is an amazing public-private partnership, with Ameren donating property worth millions of dollars and private and local donors lined up to contribute millions of dollars to the success of the project. But we need Missouri State Parks to take the necessary steps to make all of this private investment possible--that is the "public" part of the public-private partnership.

Tell a little about where you live (especially if close to our adjoining the Rock Island Trail or another trail; do you live in a small town where trails are important, a rural town where trails are important, a suburban town where trails are important, and so on?) and why trails are important to you personally and your community.

Trails are important economic drivers and are an especially important economic and business opportunity for Rock Island communities, who badly need and want this kind of economic opportunity

The Katy Trail is an amazing national example of how successful and important trails can be to the economies of rural communities

History shows that the Katy Trail has been good neighbor and the Rock Island Trail will be as well. Some of the current problems (ie fencing, unauthorized access during railroad salvage) will be solved immediately once State Parks takes possession of the property but won't ever be solved as long as the corridor remains in private hands.

Rock Island communities really want the trail - they have been working for decades to make it happen. This is very different from the situation with the Katy Trail, where a number of the local communities were bitterly fighting it (though others were supporting). Rock Island communities are lined up solidly in support.

Trails have huge bipartisan support in Missouri that cuts across political and geographical lines.

Please accept Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Gov Greitens, Please accept the trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It would be great for Missouri.

The Rock Island Trail will be a huge benefit to our state now and for generations to come. I have ridden the Katy from end to end and it was a life-changing experience. The beauty and majesty of these trails can not be over stated. Missouri has a historic and unique opportunity to attract riders from the state, nation and around the world. Do not miss this opportunity. My prayer is that Governor Greitens will approve this project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Rock Island Trail is good for tourism and for the communities along the trail -- in terms of opening food businesses, lodging, and bike shops.

Rock Island Trail is good for the health of Missouri residents. Exercise is good for body and mind! Exercise can thwart physical and mental decline. And exercising in nature is far more beneficial, as medical and scientific studies have proven.

Rock Island Trail has been in the works for years, and for good reason.

Let progress proceed on the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!!!

Please accept rock island trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project!

The trail would be a great asset to our community. If people had a nice trail close to home they could walk or ride bikes to stay fit and active.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

Attn. DNR Officials,

Dear Sir, Madam

As a lifelong Missouri resident and a frequent user of the Katy Trail, I am 100% behind any effort to pursue a Rock Island Trail. My family has enjoyed biking and hiking the Katy Trail for years.

Over the years I have brought dozens of visitors, including many international students to ride the Katy Trail. Everyone of those visitors were impressed by the beauty and uniqueness of the Katy Trail.

The addition of a Rock Island Trail would be another asset to the state of Missouri. Tourism would increase and the residents of Missouri would have another attractive area for recreation.

Please take whatever actions needed to make the Rock Island Trail a reality.

Sincerely,

██████████

I support the trail as it will bolster the economy of the small town that I currently live in that is struggling and has been struggling to bring business to the area since the economic downturn in 2008. The trail will bring people to the area to stay in the local bed and breakfast or motel, to eat at local restaurants, and to shop at local stores. The trail could also bring new businesses to the area. I believe this trail is needed in a number of small towns that this trail was already set to make its way through. Not only will it bolster economy, but I believe it will create a loop that bike enthusiasts will also enjoy.

please accept the rock island trail!

As a KC MO resident and outdoor enthusiast, I support the Rock Island trail project. Please support the Rock Island Trail project. This is an essential park of MO outdoor recreation system and will finish the missing link to the Katy Trail. It is an investment in our lands and trail system.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

We need the trail as an attraction
Tourism.

Please continue to support our trails and help us to continue to support and grow to make Missouri and great example of how trails keep us safe and keep us healthy. These trails are not just for recreation but they are also used for transportation allowing us to go across the state to work in other places and to visit family and friends so please continue to support this we need this thank you

I would love to see this trail become a reality. Please carefully consider adding this trail to the options for exploring and enjoying beautiful Missouri.

Regards,

██████████

Please except the rock hill trail

This is an important potential amenity for our state, residents, and tourism. Please don't stop the momentum now!

I would LOVE to see the Rock Island Corridor converted to trail especially as a Jackson County resident - we would no longer have to drive 45 minutes to hop on the Katy Trail!

Please do enter the agreement. This would be GREAT for Missouri!

this would be amazing. and bring people and their money into the state. needed.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It would be a valuable asset to the state of Missouri and would increase the quality of life of Missourians and tourists alike.

I support the Rock Island Trail Project. I love the KATY trail and would love to have an additional trail to bike on and enjoy exploring additional towns along the way.

Please accept the rock island trail. Preserving missouri's natural beauty, attracting visitors to the state and adding income to businesses along the trail. Don't forget you will be promoting physical fitness in the state. Do the right thing and accept this gift to allow the trail to proceed.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. My family loves biking the Katy Trail and would very much treasure another trail through our beautiful state. Thank you!

you can see how much the katy trail has done for missouri if the rock island trail was incorporated into that trail system you would see even more people come to ride the trail and that would be more money coming into missouri from out of state and out of country.

I would like to see trail expansion in Missouri be prioritized.

I supposed the rock island trail.

This proposed trail will be an economic boost for the small towns along its corridor. You only have to look at the towns of Windsor, Rocheport, and Marthasville along the Katy Trail to see what a positive this trail would be.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Gov. Greitens, PLEASE accept this trail! I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

We need the Rock Island Trail to become a reality in Eldon and Miller County. There is not enough space in this survey box to list all of the reasons why. Social, societal, civil,

communal, natural, physical, recreational, financial, economic - you name it - we need it. Please help us. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the people of Missouri.

The Rock Island Railroad project should not be controversial, just accept the donation and build this park. The Katy Trail has been a huge boost to Missouri and adding the Rock Island trail will only boost tourism more.

I have been around the world and the Katy is one of the things that people recognize about our state.

Please don't screw this up.

██████████

This would be a great addition to MO trail system which already is a great asset to our state. I will bring even more tourists in to our state. I hope that the DNR will move forward on making this a reality as soon as possible.

Please accept the Rock Island trail. My wife and I ride the many trails of MO and in talking to so many riders that come from out of state to spend time (and money) here. It would be a mistake to let such a gift go unaccepted.

Please except Rock Island Trail

This corridor would be a great complement to the Katy trail, connect Kansas City and St. Louis with one another and the Ozark region, and run through some really beautiful Missouri country. For the minimal cost of trail construction, I can't imagine something that would have a greater return on investment - especially for the small Missouri communities along the trail that stand to gain so much from all of the new bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!!

The Rock Island trail would be a big tourist draw to Missouri The governor should approve it

Please go forward with the Rock Island Trail Project!! We need more trails and the additional income from visiting riders wouldn't be objectionable, either!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I support DNR entering into an agreement to develop the Rock Island Trail Project. Anyone can see that it would be a fantastic asset to the state.

Please accept Rock Island Trail Project

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It looks like an exciting opportunity for Missouri. Thank you.

This trail project must go forward! Small towns have been counting on it and people like myself and friends have long awaited another biking, hiking destination for regular use. Do not pass up this amazing opportunity for our state.

The Rock Island Trail Project would be a great asset to our state that would benefit our small cities along it as well as the entire state. I have ridden on the Katy trail every year as a vacation and met people from all over our country and world for that matter coming to our state to spend money and enjoy the beauty of Missouri! Adding the Rock Island Trail Project would increase Missouri as an even bigger push for riding and bring huge economic benefit for years and years to come. Our state and our citizens benefit best by going forward with the Rock Island Project.

Please make this happen!

Please accept the Trail! When completed, it will be a valuable addition to Missouri recreation and tourism. We have traveled to other states (Pennsylvania, North and South Caroline, South Dakota) to enjoy their trails; it is time to attract recreational tourists to our area.

I have lived in Greenwood, MO since 2008 when talk of extending the Katy Trail by way of the Rock Island corridor began. It is something that I have been following closely. It would be a huge addition to the impacted communities. My family would take advantage of this trail greatly. We would use it to run as well as family bike rides. Please put your support behind this!

Please put in the Rock Island Trail!

It's a great idea. We use the Katy Trail regularly and would definitely use this trail too. It's a great way to bring visitors and economic activity to rural areas of Missouri.

This is a no-brainer...building on the popularity and success of the Katy Trail, and supported by Rock Island residents, developing the Rock Island Trail Project is another step towards making a Missouri a more beautiful and sought-after place to live. I rode the Katy Trail last fall for the first time, and can't wait to go again. It's a great way to combine recreation and exercise while learning about state history and geography. And it brings commerce to small towns and areas that have been left behind by the freeway system.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I live in Lees Summit and my family and myself having close access to walking, running and biking trails improves the quality of our lives and is good for our health. Thank you for your service to our community and the work you do to make Missouri such a wonderful place to live!

I believe this would be another great opportunity for the state of Missouri. It would draw morw people onto our great state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

This is important and must have Trail.

I am VERY MUCH in favor of adding this to the state park system in Missouri. I have risen the Katy many times since it

was added, including the supported ride that the Parks Department stages each year. There were participants from 26 states when I last joined in. I have done rides in numerous states, but none compare to the rails to trails options we have here in Missouri. Adding the 144.3 trail from Windsor to Beaufort would be a great addition and would stimulate tourist revenue in the local economies.

And yes, I vote in every election.

Governor Greitens,

I have had the opportunity to ride the Katy Trail end to end on several occasions. This year we also rode the Rock Island section connected to the Katy Trail. I encourage you to enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement and develop the Rock Island Trail from Windsor to Beaufort, MO. It will definitely enhance the ridership of the Katy and the commerce developed along the way.

I think this would be a great addition to Missouri's trail system.

It will be an asset for the state and Missouri citizens will use it.

We need to get this done.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please support the Rock Island Trail. It would provide local families greater recreation opportunities and would better serve tourists like me. I ran 5,000 miles across the US on the American Discovery Trail. Had this trail been available when I came through the area it would have greatly added to my experience.

Local communities that support local trails benefit through tourism and increased property values.

Thanks for your support!

██████████

The trail will provide recreation and economic growth to the state of Missouri. It is vital to complete the state-wide trail to connect towns and cities in the state for user of the trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. It will bring more tourist dollars to the state and opportunities for trailside businesses to sprout up.

Gov. Greitens, please accept this proposal

This is much needed trail for Missouri to compliment the KATY trail...please accept.

Please accept the trail and make this happen! The Rock Island Trail Project is a very positive project!

Do it yesterday. The Katy has already been an economic boon to small communities, and Rock Island will do the same.

Please complete the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept this gift. Every Missourian I know is in favor of this. The Katy has been an economic boon for St. Charles and dozens of rural Missouri communities. This will create jobs and new businesses, and the acquisition of the corridor costs taxpayers nothing. We love and take great pride in our parks and trails.

Independence, Missouri

I would like to see MO pursue the Rock Island trail. I am a cyclist and grew up in a rural area. I think the Rock Island trail would allow cyclists to experience more of beautiful rural MO and boost the economies of towns along the corridor.

I think the development of the Rock Island Trail Project can have a lot of positive effects for rural towns in Missouri. Growing up in Clinton, I experienced the economic and cultural impact of the current Katy Trail bringing people into the city. I would encourage development of this project if funds allow it.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I know that people who don't bike always "get it", but this really will bring in tourism dollars. Even if it is only from the immediate area (i.e. Kansas, Iowa, Illinois, Arkansas, etc), this will be a HUGE boon to the towns along the trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Similar to the very popular Katy Trail, it will bring an economic benefit to the State as well as all the small towns along the trail due to tourism. It will also have a tremendous recreational benefit much like a park.

Please accept the rock island trail

Having outdoor activities that are easily accessible are a health--and therefore ECONOMIC--benefit to the state. Since healthcare is likely getting gutted, this is one of the ways to keep down diabetes, obesity, stress-related illnesses, and keep people up and moving and actually enjoying the state of Missouri. Morale is a real benefit to STATE health. I am a resident of Jackson County.

Please enter the agreement. We need the trails.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I would like to see this trail happen. It would provide recreational fun for hikers & bikers. Birdwatchers could walk on it. Businesses could happen along the trail as there will be people using it that get hungry & thirsty, maybe want to spend the night somewhere along the trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I support the Rock Island Trail Project

I think would be great for Missouri. I don't personally use trails but I support this for others.

My town, which is an historic rail town has been bypassed by Highway 54. Completing this trail, which will go through Eldon MO, will help revive our town and the surrounding area. It will provide new recreational areas for the many visitors to Lake of the Ozarks and will spur new business opportunities for local citizens. Please allow the development of our His trail system to complete.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I love the existing trails in Missouri and would ABSOLUTELY use any of the new proposed trails (individually, with my family, and with larger groups).

The best way to see a place is from the seat of a bicycle. I've crossed Missouri on my bicycle on Cycle across Missouri Parks (CAMP) and have ridden the Katy Trail many times. Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Make it happen. People want to mo an and complain oh you are taking my land no the trail is not, they don't own the land it was bought and paid for years ago 99 % of the landowners bought the land after the railroad was already there. It would be an economic boom for each and every town it runs through

I support the Rock Island Trail Project. More green space is always welcome.

Please pass the proposal for the Rock Island Trail extension. This is what Missouri needs. Not only will it be used by Missourians but also it will increase tourism just as the Katy Trail has done.

Please accept this Trail corridor for the to bring tourism to local communities and to enhance the quality of life for Missouri

Yes, accept the donation! Missouri is a wonderful state, let's keep this great thing going!

Please accept the trail

Please support the Rock Island Trail! Such a good idea. Thank you.

I believe Missouri should acquire the 144.3 mile rail line to develop into a trail. This would have many benefits to the state and provide recreational options for Missouri citizens and tourists for generations to come. Please accept the donation of the rail line. Thank you.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Great opportunity for MO to utilize this opportunity for the trail. Missouri can benefit in having this trail for residents and tourist from other states. Users of the trail can enjoy the wonders of MO that they couldn't see otherwise.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please support the Rock Island Trail! I live near the Katy trail and the amount of tourists, revenue, small businesses and money it brings to our area is incredible. It will help economically develop all of these small towns in its path and bring millions of dollars to the state. Please accept this gift to the people of Missouri!
Thanks.

We need this. Start the trail in Greenwood MO.

As a registered voter, taxpayer, and resident of Missouri, I am writing to support the vision for the Missouri Rock Island Trail as a second cross-state trail through the Lake Area and as a connection with the Katy Trail to form a 400-plus mile loop around the state. I support the development of this new state-wide trail as it would connect to the Kansas City area and provide significant opportunities for bicycle tourism and economic development in the communities along the trail.
PLEASE continue to develop the Rock Island Trail!

Yes, build the trail!

What a great addition to our state's recreational opportunities. The more we can encourage our citizens to be outdoors the better state we will be.

Build the trail

Yes

I wholeheartedly support this agreement!

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail Project. I think it would greatly enhance the state's conservation and tourist efforts.

Please accept the Rock Island Project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Definitely, build the trail. The state needs more trails for recreational purposes.

This is wonderful and exactly the kinds of stuff that we want!
Please, build the trail!

Governor, The Rails to Trails projects in Missouri put us at the forefront of the national biking community and the addition of this trail will keep us there. The economic impact of these trails on the small communities they pass through are significant not to mention the positive impact of outdoor recreational and physical fitness opportunities. If you need an example contact the folks in Pleasant Hill, MO where a portion of the Rock Island has been completed and is in full swing use. It's truly a success story.

Please accept the rock island trail proposal. Just about every year a group of 8 to 10 of my friends travel to ride a rail trail. This September it's the cowboy trail in Nebraska. Looking forward to riding the Rock Island trail soon.

The more direct route will compliment the Katy Trail. I think it could really draw significant tourism globally which would obviously boost the MO economy which could in turn help fund the construction of a new interstate? An avid cyclist, I personally use the trails to travel long distances to achieve personal fitness goals. I admire its beauty and hope that the governor will decide in favor of Missouri trails!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. Outdoor activities will be even more important in the future.

This trail would expand the outdoor opportunities to all of Missourians. I hope the governor will act on behalf of the healthful aspects a trail like this would provide to his constituents.

I've ridden on the trail and look forward to accessing it from the Kc area next time.

Do not do.

Please accept the rock island trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project!

I strongly support the trail. I have been a Katy Trail user for many years, and have seen the economic development it has brought, along with great recreational opportunities for citizens of this state. Please fund the Rock Island Trail for our sake, and the sake of our kids and grand kids.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

This trail would be a welcomed addition to our area of the state and continue strengthening healthy community standards. A trail is an invaluable resource that brings together communities big and small, people from all walks of life, and provides a much needed area to preserve and observe nature through engaging without outdoor activities. Please approve the extension and accept the trail to move forward with the rock island trail project.

Governor Greitens,

As an avid cyclist, and one who has ridden the Katy Trail twice, I urge you to please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Yes -- increase the trail use. Make for more outdoor bike riding opportunities.

Yes -- increase the trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. The long term benefits should greatly outweigh any costs associated.

I think we need to continue to promote healthy living and providing ways to do that. The Katy trail is used for a ton of

walks, runs, and rides. These are by groups, families, and individuals. With how much that trail is used I think the option of accepting another trail would be a good idea. In addition with my time on the trail I've met people for all over who have traveled just to ride their bikes on the trail.

Limitless possibilities, a very positive asset to Missouri State Parks, and the popularity would be endless. Not sure of the hesitation? Missouri State Parks really should take advantage of this opportunity!

This trail would help promote more healthy activities for Missourians, it would stimulate traffic through smaller towns and be an overall positive impact to our communities, please accept this trail

Yes, we need good bike trails to help our communities and encourage tourism.

I strongly suggest the passage of this agreement for all citizens of the USA. I live in Greenwood, Mo and very strongly urge you to pass this. There is nothing but positive on this issue which will benefit everyone. Why would you be undecided?

I am for this agreement. I think the bike riders need more trails to use that are not on highways.

Why wouldn't we want to create something outdoors that would be unique, healthy and appealing to folks from all over the country or even maybe the world?

Please include me as thinking this would be a positive thing. I am in agreement with creating this recreational trail and can only see benefits from it.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please do whatever it takes to turn those rails to trail. The Katy Trail is already a wild success. Let's do the same with the old Rock Island Railroad.

Hello,
As a long time user of the Katy Trail I urge you to support and accept the Rock Island Trail. I think it will be a beautiful addition to the state's trail system. Thank you!

Yes please build!!

It would be an asset to our economy via tourism and general use, and it would benefit rural areas as well. I would love to see this accepted and carried out.

I do not live near the Rock Island Trail, but I do encounter long distance hikers that would use the trail instead of what exists now. I live near the North Bend Rail Trail and know having a rail trail is a boon for the community. It is a good, inexpensive way to experience nature every day. It helps cut down on obesity and is available to all income levels, age levels and physical ability levels. Businesses along the trail also benefit as those who use the trail for long or short distances will seek refreshments, lodging and other types of resupply. The economic and physical benefits of a trail are great.

I hope the trail is completed, I've ridden on it many times with my wife and family. I look forward to sharing and making memories with my kids as well. I hope the governor sees the importance of the trail.

Governor Greitens, et al. ~
Preserving the entire Rock Island Trail Project for recreational use, as well as some cycling and walking commuters, is important to the healthy growth and culture of our state. I am sure your family views this as beneficial to our well being as well. I am requesting that you support this initiative for the health and well being of all citizens of our wonderful State of Missouri.

Thank you,

Missouri's trails are essential to the community, tourism and commerce for our state. Look at the Katy Trail, Grant's Trail, Creve Coeur Park, and so many more. The City of Chesterfield is investing in its trail system and tying it in the Katy Trail.

Accept the Trail! The Katy brings thousands of people and thousands of dollars to rural communities across the state, the Rock Island can do the same. A great boost to rural MO and the state.

I support DNR entering into an interim Trail Use Agreement with the Missouri Central Railroad for the purpose of developing the RIT project. I am a cyclist and support the expansion of outdoor recreational activities.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This is a great idea. It provides Missouri with a second cross state trail system and would go a long way in promoting outdoors activities and will present a positive image for Missouri. I highly encourage this route and would eventually like a possible connection with adjoining trails.

All of the solid arguments in favor of entering the ITUA have already been made, but I will repeat them to show support for the decision.

- Development of the trail would lead to direct and indirect economic growth for Missouri.
- Merely accepting the donation would not lead to extraordinary costs to the government, and trail development can be delayed until funds are secured.
- Development can be delegated in part to local divisions and non-profit organizations, thereby saving government funds.
- The KATY trail generated around \$18 million in 2012, directly and indirectly. The Rock Island Trail Project can potentially generate great fiscal success for Missouri, especially rural regions.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This trail will bring tourism dollars to our state. Missouri can be known as a great bicycling destination.

Let's go ahead with this plan by all means. This is a very popular amenity for Missourians.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

Please pass. I'm a runner and bicycler and feel this attracts outside enthusiasts to visit MO. and understand how great MO really is.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!!!!

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

The Trail offers an opportunity to extend the KATY trail which would increase both recreational activities for Missourians and economic activity for businesses along the route. What has been the track record of KATY? Should offer a reference to likelihood of success with RIT.

Yes, build the trail

I support this agreement and would be a frequent user the Rock Island Trail - spending my hard earned money along the way that would otherwise be spent ordering fidget spinners on Amazon.

Converting the railroad corridor into a recreation trail creates jobs (to make the trail). It also creates a new source of income for small towns from bicycle tourists. It will take some cyclists off the road and onto the trail. Finally, the trail will be used by locals to get some exercise and improve their health.

A rare WIN, WIN, WIN, WIN!!!!

██████████

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Adding to Missouri's tourism and land conservation opportunities is never a bad decision.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This to me as an outdoorsman and bike rider sounds like a win win proposition.

Please approve the trail!

This is something Missouri needs. Please support it.

Our family and relatives own 2 houses on the bluff of the Osage River plus land. ██████████, my Father was the first Missouri State Actuary in 1932. In Jefferson City, Missouri State Capitol you now have this opportunity to accept the Amren offer to open the Trail. The recreational Trail will also give some small towns places where people will want to live. Also, the business from users of the trail will increase revenue and create jobs. We ask you to Vote for the Trail.

This trail will be a boon for Missouri. Let us not forget that the Katy trail was under similar scrutiny during it's inception and it is an absolute jewel that attracts people from all over the world! It supports local economies and promotes health and wellness. There is no good reason not to get on this ASAP. Don't even think of throwing away your shot (be like Hamilton!)

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This is a great opportunity for our state to build worldclass bicycle access.

Anything that can be done to expand the safe bicycle trails in Missouri and provide upkeep for these trails is a big plus for Missouri as well as cyclists who will travel from all other to see our beautiful country side, villages, hotels, and bread & breakfasts along the cycling trail. This is too good an opportunity to pass up.

I think this is a great idea. In the past I have hiked the Katy trail and think it is a wonderful resource. As a senior I like the idea of being able to hike an area which does not overstress my knees with steep grades. That is why old railroad right-of-ways are so good for bicyclists and walkers of all ages.

Therefore, I am in favor of the Interim Trail use Agreement and Rock Island Trail Project.

How expensive can it be? The rail bed is already there!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! It will be a wonderful thing for the state!

My fellow Missourians and I support The Rock Island Trail and we demand more access to beautiful scenic trails such as this one! PLEASE ACCEPT THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! Trails like this are amazing and provide so many benefits to the community, both residents and businesses. It's a source of revenue for businesses and creates a beautiful tourist attraction for both in-state and out-of-state cyclists. What a wonderful way to repurpose something that would otherwise fall into disrepair into a thriving trail that will be enjoyed by scores of people!

Please accept Rock Island Trail

I am in complete support of the Rock Island Trail!

I am in favor of developing the Rock Island Trail. It would bring much needed revenue to the state through tourism and help struggling towns along the route. To complement the Katy Trail would be an excellent addition to our states trail system!

I am an avid cyclist and business man in the St Louis area. Please accept the Rock Island Trail from Ameren. I think it can provide a great asset to the state that has the potential to generate a lot of revenue for rural Missouri much like the Katy Trail.

I think this is a great idea, having ridden the kathy trail a few times and some other rail to trails I think anytime there is an

opportunity to get people off the highway and into the country on foot or on bikes it should be done.

Please accept this trail addition for all of us who love biking and hiking in Missouri.

Please support the full completion of the Rock Island Trail. A great outdoor tourism investment.

I'm very much in favor of this trail. I am wondering about funding to make the trail useable and for the maintenance of it. I would like to see a projected cost for this. Is there any way to have organizations like the Ozark Trail Association help with the project and/or have corporate / business donations to assist with the cost? Grants?

I would like to see the additional development of the Rock Island trail with the proposed railroad property. The Katy trail has long been the most most widely used long distance trail in MO. Adding extending the Rock Island trail would provide another great long trail for the western side of MO. Please do consider the agreement with the MO Central Railroad.

I am a KC cyclist and I am hopeful that the Rock Island Project is approved!

Please accept the Rock Island trail!

As a visitor from California to the Katy Trail recently, I strongly endorse the improvement of bike trails, which attract me to come and ride them. Please approve!

Please accept the trail. It would be a great addition to the park system.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. It will provide recreational activities for many, attract folks to MO who would like bicycle safely across the entire state, and be an economic boon to many communities along its path.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! This is a win-win for everyone.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! As a Public Health Professional and an avid user of the MKT and Katy Trails, I think it is essential that we continue as a state to invest in infrastructure that gives residents the opportunity to engage in physical activity. Missouri ranks very high with the number of residents who are considered obese. Accepting this trail will be a pivotal step in helping at-risk individuals gain access to a wonderful walking and biking resource in their state.

Please do so! The small towns along this route would greatly benefit economically with hotel and restaurant and other tourist business. The KATY Trail is a wonderful asset to Missouri and this would just make it better.

Please, Governor Greitens, sign the papers! Thank you!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!!!

Great idea! Please make this happen.

I support this 100%.

Please to accept the Rock Island Trail."

Please complete the Rock Island Trail. It will boost tourism both in its immediate area, and also for the entire state, since the addition of the Rock Island Trail will help to make our entire trail system a destination for outdoors-minded people from all over the world.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept this wonderful resource for the use of the people of Missouri in perpetuity. I think it will enhance the spectacular natural resources of our state that draw people from all over the country.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Thus would be the best use of this corridor. Promotes fun and fitness and intercity commerce.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project!

The donation of a rail line by Ameren is a huge contribution to Missouri and its residents. This type of contribution does not happen often and we need to take advantage of the opportunity - to support economic development in our small towns through recreation and ecotourism.

I support the Rock Island Trail donation from Ameren. Many communities work years to get project such as this with large private investment. It will improve the quality of life Missourians living near the trail and those using the trail. Accept the Rock Island Trail donation from Ameren and help Missouri prosper.

This trail will add to our interior bike trails and compete with our neighbor states. Thus making Missouri a more attractive destination

This would be a wonderful addition for a form of recreation that is family oriented, healthy for you and above affordable for all.

This Floridian would love to come up to Missouri some fall and bike the nearly 500-mile round trip of the Katy Trail and potential Rock Island Trail. Who knows how much money I might drop in the local economies? But if you don't accept the line and make it into a trail, we'll never know.

Very strongly support!!

Just like the Katy Trail this will support a large support for bicycle riders and hiker, generating a demand for tourist facilities [lodging, food services, bike maintenance/rental] in an area that does not currently see much such demand.

In my opinion this is an economic benefit to the state.

Accepting the donation is a "no brainer".

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This will foster healthy lifestyles, offer entertainment options, and be a tremendous asset for the State of Missouri.

I have ridden the KATY Trail from Clinton to St. Charles. It is a valuable resource to our state. It provides recreation and exercise to Missourians as well as a tourist attraction to visitors. Some of those visitors include the KATY Trail on their treks across the US.

The KATY Trail has given Missouri status as a great place for cyclists. Adding the Rock Island Trail to the bicycle trails of Missouri will make us one of the most desirable cycling destinations.

Furthermore, cyclists are uniformly nice and interesting. Most are well-educated and have money to spend in Missouri towns. When the KATY Trail was opened, there were incidents of violence against bicycles by people who lived along the route. No more -- people have come to welcome cyclists as they know they are a benefit to the local communities.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail,

Please do the right thing and complete this wonderful trail.

Please complete the Rock Island trail.

The Katy trail brings a lot of money to small towns and local business. Rocheport nearly depends completely on the trail. Head out there on a nice day and you will see hundreds of cyclist enjoying the town, eating and sleeping locally, and bringing lots of jobs to the trail front.

I grew up in Wisconsin before Missouri, and we have towns that thrive along the Elroy Sparta trail because of the sheer amount of tourism it creates.

Even non cyclist use this trail daily, and I would love to see it expanded.

Thank you for considering my input,



Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

I highly encourage the state of Missouri to complete the Trail Use Agreement to develop the Rock Island Trail Project. Hiking and biking trails not only generate economic benefits for the neighboring communities, they enhance the amenities that make communities healthy and vibrant. The ROI on a trail conversion is often many times the initial expense. Finally, since the Rock Island Trail Project will be part of a larger, national trail, the American Discovery Trail, Missouri will be put on the map for many people outside the state. It's win-win all the way around.

Missouri trails as well as roadways need to be updated and kept for cycling. Missouri is a beautiful state and one of the best ways to view it is cycling. The three major transcontinental cycling routes all pass through MO and for good reason. We are the heart land and one of the original major crossing paths of the Mississippi river. This is not just a sport for athletes but is a great way to keep parents parenting by keeping families closer together through exercise and social activities. Please help us grow this sport by supporting the growth and improvement of our trails and roadways.

Thank You.

This trail needs to happen. I am a hiker, my children hike, and my Boy Scout Troop hikes. Missouri needs this trail

Economic development.

Revitalization of small communities.

Great tourism!

Bridge the communities.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

This Rock Island Trail is a great project and a great complement to the KATY Trail. It would provide additional great recreational opportunity for our state. There are a number of towns where this trail goes through that would enhance their recreational opportunities as well as be a potential assist to the business community.

In biking the KATY I have met a number of out of state people on the trail. This trail would have the potential of bring additional visitors to our state.

The prospect of providing a circular KATY-Rock Island route would be a positive draw for bicyclists.

Let's get the trail built!!!!

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

The trail was a key reason I moved back to Missouri and Specically Pleasant Hill, MO with my children, from Kansas. It's something that we enjoy using today and something we see as essential to the future development of the area. Any move to destroy this public/private partnership is a slap in the face to region and shows a lack of intention to improve the areas along the trail. All of which were key cities in getting Grietens elected.

This would be a wonderful addition to the trail, Please accept the gift!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

I think the Rock Island Trail project is an excellent idea. As a resident of Columbia, MO I use the Katy trail on a weekly basis as do many of my friends. The whole town is proud of our bike culture, and all of my out of state guests enjoy renting bikes and using the trail. This same culture could spring up in towns that have the Rock Island trail. It's a win-win situation for all involved.

Yes!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Rock Island Trail will be an important complement to the existing Katy Trail State Park, allowing cyclists to complete multi-hundred mile loops, a unique experience for Midwest cycling that would help attracting outdoor recreation tourists to the state. Please support this project.

Please accept the rock island trail!

Please accept the trail. Missouri is already a very sad place to ride road bikes because we are nearly shoulder-less everywhere, to include our own bicycle sanctioned roads. This is not only important for the health and welfare but a large tourist attraction.

The Rock Island trail would be an asset to the state of Missouri and all its citizens. Given the overwhelming success of the Katy Trail and the tourism revenue it provides to small communities, Gov. Greitens and DNR would be doing a disservice to everyone if the donation of the Rock Island railroad corridor was not accepted.

Yes get the trail. to good to pass up

We need to accept this gift. We could generate more tourism dollars. It would protect wildlife and add even more to our beautiful parks and recreations. This is our land anyway, we should have it.

Please support the Rock Island Trail Project

I think this would generate revenue in these counties.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This trail is a wonderful idea-it will allow even more people to enjoy the great trail system in Missouri.

Please develop this trail! In addition to the hundreds (thousands?) of miles my husband, son, and I have put in on the Katy, my son is extremely excited for the Rock Island Trail, especially as it connects to our town. What a great resource for the people of Missouri and those who visit and spend vacation dollars here!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. It would be another great asset for MO and help draw even more people to MO once it would be developed. Win-win in my book.

I support this fully, not only as a great addition to the Katy Trail, and providing better access from KC, but also as an economic boost for rural MO small towns along the way. This is great for Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

The Katy Trail is a wonderful revenue generating tourist attraction and adding the Rock Island segment would be added revenue for the state and local communities it runs through.

I just returned a few weeks ago from visiting Missouri and hiking and biking a good part of the Katy Trail. the route of the potential Rock Island Trail would be a beautiful stretch to come back to Missouri again, and spend even more time. I hope Missouri State Parks will be able to enter into the Interim Use Agreement. It would be a great asset for the State of Missouri.

It would be amazing to have another trail to take the kids on that is free of car traffic

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
This is a once-in-lifetime (or more) opportunity to provide a truly unique tourism experience in the USA.
Please, please, please do not squander this gift. Yes, there are obstacles and No, it will not be easy, but what good things ever are, Mr. Governor? Surely a Navy Seal agrees.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the Rock island trail!

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

Please accept the rock island trail!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This is a fantastic opportunity.

Please accept the agreement!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please save the trail. It's good for the economy as well as promoting fitness and less health expenses.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. It would be an amazing asset to our state. My family and I would love to use it for biking and running. We often train as a family of 4, 2 adults and 2 teenaged children, to run in half marathons. This has been a great activity to do together to stay active and enjoy the amazing natural beauty of our state. As my children begin to plan for their future, they are invested in the importance of our environment and the natural biodiversity currently present. I know that if they believe that the state of Missouri is likewise invested, they will be more likely to choose to stay in Missouri.

The Katy has been a blessing to riders, hikers and people just looking to get away from the pressures of daily living. The Rock Island Trail would give people another great place to go. Please enter into the Interim Trail agreement. Missouri needs it and it also brings in tourist from other states and countries. Don't know if you've ever tried to ride a bike on a busy 2 land blacktop, but if you ever do, you'll quickly learn to appreciate the trails we have in MO that do not allow motorized vehicles!

Please accept trail!!

I wholeheartedly support using the rail right-of-ways for public use as a pedestrian and bicycle trail. Missouri is well known for the outstanding Katy Trail and should expand the offerings with the Rock Island Trail Project.

I will use the Rock Island Trail when completed! Trails like this will bring tourism dollars to Missouri. This will be great for Missouri!

The more places to ride a bicycle or walk and enjoy the outdoors can only lead to healthier Missourians. You'd think anyone would be able to understand and appreciate that. We'll see what our governor thinks about it. I'm in favor. How about you gov?

Please accept the FREE gift of the Rock Island Trail - this will be good for Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. The Katy is great this would make Missouri a super place to ride bikes.

It is my sincerest hope that Gov. Greitens accepts this gift so the Rock Island Trail project can be completed.

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

MO needs additional great places for safe biking and hiking activities.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

great idea...very happy to hear this will take place!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I feel this is a great idea. Not only will it create more trails for people to use and increase tourism to see the trails it will help all the towns along the way to have tourists visit their areas.

Extending the Katy trail is a great option. Kc would benefit and would the state from

Having such a fantastic walking and riding trail here in our city and across the state

I think this would be an excellent addition to our great state. I strongly urge our governing body to move forward with this project!!

Please accept the rock island trail! I love biking along the Katy trail and would love an alternative trail to explore Missouri!

Please support the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please don't take away the trail system and also do approve the new sections. Exercise is important to health and outdoor exercise is preferred to indoor for some. Also, there are a ton of riders in the area, and this just increases Missouri's trail offerings.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The Rock Island Trail is amazing and it's a great thing for the state and especially for the folks that live along the trail. Since the trail officially opened I have ridden from Pleasant Hill to Windsor and back several times. The trail has become very popular in the Kansas City metro area as a way to ride and

connect to the Katy Trail. What an amazing thing it would be if Missouri was known to have the best recreational trail network in the US. I can't imagine why the state would not want to continue making this trail great. I think the government officials need to have a weekend field trip to go ride a bike on it so they will fully understand how much fun it is and why people love it. Then they will fully understand and get why we need to continue making the Rock Island Trail great.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. I support more rails to trails in Missouri. They are an asset to the state and bring lots of tourism dollars to our state. They also help us stay healthy by exercising in a safe and unique way. We need more good outlets to ride bicycles without putting our bodies in danger as we do now by riding bicycles on roads with traffic. Thanks.

Recommend that Missouri accepts the offer of land for the rock island trail.

I think this would be a wonderful addition to the current Missouri trail system. My family and I enjoy the Katy Trail and hope to enjoy the Rock Island Trail too!

We have hosted dozens of visitors to our state who are biking across Missouri on the Katy Trail. The addition of a 144 mile loop will be an even bigger draw to our state.

Please accept the gift of the Rock Island Trail!

I believe the Rock Island Trail will be a great asset for Missouri just like the Katy Trail has been.

Rails to trails provide many opportunities to communities.

I am so totally in favor of this project. Missouri has so much beautiful scenery and this would be such a great help to the small communities of Missouri that need some reviving.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Take advantage of the offer. This can't get any simpler. You'll bring jobs and much needed tourist revenue to the failing small towns along the trail.

Please accept the rock island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! It would be another opportunity to shine a little more light on the excellent small town personality that Missouri has.

I support for the Rock Island Trail. Trails bring visitors to Missouri, but it is we Missourians who most benefit from them.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

DNR is not adequately maintaining the parks it already has. Witness lack of drinking water at Elephant Rocks State Park in 2016 or failure to inspect their water storage tanks:<http://www.missourinet.com/2016/12/05/environmental-group-says-missouri-dnr-ignores-water-safety-at-state-parks/>

In 2004 and 2012 the State Auditor documented DNR's Internal Audit Program's chronic failure to audit their highest revenue generating park Bennett Spring SP. Has Internal Audit yet done what it's supposed to do?

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Whether the Rock Island Trail Project takes 2 years or 20 to build the trails, Missouri will benefit. Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept Rock Island gift!

I am the CEO and founder of a sports management company headquartered in St. Louis. We have over 500 franchise locations around the world and we have a large presence in Missouri. We hold our worldwide convention every year in Missouri and one of the draws is the Katy Trail. Many of our participants come here to run and cycle on the trail during the days prior and after our event. We've relocated employees from Wisconsin and Indiana to St. Louis and part of their reason for coming here is their desire to participate in more outdoor activities. Having said that, we in Missouri are far behind other states around the country when it comes to reclaiming outdoor spaces for use as walking or cycling trails. In fact, we are woefully behind in this area and it's a negative when we try to recruit people to come here from other locations. This Rock Island trail will be just one more reason for people to come to Missouri to enjoy the outdoors. Given that the land is being donated, this seems like a great opportunity for our state to expand our options.

Please accept the Katy trail that will benefit Missouri and the town's it goes through.
We want this to happen.

Please do not rid of this trail! This is a family favorite!! <3

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. Sounds like a good idea.

More trails please!

The more bike or hike trails the better.
Make it happen.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I am an avid cyclist and runner who use the trails wherever and whenever available.

PLEASE ACCEPT THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL!

This is a very worthwhile project. This trail will bring in revenue to the surrounding communities and be a boon to Missouri tourism, not to mention an enjoyable place for Missouri families to spend time together enjoying the nature and beauty of our great state.
This trail is also a great way to preserve the history that is unique to our state regarding our nations railroads and the important role it had and continues to have in commerce and travel both for business and recreation.

My city of Greenwood wholeheartedly welcomes the development of the Rock Island Trail Project.

Thank you,

I fully support this. More recreation opportunities leads to lower long time healthcare costs and increased tourism revenues.

The Rock Island trail would be great for Missouri. Governor Greitens please accept this trail gift.

Please accept this trail! There is no sound reason not to!

This seems like a great idea to me. I'm not a biker, but I'd love to have another long hiking trail in our state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Governor Greitens,
Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project! Our state is so beautiful and the trail system is a wonderful way to experience it. Trails are important to many of us who don't like to fight the traffic on the roads. Please accept this land.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It's important to so many people in this state not just to boost tourism, but also just for another means of transportation. Please don't let this opportunity pass by.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I am very much in favor of this trail. My family loves to bike. This would be awesome to have this so close to home.

Governor Greitens: "Please accept the Rock Island Trail!"

This would be an awesome agreement! It's one that families, friends and just about anyone could enjoy! I support it 100%.

It would bring more tourism to Missouri, and would provide an incentive for small towns along the trails to look nicer.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. If we are going to be a more active and healthy state, we need to keep improving our trail system.

Yes on Rock in trail. Thanks [REDACTED]

Please except the rock island trail project

Please accept Ameren's gift of property for the Rock Island trail. This is a long-sought-after extension of Missouri's exceptional trail system and will provide local communities additional recreational and business opportunities.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! With so many more things to distract drivers on the road it is even more important to give cyclists a safe place to ride! Please accept the gift of the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the rock island trail. It would be beneficial to the state and provide revenue.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I am in favor of the proposed Rock Island Trail. It will be a benefit to Missourians and attract visitors from around the region and country. Promoting healthy lifestyles while attracting potential new businesses/revenues to the state.

The RIT is a fantastic trail system that will provide many Missourians, and people from out of state with another avenue for fitness and family-based activities. Please give this careful consideration.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The Katy Trail alone already generates over \$20 million per year in economic impact for the small towns it goes through, and this new addition would be an amazing asset for tourism and economic development in Missouri, literally drawing people from around the world to use it. Just ask people like James Doyle Oerding who regularly leads multi-day bike tours for people who come from places far beyond our state's borders to enjoy this great outdoor resource, spending lots and lots of \$\$ along the way.

I hope that the State will accept the donation of that long section that will make the Missouri Rock Island Trail possible. The costs for converting and maintaining it into a biking and walking trail will surely be greatly outweighed by the economic benefits to small towns along the trail (much of it from spending by people from out of the state), as well as the health benefits that come from getting more Missourians to bike or walk. Obtaining a long right-of-way like that is normally difficult and expensive, so I don't think it makes sense to pass up this opportunity that may never present itself again.

The completed trail would add untold value to the existing trail system.

Please accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail and enter into an agreement to manage the trail for all Missourians and guests to our state.

My family loves the Katy Trail and would love to see another 145 miles of trails added to the state. They are such an asset to our area.

The potential Rock Island trail would be a great asset to the state and people of Missouri. We should not miss an opportunity like this.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail project!

Please accept this trail. Missouri loves the Katy trail, this one would be a great addition and would incur much use as well. Cyclists love these off road rails to trails and I have no doubt it would generate significant tourism dollars in the long run.

Please, please please, accept the wonderful gift of the Rock Island Trail. It will help make out state great again.

As an avid cyclist, I've been looking forward to this trail finally coming to fruition. I totally support entering this agreement and turning this resource into a trail that we all can be proud of. I ride to Pleasant Hill regularly and ride the MoPac trail which in all the trips there I've never been on it when someone else wasn't using it. Since the completion of the Rock Island trail connecting with the Kay trail system I've been on that section from Pleasant Hill a few times and also have seen lots of users riding that trail.

Based on the traffic I see on those two segments I can only imagine the traffic and benefit that would utilize the trail coming this way. I can see where it would benefit local businesses as well with the increased traffic.

I wholeheartedly urge you to enter into this agreement for this valuable resource.

I'm in favor.

I think that this would be a very beneficial addition to the states biking and walking trails. If the proposed donation of the unused rail system was not accepted by the state, in my opinion, it would show that the potential benefits to the common citizen are not in the priorities of the state government and or Governor.

Please accept the RITP. It will bring money to the state and promote activity. We need more places to bike and hike. Have you been to 6 Flags late. Missouri is obese. You support cutting healthcare funding. Maybe this will prevent health issues and help you with the healthcare budget.

I support expanding the Katy Trail through the Rock Island Trail Project. How Awesome that would be!

I think it's a wonderful idea. We used to live in the Washington DC suburbs along the Old Dominion trail, another rails to trails conversion project. It was paved and we used it for bicycling, walking, running, and roller blading. One of the real nice things that they did was place rest stops with vending machines, air hoses, etc., at various places along the trail to assist. They even started building park areas that were only accessible via the trail and eventually interconnected the rail conversion trails to an extensive trail network that was established along the many creeks around the area. As busy as the traffic was in the DC area, if you knew what you were doing in this part of northern Virginia, you could bike, hike, or skate to work without getting on a road. I hope DNR is looking to develop a similar set of rail conversions and trail development in subdivision greenspaces.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

This would be an excellent addition to the MO trail system. The Katy has proven it be an excellent investment over the years and there is no reason to believe the Rock Island trail would be any less successful.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Charge to the state of Missouri : \$0. - Potential revenue to the state: Millions. Win win, why not accept the gift?

Please accept and extend Rock Island Trail. Missouri can only benefit with more cyclists spending their time and dollars here

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I am an avid walker, runner, and biker. Sadly there are few places in my area where I can safely bike for long distances. Extending the Rock Island Trail further west would be a wonderful investment in the health and wellness of residents of Mid-Missouri. My husband and I would definitely make good use of the trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

THE rock island segment into Kansas City is essential to creating connectivity between various trail segments that allow residents to have continuous access and that can provide future light rail access between downtown and the stadiums

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Governor Greitens, please accept the Rock Island Trail. We really enjoy it!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail I lead bicycle tours all across this country and promise to add this to the schedule
Thank you



Just wanted to let you know that I am in favor of the conversion of the Rock Island Trail Project. Our group just completed riding the first part that connects to the Katy Trail. The gravel on it was quite large and made it harder to ride than the rest of the trail, but it was worth it. We had a wonderful ride. Would love to have it extended to Beaufort MO. Riding with friends and family or even alone is a great way to commune with nature and friends, but also great exercise.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Outdoor exercise with positive economic impact is a win-win.

Trails bring tourism and tourism brings money. They also promote exercise for Missouri residents which lowers health care costs. There is no reason not to use donated land for this purpose. Any money spent will be returned in the two ways I mentioned.

The trails are fantastic. Keep them growing.

The Rock Island would be a good investment into central Missouri tourism. It would be a potential boon for the small communities along the route plus the benefit of exercise, getting out with friends and family to enjoy a gently rolling topography of central Missouri one can only experience by trail. This rail line is vastly different from the Katy in terrain, scenery and physical capabilities, plus there are 3 unique

tunnels on this section of the Rock Island. Missouri already draws riders from all over the country and many from abroad to ride the Katy. The unique features of the Rock Island would draw as many or more riders from across the state, country and abroad to experience central Missouri from a vantage point that only the Rock Island can offer. The Rock Island scenery is beautiful and is a wonderful opportunity for Missouri Tourism to expand. Please don't let this opportunity for central Missouri dissipate. To get things started on the Rock Island the State Park system could charge riders a use fee to help build and maintain the trail, sell Rock Island Trail T-shirts, make souvenirs of the salvage spikes, small pieces of track and other RR hardware and stamp the item with Rock Island RR Trail along with the dates the Rock Island was built. Those items would sell to RR enthusiasts and trail riders alike. There is great potential for central Missouri tourism in the Rock Island Trail.

Governor Greitens, please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

awesome! will be great for tourism, great for those of us who use these trails to commute and travel or just exercise- good for the health of our state- the more we link up the better- this lets me safely get through to the bike trails in Nebraska-cowboy trail....which will connect me to South Dakota....yes! and others in Kansas and across the nation and these get us closer to train stations where we can ride with our bikes...please!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. It will provide additional recreational opportunities for Missouri's citizens and promote tourism from other States.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

No reason, except short sighted political, not accept this gift.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Thank you.

Fantastic idea. Need more trails for everyone

Please accept the Rock Island trail! At no cost to the state, and no risk of losing money, and no timeline to do anything with it, why not? It could bring millions of revenue from out of state.

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

I love the Katy Trail and use it regularly. Another trail in Missouri would be amazing and draw people to our state. Please support building a new trail nownormin the near future through accepting the property for its use.

Please keep and enter the agreement to develop the Rock Island Trail Project. As a proud resident of KC MO almost my entire life, and biking being one of my greatest joys in life, this project is very important to me. It will enhance my life and the lives of my wife and daughter as we travel, bike, and walk on this new development.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will be a wonderful addition to the state's trail system.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. The benefits will be as great as those from the KATY Trail.

Governor Greitens, please, please, please do what needs to be done to ensure Missouri will soon be home to a new Rock Island Trail. Thank you! With warmest regards from [REDACTED] mom :-)

Missouri should enter into the agreement if it means preserving natural resources and fosters Missourians appreciation for beauty of this state.

Do it please. I've ridden the Rock Island Trail in Windsor and Pleasant Hill. As a State we need to continue developing trail options for all riders. The Katy Trail is the spine for many opportunities to increase the fun of trail riding across the state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will help keep people in our area for their hiking and biking pleasures as well as offer our community safer places to enjoy the outdoors.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

My friends and I love Katy Trail, and whenever I have out of town friends or family visit, we walk or bike it together.

Would love to have another trail!

Please enter into this agreement! The Katy Trail is a wonderful feather in Missouri's cap, it's great for people who call Missouri home and for visitors to our state. Developing the Rock Island Trail would build on the success of the Katy Trail. What a great tourism opportunity for our state. Having bike trails of this scope and length, traversing our state, will bring cyclist to our state. Additionally, what a great thing for Missourians to enjoy.

Please accept the rock island trail - it would be a great asset to our state!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This is an important piece of land for ECONOMIC development, recreational use, and enhancement of Missouri's global position in the tourist industry. Many millions of local dollars are expected to move forward in its development over the next 20 years.

Please accept this! Love riding on the Katy trail with my daughter and friends. Would love another one to try out.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

All for it

I have biked the Katy Trail end-to-end. Living by the trail, I see all the use it gets by athletes and weekend walkers, and everything in between. Rails to trails only bring good to a community, so let's seize this opportunity!!!

This would be great for Missouri and will generate millions of dollars in revenue when completed. Please accept the trail for Missouri.

Yes. I can't think of a better use. This trail will make the Katy trail world class and bring attention and tourists to Missouri.

Please accept the trail. As an out of state visitor to Missouri, I look forward to ANOTHER great trail to enjoy and the potential combination loop makes it possibly the biggest cycling attraction in the United States.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. It is necessary and beneficiary to people and businesses across Missouri. As America continues to struggle in saving our environment, let's show influential Missouri children and teens how to appreciate and value the beautiful Midwest.

We need the rock island trail in Mo.

The Rock Island Trail would be an important and wonderful addition to our state wide trail system. Please accept the Rock Island Trail

You must build it

I think this is would be a fantastic expansion of Missouri's trail system. Missouri's extensive trail system is one of the jewels of our state.

Please take the railway

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

Please do not put a trail system, to help add a great resource to the state, in jeopardy! This will be such a great thing for the tourism in MO as well as helping to create and promote a healthy way of living, something the Midwest needs more of. Don't ever bite the hand that feeds you, especially when it's free!!!

Please accept Ameren's donation of 144 miles of the Rock Island Trail corridor to Missouri State Parks.

I would just love to see it happen. Small towns don't have many activities for all ages. I would love to see my grandchildren take their bike down to the Rock Island Trail and take a ride for the day. Maybe take a lunch. If you hurry up maybe my husband and I will be able to ride to.

Please accept the Rock Island trail, Governor Greitens.

Awesome

Please accept the trail usage agreement

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

MO needs more trails and this would already be in place with minimal cost compared to building a completely new system/surveying/land feasibility/environmental impact...

A safe bike route/trail would be used by a great number of people in MO, better health would definitely be a long term positive for MO residents!

I would vote yes!!

The Katy trail gets lots of use, and I will have to assume that the new Rock Island Trail

Will as well. Please accept this gift to the citizens of Missouri. We can't have too many green recreational spaces.

This would be a wonderful new stretch for the citizens to receive recreational enjoyment and health benefits from. Let's make Missouri a healthy state.

Missouri's trail network is the envy of the nation. The Rock Island link will complete the Katy Trail across Missouri making it unique in the nation. Please continue its funding, it is irreplaceable.

Please consider funding the Rock Island trail.

This too can provide towns along the Rock Island Trail a chance to provide hospitality to visitors to Missouri from near and far.

<https://www.facebook.com/morockislandtrail/posts/958419677645353>

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

This is a great opportunity for our state to showcase its wonderful landscapes and towns and people. As a cyclist myself I have met many other cyclists wanting to learn more about Missouri. The Rock Island Trail is just another great opportunity for people to do that on bikes and on foot! Experiencing our state in all its glory along a rail trail in a healthy manner by bike or foot allows people to feel the depth of what it means to be a Missourian.

What better way than adding The Rock Island Trail for another great reason to visit our state!

The Katy Trail is one of the best features Missouri has to offer to friends inside the state and outside of the state. I believe from my experience of meeting so many people from other states on the trail it is a jewel for Missouri to treasure. I believe the rock island trail project is also a jewel for Missouri to treasure to draw in tourism. I believe it's Missouri's best interest to go forward with the rock island project. It is my hope the DNR enter into an in term trail use agreement and continue moving forward.

This corridor would be a great complement to the Katy trail, connect Kansas City and St. Louis with one another and the Ozark region, and run through some really beautiful Missouri country. For the minimal cost of trail construction, I can't imagine something that would have a greater return on investment - especially for the small Missouri communities along the trail that stand to gain so much from all of the new bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

Very excited for the trail!! Looking forward to a nice place to walk and/or bike!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Interim trail agreement.

This is Important to Missouri. Please accept the agreement and lead the process to make this happen. Thank you.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the rock island trail

Please accept the rock island trail.

This is our opportunity to continue move Missouri in the right direction! The Rock Island Trail will bring people from not only the US, but also the World to ride this exceptional network of trails in Missouri all while supporting a healthy life style to all Missourians. Please don't let us miss out on this opportunity that will impact generations to come in our state.

It's a no-brainer to accept and develop this! Look at what the Katy Trail has done for the towns along it. Great for promoting Missouri as an outdoor destination.

The MO DNR and their state parks are a great resource for all MO residents, and help make our state a more attractive place to visit and live. This additional recreational trail would enhance our state, further connecting the central portions of the state with our two largest cities via an unparalleled recreational opportunity. Coupled with camping, fishing, hunting and other opportunities along the route, Missouri's trail network could one day rival our riverways in providing access to the state's natural beauty and diversity.

This would be a great addition to the already high quality Missouri trail system. Please do not pass up this opportunity.

A trail got the state of Missouri on the map. You want a legacy? Stick with completing the next trail: the Rock Island Trail Project.

A gift to our state like this would be a great asset. It would benefit the community where the trails path would cross financially and help get people outside to help them stay active

Please accept the rock island trail. It's a no-brainer!

I think it would be very beneficial for the public to be able to enjoy more outdoors and the trail to connect for everyone to enjoy!

I just finished a Pleasant Hill to St. Charles bike tour on the new Rock Island trail and the Katy Trail. It was very nice. I was especially impressed by the reception in the small towns of Chilhowee and Leeton. I think further development of the Rock Island trail across Missouri would be very beneficial economically to the small towns along the remainder of the line/trail. Another concern I had while on the Katy Trail. I was in the neighborhood of Boonville on the night northern Missouri received 2-10 inches of rain. Watching how fast the Missouri River was rising as I rode south from Rocheport the next day, I was wondering if I would make it through or if the trail would be closed by flooding. From what I can tell the Rock Island line would be less effected by that - it could be a good alternate in the spring season. I think the DNR/State of Missouri should accept the corridor from Ameren, even if it isn't developed immediately. In the long run it will be very popular and bring needed dollars to the local economies - just look at how the Katy is benefiting the towns along it.

I would support this project.

Please let this project go through.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project, Governor. Many Missouri Veterans such as myself will appreciate it. Thank you!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please don't let the denial of this trail be part of your legacy! These towns need this trail as much as the riders who will use it!

This is a win, win situation.

More bike trails are desperately needed in this state. More and more people, especially seniors, are riding bikes these days and we need more places OUT OF TRAFFIC to ride. I am a 72 year old cyclist with NO medical problems simply because I exercise--especially bike. More bike trails could lead to less health care problems and longer happier lives.

I am very excited to learn about this proposed interim agreement to develop a recreational corridor on the Rock Island Trail. Missouri has an amazing opportunity to create a new source of active tourism for this and the next generation. The access to scenery and smaller towns would also benefit the state and local economies.

Please this is a great place to ride with confidence of not getting killed by a driver in a car or truck!!!

Yes, yes, yes. Bring additional recreation and visitors to Missouri and Kansas City area. More recreation options keeps quality of life high with healthier people living in Missouri. Also activity that families can do together - all ages. More

visitors support jobs and local business. We need more on Missouri side to maintain quality environment so no migration to Johnson County, Kansas.

The economic input and benefit of the proposed Rock Island Trail project can easily be seen in the the activity along the existing Katy Trail. Hospitality, tourism, lodging and other services provide jobs for small communities that would suffer in any other setting. The Rock Island project would be an excellent addition to the draw of Missouri tourism for people from out of state, regionally and nationally.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This is a no brainer. Do it.

The Missouri government should take the land that is given to them and they can always build the trail later

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Governor, please accept this free gift. Local towns have already started working on the trail for use!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Not accepting and developing the Rock Island trail would be a terrible mistake. This trail will be good for multiple Missouri communities and Missouri tourism. The Katy Trail had proven the concept. Why on earth would you think about rejecting it.

The rock island trail project is a fantastic project that will promote healthy activity and provide individuals with a safe space to enjoy the outdoors and exercise. Please support this project!

Please accept the rock island trail project

Please support the RIT project.

The creation of the Rock Island Trail would provide a boost to local economies and also provide a safe place for biking and much needed exercise for the citizens of Missouri. I am in favor of this project.

I think we've made some great trails, at expense of our bridges and roads. Our budget is overtaxed as it is, not to mention cleanup from the flooding this year.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The Rock Island Trail would be an economic stimulant for small towns that were left to wilt away when rail service ended years ago. If the KATY trail isn't a good example, please let the public know. If the governor is willing to run around an obstacle course to show of his physical fitness on the taxpayers dime, how about providing more recreational opportunities for the residents of this state. Missouri is known

around the world for our beautiful lakes, parks and the KATY.
Let's make the Rock Island a part of that legacy!

This is an opportunity for the state of Missouri to grow a multi-use trail network impacting local economic growth and tourism. It also provides additional recreational opportunities for the tax payers of Missouri and promotes physical fitness.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This is an important enhancement to MO trails. KC has waited far too long to connect to the Katy. This connection adds to the distinction of MO trails among cyclists

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!! The Katy Trail generates millions of dollars for the citizens and state which the Rock Island would only increase. It's a no brainer.

Trails are good for Missouri!!!

The project should be accepted and moved forward.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Any chance to promote being outside and exercise is a good thing.

Please accept this great and valuable gift.

I support it. A boon for bikers and businesses.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I live near the Katy Trail and it has been such a great recreational and economic benefit for the area. People travel from all over the country to bike it. The Rock Island would be a great addition.

Thanks

I think it's a great idea, and a great use of taxpayer money. We need more trails like that.

It is a brilliant idea that will not only bring tourism revenue but also the much needed opportunity for physical activity for Missourians.

Governor,

Please build the Rock Island Trail extension toward Kansas City.

As an active trail advocate and builder in Indiana, I have seen local communities grow with building a railtrail.

the growth is both via local economics, such as improving restaurants as trail users visit eateries. Further, the local pride, identity, and community esteem which comes from a local trail is invaluable.

I have visited Missouri and the the Katy Trail many times. I look forward to visiting Missouri again, and use the Rock Island Trail. Please build this trail. Thank you

Please enter into the agreement. Please accept the Rock Island Railroad.

Please follow through on this wonderful concept.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I support the rock island trail! It will be a wonderful addition to our state and local towns.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I have ridden by on the Katy trail 4 times from Clinton to St Charles and back. It was a great time and the trail is a great asset to the state. The Rock Island corridor would be a fantastic addition!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

Sounds like a wonderful idea. Our bicycling trails are a tourist draw to many people from other states. In fact, in bicycling magazines, the Katy has been featured and has won several awards, which encourages those of us who enjoy the sport to use the trails, frequent the businesses along the trails, and get to see Missouri as a place to vacation. I have ridden the state supported Katy Trail Ride for 10 years and have met people from as far away as Alaska. Adding to our trail system has many economic, recreational, and health benefits for people of this state and others. I urge you with all my heart to do the wise thing and accept the the gift and turn it into something spectacular for this state!

I support the Rock Island Trail Project. I live in southern Missouri and I utilize the Katy Trail several times a year which includes spending money at the local hotels and restaurants. I would do the same in the Rock Island Trail area.

I love places where we can go & get off the beaten path & see our small towns & community's up close. Please reconsider this recreational trail & let it be a place for people/ families to enjoy.

Please develop the Rock Island Trail.

The economic impact of a destination trails (trails over 75 miles) is shown in the Trail Town Program of Pennsylvania. The longer trails bring people from across the country and around the world. Please look up the Trail Town Program, it has many towns revitalization stories. YES, make the agreement.

Please accept the trail! I recently spent 5 1/2 days cycling across MO on the Rock Island Spur and the Katy Trails. We need the Rock Island trail up and running and maintained!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

I run and bike on the Katy Trail quite frequently. I love the scenery and that I don't loop in a mile circle. I have the freedom to start and stop at various places to see different Missouri sites and towns. The Rock Island project would

expand not only my travels but many others. This in turn would bring more visitors to many smaller towns which means more money could be spent. More people are becoming more active and health conscious / fitness oriented every year. Communities are promoting health programs. Biking is an activity that everyone can do with just a small initial investment. It is an activity families can do together. The Rock Island trail development would allow even more of these Missouri residents and out of state visitors to take advantage of this experience while enjoying the beauty and friendliness Missouri has to offer. By refusing this opportunity, I feel that the best interests of these communities and therefore the state are not being handled in the way they should be.

Please accept the Rock Island trail. I live in Eldon and am VERY excited about the trail coming through here. We drive to JC and bike quite often. Having a nearby trailhead would be awesome.

Please accept the Rock Island trail

As someone that uses the Katy trail in and around Columbia, I can say for sure that the Rock Island Trail Project is something the DNR should consider developing. It is a wonderful way for people to get exercise, it brings in tourism, and there are unlimited possibilities when it comes to trail events (similar to the Pedaler's Jamboree).

I believe that the Rock Island Trail should be pursued.

1- For selfish reasons...I prefer trails over roads for my riding, having ridden the KATY 7 or 8 times as part of group rides.

2 - Many out-of-state cyclists well as foreign tourists have used the trail. They all have been impressed with that trail. I'm sure that many dollars are spent by those folks.

Please accept and support the Rock Island trail easement. Accepting it on behalf of the state will be the catalyst of a public private partnership funding that is a win win for the public, the DNT, and small business tourism.

I think that this is a great idea!

This will generate significant revenue once the trail is established.

This would be a wonderful addition to our Missouri trails!!!

Please accept and develop the Rock Island Trail Project. It is a wonderful opportunity.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

These trails are a boon to small town Missouri economics. They provide a safer place for all citizens to ride their bicycles ... any distance. Take this on. It will pay.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I offer my support for this project. I can't ride a bike or even walk this trail but I am delighted by the stories of multiple friends who truly enjoy the Katy trail and who most certainly would enjoy the 2nd cross-state trail.

Please ACCEPT the Rock Island Trail. Thank you.

I think it is a good idea to adopt this land for trail use. Communities along other prominent Missouri trails have benefitted economically from the traffic that they create.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please don't discard this project. This trail allows individuals, families the opportunity to explore and enjoy the natural beauty of Missouri in a safe manner. It also supports the smaller communities along the trail -- look no further than places like Boonville, Rochefort, Sedalia, Washington, Augusta, etc. to see the positive impact the Katy Trail has had on those towns.

I love the MKT and Katy Trails. We purchased our house so we could easily access the trails. There are numerous events on the trail and each time an event is scheduled, I see "out of state" licensed cars in our subdivision. Another trail, in my opinion, will bring more people from other states into Missouri. Biking vacations have really become popular with families of all ages.

Please accept the Rock Trail Island! Do it for the future of this state and my children.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please do what you can to make the Rock Island Trail happen.

Yes please support this! I've been watching and anticipating this for years!

Ps
Please don't add me to the Governor's email list.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This will be a great asset to Missourians!

Please continue w/ the plans for the rock island trail and all the many economic and health benefits it will provide to each community it passes through

I believe this Trail would be a GREAT ASSET to EVERY Community on this route. Please, Accept this donation to People of this great State of Missouri.

Please support the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the rock island trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I believe this agreement is good for Missouri families.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It would provide Missourians with more opportunities to reap the benefits of our great outdoors.

Please accept the rock island trail. It us a great opportunity for missouri.

I have been excited about this project from the time news of it first broke. I live in a neighborhood adjacent to this corridor. This will give me a new avenue to be more active and spend more time outdoors, without having to travel to do so. In addition, I hope this will provide opportunity for business along the corridor in my community to cultivate new customers. I am eager to see this worthy project move forward!

I support the Rock Island Trail Project!!!

This would be fantastic! Please do not turn this down, turning it down does not make any sense. This is an amazing opportunity for Missouri, please don't ruin it by not accepting this.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This will add value, jobs and tourism benefits to our state.

I am in agreement with entering into the development of the Rock Island trail. The trail has provided hours of entertainment for my family and grandchild to enjoy riding safely in Missouri. I do not feel comfortable or safe riding on the highway due to drivers being inconsiderate to bicycle riders by not slowing down or moving over not to mention those texting or driving and just flat not paying attention. I feel it will be a benefit to develop the Rock Island Trail to provide safe exercise and relaxing enjoyment when walking or cycling

I live near the KATY trail and have seen it become an important recreational and economic asset to the citizens of Missouri. Expanding this network will cost very little, and will generate health and further economic benefits for the citizens of the State of Missouri. This is a great opportunity to acquire an asset that will benefit all Missourians and letting it go would be a mistake. Please proceed with this project.

Please support the Rock Island Trail project!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Important for Missouri families for walking, running, biking.

What a great opportunity! The development of this trail to compliment the magnificent KATY Trail would be a great asset for our state. As the KATY Trail has proven, these recreational trails bring tourism, economic growth for the trail corridor and other destinations throughout the state. Don't let this opportunity pass Missouri by!

Private landowners hated the idea they did not want another government land grab for a park. This was Wyoming 1940's. The park became Grand Teton National Park. Are we sorry that we did not listen to the private landowners in Wyoming? Build the Rock Island Trail!!!! Future generations will cherish this trail. Dont be shortsided!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will enhance tourism and be a great boost to businesses along the trail. We must accept because opportunities to obtain a high quality resource

like this are rare and don't come along every day. Act now to accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the rock island trail! Outdoor recreation creates money!

This is a great idea. The conversion of the MKT rail line into the now KATY Trail has done nothing but bring about economic increases in the areas along the trail. This would be a boost to those areas as well.

Having another trail within the state would be amazing. Many people are using the Katy Trail year round. What better way to see the state than up-close and personal on foot or bicycle.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

The Rock Island Trail is a wide investment that will benefit local businesses along the trail as well as the state. It would be "Penney wise and pound foolish" not to find this project.

I encourage Governor Greitens, the MO State Legislature and the MO Dept of Natural Resources to accept the Rock Island Railroad Corridor and develop it into a bicycle trail system from Windsor, MO to Washington, MO. Connected to the Katy Trail at Windsor, MO, this would create a 500 mile bicycle loop that would be one of the longest single "rails to trails" bike paths in the world. Bikers from around the globe would travel here to "ride the loop" from St. Louis to Kansas City and back. This is an unprecedented opportunity to acquire a beautiful piece of land that runs through the rolling hills of the Missouri River Valley with stops in small rural communities that will benefit from the economic development created by riders on the trail.

This land and trail will provide joy to those who use while also bringing in revenue for the state and local areas. This will be a destination for many and I see no reason not to enter into the agreement.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

Please accept the rock island trail.

This will be an important asset for our state in attracting tourism. Do not hesitate, for the people in Missouri, to make this agreement.

I think it would be a great compliment to the Katy Trail, and a great tourism draw. Do it!

I am in favor of the trail. I use the Katy trail a lot and just love it. I think it would be great to have another trail in Missouri.

Please accept the trail.

We need more green space that stretch from Community to community. It's time our community start working together

instead of being divided in this Trail allows us to unite community

I just finished riding the Katy trail from Clinton to St Charles myself and I can tell you that this would absolutely be advantageous for not only the riders of trails but for the small towns along these trails. Many of these towns have survived by opening business's along the trail. Restaurants, bed and breakfast, bike shops are but a few that we frequented along the Katy. Diverse business's in these towns helps a great deal. Do the right thing and fund this project.

Yes, please. More public use natural resources strengthen Missouri's economy and is one of the things I value most about living in this State.

Yes, trails for all people to use are wanted. It provides a place for bicyclers. People will come from out os state to use it which will increase tourism.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! A complete trail system not only promotes healthy lifestyles for Missourians, it also helps to showcase our state as an attractive destination for tourism.

Yes for the trail

Please make this trail a reality! We'd love to have more beautiful trails in our state!

Support the trail this is a great opportunity to bring even more tourism to Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. What a great opportunity for Missouri. Let's do it!

It's literally a donation. The state doesn't pay a dime. The 144.3 mile long trail would be a huge asset for the state for tourism and family outings. Just take the money and build it.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Yes,yes,yes. Promotes tourism, healthy lifestyles, commuting and community.

Please build the Rock Island Trail!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I fully support moving forward with the Rock Island Trail Project. Missouri has set the standard for rails to trails projects. This is a worthy project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! Too many financial and health benefits to list here. Don't let us miss this golden opportunity,

I think this is a great idea. My wife and I just rode the Rock Island Spur from Pleasant Hill to Windsor and it needs work but was great to catch a train to Lee's Summit and ride all the way back to Machens. This trail has so many benefits. It is a great way for people to be active for free which encourages weight loss and in turn fewer medical claims. It also provides jobs to construct and maintain this trial. This trail is also a way for people to travel across this great state of ours. We met so many great people doing the same thing as us. We also met a lot of people that had a business of some kind in the trail. These people are very passionate about the trail because it brings revenue and tourists to their small town. Please allow this trail to be built, it is a great thing. Thank you.

Rails to Trails is a far better investment than most of the media hype centered around MO tourism. With the KATY trail cross Rock Island Trail it gives the opportunity for some seriously long biking and hiking experiences. It brings a chance for some micro economic improvement into some of the least likely areas. It also encourages a more healthy life-style.

I am a small business owner who utilizes the Katy Trail annually, which in turn generates revenue for the state of Missouri. We are an Outfitter that serves between 40 and 80 people annually on just the Katy Trail ride alone. If the Rock Island Trail were to connect fully to the Katy Trail, we would be able to develop a separate, additional bike ride which would be a week-long ride that could generate thousands of dollars which would be brought to all of the small towns along the Rock Island Trail. Any leader ignoring these opportunities would be mistaken. Simply look at the revenue brought in by the Katy Trail annually. There are multiple businesses similar to ours that would also bring in money each year if given the opportunity of fully connecting the Rock Island Trail to the Katy.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It belongs to the people of the state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please support the Rock Island Trail.

This is a great idea. It would increase tourism in Missouri and provide additional opportunities for people to get fit and stay healthy. Our landscapes are changing and our natural resources are dwindling. Children are growing up in a technical, concrete jungle. It would be my hope that Missouri would take a stand to be a leader in providing recreational activities that would benefit those of all ages. I can see no negatives in this conversion. For the health of all, please make the Rock Island Trail Project a reality. Let's have one more reason to be proud to call Missouri, "home."

This area is some of the best scenic area in central MO. I would like very to see this maintained as a park for future generations. Development of this area would also bring jobs to central MO. I am in favor software accepting the land and trail. Please show the beautiful trail to others.

I greatly enjoyed riding the Katy Trail the last two years and look forward to riding the completed portion of the Rock Island Trail this summer. The completed Rock Island/Katy loop would give Missouri a recreational resource unequaled by any other state.

I agree with Missouri accepting the gift from Ameren and developing it into a bike trail, it will create jobs for Missouri and could attract more tourism to Missouri as well. Governor Greitens please make this a priority for Missouri it is in all Missourians best interest, it also provides more of an opportunity for us to enjoy this beautiful State God has provided us with.

This is the Katy Trail is a good idea for Missouri and it's citizens. Not only does it provide a much-needed safe area for bike riding and hiking it will also provide this day with income. As a bike rider, going to other states and experiencing their different trails is a fun vacation and away to enjoy their outdoors. We have ridden the Katy Trail numerous times and work on the idea of having another beautiful recreational trail to enjoy in our wonderful state Missouri. As a lifelong Republican I have not always agreed with expenditures by the state but this is one expenditure which is a one and a little maintenance in the years ahead.

Love the idea.

Please accept the land to build the Rock Island Trail

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

A million YESes to this project

Excellent tourism idea to attract people to the state

Rock Island Trail would be awesome to use. Please consider this trail. Missouri state park amenities are so much better than some other states. This would be a terrific place to ride bikes.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Governor Greitens:

Missouri's state parks are some of its crown jewels. I would like to encourage you to take the opportunity to potentially expand that system by accepting the Rock Island Trail. This is a once-in-an-administration opportunity to obtain this amazing asset at no cost to the State. I understand that there are concerns over cost, but my understanding is that there is no cost at this point. The State does not need to develop this right away (or potentially at all). The State could, if it chose not to develop the trail, work with non-profits or local municipalities to develop portions or all of the trail. But we have no options if the land is not accepted. As your supporter, a outdoor enthusiast, lifelong Missourian, and fiscal conservative, I strongly encourage you to do this.

It going to help people and great for biking

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Thank you.

The Katy trail has been an amazing asset for the state of Missouri. Bicycle riders and trail users travel in from many surrounding states to use it. Building the Rock Island Trail would further enhance the state attractiveness. This is a great idea and should go forward, the state needs more riding and trail use versus less. The residents want more and whenever a new trail is built it is widely used by the residents. If there are safe trails they get used, this is a healthy lifestyle investment we should embrace. This would be a great use of state tax dollars. I hope the leaders who can impact this decision do so to help fund and build it. Our family of 4 use a trail several times a week we live near Grants trail in STL, but also use Cliffcave park bike trail, Katy and hike often at powder valley, Castlewood and Chubb trail. Being active is import, but doing it safely is more important.

Do it. Success of Katy Trail makes this an obvious win.

Our trail parks and trail systems our very valuable to our state. They support countless activities and generate enormous value in family enjoyment and commerce to local communities All of our trails and parks are essential to maintains missouris place in the Midwest as a wonderful place to live and a destination for tourist.

The rock island trail adds and builds on a portfolio of wonderful amenities we must continue to make investments in.

I would love to have access to this! These kind of resources is what makes MO so great for outdoors people. My wife and I frequently travel on weekends from KC to parts of the Katy trail and spend our dollars on hotels, food, and gas to cycle. We have met many out of state people doing the same.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the gift and complete the trail for car free biking and pedestrian use

Please move forward

Bike trails are necessary for Missouri. Since the creation of the Mo Dept of Conservation Missourians have consistently voted to make the outdoors accessible and necessary part of life. Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please do this. I love riding the trails especially the Katy!!!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. What a great idea

Please accept this trail and make Missouri and even better state to live and explore.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please except the money from amren and allow our cyclers to be able to be a part of this awesome trail.

I would like to see this trail completed. It would run within a mile of my house, so it would be a lot easier for me to access than Katy. It would benefit a large number of rural citizens and would also enhance our tourism.

I enthusiastically support this project. As a lifelong Missourian, I love the idea of helping economic development across the rural parts of the state, while creating an opportunity for biking and ecotourism. Let's do this!

Please accept the rock island trail gift. This could become a serious boon to small town economies along the trail and further put us on the map as a hiking and biking destination state.

As for cost, partnering with rails to trails and other not for profit organizations will cut the cost to the state dramatically, making the project budget friendly and of economic value to Missouri's small towns.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Thanking you in advance for being responsive to the wishes of the people on this.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

This is a good plan. It bring a revenue to the small towns and provides recreation for our citizens.

Please accept this gift to our generation and generations to come. We traveled from VA to bike the KATY Trail this summer (spending our vacation \$\$ in MO) and would do the same for a Rock Island Trail.

The more multi-use trails that we can create the better. It is important to create safe places for people to recreate, in turn helping to make Missouri healthier.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

This would be a fantastic asset for our state, would love to see this project happen!

Please accept the rock island trail

I don't want the trail!!! Can't believe it will bring economic advantages , but rather bring increased crime and undesirables to our city. Will also cause additional drug use in/ near our town. This in turn will require additional police power/expense!!!

Please accept the rock island trail gift

Smart investment
Bipartisan support
Promotes tourism
Promotes health and wellness
Promotes jobs
Promotes Missouri!

We traveled the country to ride rail trails this past spring, including the delightful 2 days we spent on the Katy Trail. Such back-to-nature, slow-paced, slow-foods adventures

definitely enticed us to include MO on our trip! I see no reason the state of MO would not accept a gifting of this land.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island trail! We need more bike and walking trails that will get people out in nature and helping to spur small businesses in these towns!! Missouri is beautiful so let's give people the chance to come see out beautiful state!!

I'm all for people having a good time, but since our family has farm land on both sides of what will become the trail, we have our reservations about how it will affect our ability to move cattle and farm equipment across our land. We're also concerned about who is responsible for any damages or trash left along the part of the trail that goes through our land. Obama administration wanted to fine the land owner for any trash left along the trail. When the democrats get back in power will we be facing new rules and regulations that penalize the landowner?

The parks department already has land it can't maintain so why take on more? It looks like a way to grow more government and I dislike the idea of giving the government more power.

Please consider accepting the Rock Island Trail agreement. It would provide a ton of value to active citizens.

This would be something splendid. More families need to get out and enjoy it. I would love to see this history preserved, used and loved for my kids and grandkids.

Please accept the Rock Island trail

NO NO NO. Don't make this huge mistake,

Totally against this.

Governor,
I and my family have enjoyed many days on our current Katy Trail.

I encourage you to accept the gift of the rail line to give us a second trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

This is a great opportunity for tourism and economic growth in many small towns across Missouri. Healthy, cost effective opportunities make sense for Missouri.

Please accept this from Ameren.

The Katy Trail brings in so much money and tourism. This trail would bring in a similar amount of money to the communities it passes through. There is no reason not to build this trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept Rock Island Trail.

It's a great boon for small rural towns. Let non-profits build up the rails-to-trails trail system.

This is a no brainer. Get it done. Getting an easement like this would be impossible ever again. There simply isn't going to be an opportunity to build this world class trail system ever again.

this would be and has proven to be a great way to preserve history, create green spaces and improve the areas appeal. creating and supporting local business and recreation for the citizens of Missouri.

I would like to see the State of Missouri work to make this happen.

Please accept the rock island trail

Why not?

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

This family would love to see the Rock Island Trail Project completed. We live in a small town of 200 and it could provide many opportunities for our community.

Please accept the trail!

We are casual cyclists in our sixties. We enjoy finding new trails to explore. We are in the StL area. I get annoyed that I have to go to IL to find various bike routes.

At our age we are encouraged more to keep active to help keep us in good health. It would be nice to do it in MO. As an FYI, at a minimum we eat lunch and sometimes dinner when we go for rides. There are many times my wife sees something that we "need" when we go through the small towns along the trail. I would much rather do that in MO rather than spend the money in IL.

Thank you for considering the expansion of off-road/trail expansion.

Strongly support trail addition to Parks program in Missouri

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The Katy trail is one of the best parks in Missouri. Our family has enjoyed it for years for biking and hiking. Adding this spur makes perfect sense and would be a great addition to our parks system.

Amenities like this get people outside for healthy exercise that in turn decreases costs for health care. Let's keep this moving forward and make our state a better place to live.

I support acceptance and development of this trail

I have been involved in trail development in Iowa for over 30 years and applaud the State of Missouri for having the vision to consider entering into an Interim Trail use Agreement for the Rock Island Trail Project. We have experienced major growth on our trail system in Central Iowa and all the benefits these trails bring to the communities are enormous. I am also on the American Discovery Trail Board and am excited that this trail will become a significant national treasure.

I believe even a brief and casual survey of the communities along the existing KATY trail will give plenty of reasons why accepting the Ameren donation and beginning development of the Rock Island trail will provide much needed economic boost to communities all along the proposed trail, many of which can use any form of economic opportunities available.

Please accept and proceed with the Rock Island Trail!

Please, please develop this project. Missouri is such a beautiful state. This project along with the Katy Trail will help make Missouri internationally recognized.

Thank you

Mr. Greitens,

Please consider allowing this rail to trail project to happen. This is a great opportunity to bridge our two largest cities together and everything in between with a new recreational trail. The trail will attract visitors to small towns along the trek across Missouri, supplying business to locals in much needed areas. This is not only a good project for the people but our economy as well.

I strongly support this project. It would further Missouri's interest in tourism, recreation, health and fitness, mental and physical well being, etc. Projects like this make Missouri special and benefit everyone. Make it happen!

Please accept the donation of the trail.

Mr. Governor,

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This has the potential to add to our great trail system and bring additional tourism and revenue to the state much like the Katy Trail. For instance a few friends and I biked the Katy Trail in 2014 to raise money for a veterans memorial in Butler County. Accomplishing the 237 mile ride in one day provided us the backdrop to raise \$40,000 and pay tribute to a Medal of Honor recipient from our home town. By expanding the state's trail system, there will be more opportunities for life changing adventure for citizens residing inside and outside of the great state of Missouri. I request you accept this trail knowing it will provide positive impact on the state for generation she to come.

Respectfully,

I'm a DAV and hope to see your support for the Rock Island Trail. I voted for you. I own real estate in Miller county close to the Osage river and would hope to see all citizens enjoy the wonders of the Osage river crossing.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! Thank you.

Please accept the gift. It will be a great trail. I live nearby and would love to use it.

This trail is the only State Park near me. There is nothing more beautiful than riding my bike and seeing this beautiful State. I

have to drive 20 minutes to get on the trail even though its planned to come right to my home town Greenwood. It would be a travesty for this trail to not be completed.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It is good for Missouri as an economic development tool as well as for healthy Missourians.

Trails like the Rock Island Trail have been proven to be of great benefit to the state and local populations, as well as visitors to our state. Many come here to enjoy the Katy Trail, and to see the beauty of our great state. Not only do these wondrous trails provide lovely hiking, biking, camping, and other opportunities for Missourians, but also supports state tourism. This will also provide biking enthusiasts a safer place to ride, hikers and enjoyable trail, and vacationers a glimpse into what our state's natural beauty can offer. On my recent travels to N. Carolina, Oregon, and California, the trails, mountains, and other nature areas are a huge attraction for me, and one of the main reasons people travel to those states. Missouri needs to maintain its natural beauty and provide the opportunities for recreational enjoyment not only to its citizens, but to tourists, alike. The ever popular "staycations" that people are taking will allow our citizens to have more options to visit these beautiful places within our own state. Please support the Rock Island Trail Project for Missouri's citizens to enjoy!

I ride the current trail most every weekend, having a more extensive trail would be nice. I'm amazed at how many folk I encounter from out of state, riding the trail on a daily basis.

My husband and myself are cycling enthusiasts in our 60s and would love to see the Rock Island Trail Project become a reality!

Please accept the trail , I'm a faithful bike rider with a group of wonderful women that we have named ourselves the free range chicks!!!

Please go forward with the Rock Island Trail Project. It will help the states tourism business and is the right thing to do.

Please accept the rock island rail

Please do. Great experiences can be made with family time on trails. Need more trails.

My husband and I have biked the Katy Trail several times with family, spending money for accommodations and food along the way. What a boon for local economies. We would welcome another trail eagerly, spending our money along the way there as well in the lovely state of Missouri. Don't let this opportunity slip away.

██████████
Rose Hill, KS

Please Accept the Rock Island Trail

Please continue to expand the trails in MO. This type of development encourages outdoor activities and benefits towns along the trails.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail !

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

I am an avid cyclist and you very much appreciate another cross state trail. I use the Katy trail quite often and would like to see more of Missouri via bicycle.

It would benefit the businesses along the trail, as well as allow Missouri to become even more well known for it's trails. I think I would like to see this go up in order to experience my state with profound gratitude. There is tourism regarding trails and nature in Missouri already. I think this will help build up more respect and tourism for the state. Thank you, Ekaterina

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

Please move forward with the Rock Island Trail Project.

The Rock Island Trail would be an asset to the state and the communities near it -- please accept the Rock Island Trail!!

Trail provide a great place for recreation and a draw for tourism. A few years back Missouri received an award for having the best trails in the nation. It certainly is a draw for people to travel from out of state or for people to travel around the state. I know we list trails. Adding a trail would be a GOOD thing for Missouri.

Please extend the trail. Providing opportunities for outdoor activities for the citizens of MO is always a win! It also offers opportunities for tourism. Cycling is a wonderful, family focused and life time activity.

PLEASE ACCEPT THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL

I am a Missouri resident of 45 years who really appreciates Missouri's wonderful State Park System. I live in Columbia and make frequent use of the KATY Trail, which is an excellent resource enjoyed by many thousands of Missourians and thousands of tourists who come to our state from other states to ride the trail. I have, on a couple of occasions, ridden the KATY from CoMo all the way to St. Charles, and enjoy shorter one day trips in the mid-Missouri area.

I'm writing today in support of DNR proceeding to accepting the proposed Rock Island Trail from Ameren UE and incorporate it into our State Park system. This would have both economic and health benefits and would provide excellent recreational benefits to many thousands of people. I would certainly like to have the opportunity to ride the Rock Island Trail myself, and I know that friends would as well. I would note that I am 68 years old and an avid cyclist. Cycling is an activity that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and is much easier than other forms of exercise for seniors. I hope you will move forward on this project and not let an opportunity like this slip away. I thank you for taking my concerns into account.

This project greatly benefits many towns and economies in each one the creates new businesses , and therefore unknown jobs this Trail is vital for the state's economy it also gives many people a new lifestyle without having to travel 30 or more miles to go to another Trail and benefits many people can promote Healthy Lifestyles

I support the trail. Strongly! We've spent millions, probably trillions on roads for car travel all over the state, leaving very few options for more natural hiking and bicycling. Please at least accept the gift of the trail from Ameren, so that we have the option to develop the full trail at some point.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail

I believe the state should accept the land. This would provide a great outdoor experience for people of all ages. As a Scoutmaster, some of the work could be done by scouts as service projects and provide opportunities for Eagle Scout Projects.

The more trails we have, the better off our state is.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Dear Govenor-

Please see that we add to the trail. It would be a great addition to the state of Missouri.

Liberty, MO

Please accept the rock island trail. I used to live in Columbia, and the Katy trail was one of the most distinctive and well received parks in the town. I used it frequently and was disappointed to learn Kansas City had nothing similar, so hearing about this donation had made me very excited for its potential. Thanks

Please Accept the Rock Island trail.

Please accept the trail! It is so valuable for our citizens to be able to appreciate the beauty our surrounding communities provide. When people share the excitement about being able to view the land they accept more responsibility and pride in caring for our resources. Trails are a valuable asset! Thank you, from Southern Illinois

Please accept this plan for a bike trail! I am from a town with an extensive trail and it's wonderful! It is something I would love for the Kansas City area to have.

Please accept this gift

This project would do so much to improve blight and the economy of small towns along the former railbed. There were many rural landowners with the same concerns as the Katy was developed but I think if you ask them today most would

say their fears were unfounded or at least exaggerated and would agree that the benefits to their local communities has far outweighed the negatives. I am from southern boone county and witnessed first hand how lovers of the katy and the small towns in it's path came together and saved the town of Hartsburg during the historic floods of 93 and 95

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Governor please sign and let Missouri grow with the trails

Please accept the Rock Island Trail, it would be a huge asset to our state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please make this trail happen! What a gift to the nature deprived midwesterners.

Trails make economic sense!

Please support this trail project. Trails keep us healthy and perpetuate a deep and lasting love for our beautiful state.

I am confident that there will be heavy usage of the Rock Island Trail. This is especially true because it will intersect with the Katie Trail, creating a network rather than merely a straight point to point access. Hopefully, we will have this development in our state.

This is an important link to connect Kansas City to the Katy Trail. We rode the Katy Trail a couple of years ago starting in Sedalia and ending in St. Charles. Our family held a reunion (34 people) in Rochport as a part of the Katy Trail ride. It would have been great to have started the ride in Kansas City! This trail would make that much more feasible.

This trail would also become an important component of the American Discovery Trail's south route. Don't let this opportunity slip away. Trails are becoming such an important part of the American outdoor experience.

I can only imagine the economic and health benefits of such a trail. This needs to happen.

Please accept the Rock island Trail!

Please accept the donation and make it happen! Talk about creating small business opportunities!

This project is good for the people and state. Please accept any and all gifts for the Rock island trail project. It is good for Missouri health, tourism, and protection of natural resources.

A must build for our small communities. It will also benefit those who desire physical activity and promote better health for all those who use the trail. Great opportunity for fitness and recreation.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail donation. It'll greatly benefit biking and hiking tourism in the state. It'll become a great asset for the state at zero cost.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Not only do friends, family, and myself want to use it, I have ideas to develop businesses around it. Thank you for your consideration.

The development of this trail would stimulate lots of economic activity (tourism, higher property values, attracting new employers, etc). It would enhance the quality (and health) of Missourians who like to bike, hike or run on beautiful trails like this.

In short, this is a great opportunity for Missouri. Don't blow it!

As an avid cyclist, I think it would be very helpful if the DNR entered into an interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project for the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. Extension of the trail would provide additional opportunities for cyclists to ride without having to compete with/against cars. It's a win-win as far as I am concerned in being able to put the former railroad corridor back into use and to provide opportunities for cyclists to ride safely.

Thank you!

Don't turn this down.

That sounds amazing! Rails to trail conversions are a great way to bring new activity to under utilized areas.

The addition of the Rock Island Trail to Missouri's park system would be a great boon. The KATY is already a great resource and having an additional route across the state would make the options available for outdoors activities even better. My wife and I have specifically made trips out to the KATY benefiting the local economy along the way including using Amtrak's bike on the train option. I believe we would make similar trips to experience the Rock Island Trail.

Please welcome this into outdoor spaces preserved for Missourians and others outside the state to enjoy.

Please move forward with this project. These bike trails are a unique and wonderful addition to Missouri and an opportunity to show off the beautiful scenery and natural resources Missouri has to offer and attract more visitors to bring revenue to the state. In my job I have opportunities to speak with people from around the world, and when I talk about the Katy trail people are highly impressed, and consider it on par with recreational attractions around the world. Expanding the biking opportunities and promoting Missouri as a travel destination with only do good things for our state.

An excellent project. It would not only offer an additional route to the Katy Trail (through some beautiful MO countryside), it also would promote economic stability and opportunity in the small towns along the trail, as the Katy Trail has done for many of the towns it passes through. A minor investment for the benefits it can provide.

Please approve the Rock Island Trail Project! It will encourage people to get outside and exercise, as well as attract tourists and with resulting financial improvements to surrounding communities!

Love the trail!! Keep it going, I meet people from all over the country on that trail

We don't need walking or bike trails. Missouri needs it's existing infrastructure maintained and updated.

Also it's location next to the Katy Trail adds no value, as anyone who would use this trail can already use the Katy Trail. Not to mention when I last used the Katy Trail I didn't see another person, but the last time I was on I-44 it was bumper to bumper traffic from Joplin to St. Louis.

This is a unique opportunity to enhance the trail system. For my part, I am on the trail twice a week in the summer months. It appears that this new trail will be even more scenic than the existing one and would allow a round trip. Additionally, it would allow transportation by Bicycle near the Lake areas, enhancing tourism in that area. I would definitely use this trail on a regular basis. It would also greatly enhance transportation and tourism for small towns along this trail.

Trails are one of the most requested and used recreational resources in the U.S. Over the last 35 + years those communities and regions that have developed trails have seen an increased economic impact as well as improved healthy lifestyles for those with access. I have personally traversed the Katy Trail with several of my friends with great enjoyment. We traveled from California to take advantage of this great resource and several of our friends have done the same after spreading the word of the great experience we had. We, and others like us seek out long distance trails around the country to serve as a focal point for our adventures. The Rock Island Trail is one that we would put on our 'bucket list' following the great hospitality that we enjoyed on our prior trip. We greatly encourage you to take this once in a lifetime opportunity to secure this right of way and go down in history as the governor that makes Missouri one of the top trail states in the country.

This sounds like a great project. I hope it is approved. The more preserved areas for public exploration the better.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the state of Missouri. I ride DAILY through the Ozark Greenway Trails in Springfield. The more options we have to experience the beauty of our state helps to teach our children the value of taking care of the planet and themselves.

I would love to bike on the new trail if it is put in. It will be a big economic boost to the state

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It is so much safer to ride my bicycle on maintained trails than on roads with vehicular traffic.

I cannot wait to have the trail available to Missouri Residents and visitors. Please accept this gift and let us see this project through. Thank you!

We definitely need this and more trails like it! Connect all the trails together so people can use whether or not they want to use cars or go by bike.

Please accept rock island trail!!

I am a senior citizen who bicycles for fitness and enjoyment. I do not feel safe bicycling on public roads so I prefer to ride trails. The Katy Trail has been a favorite of mine and has brought so many tourists to Missouri! Please help to develop the Rock Island Trail System. It is good for our state and good for our health!

We must provide additional trails for fitness, recreation, and to attract tourist dollars from other states. A hiking and bicycling trail also supports small-town businesses along the way. Many bicycling websites provide information about such sites, and 'new' sites are always sought out by those who take their vacations on 2 wheels. This is a no-brainer!

As an avid bicyclist I am much in favor of completing this project.

I think this would be a fabulous idea. I currently ride my bike on the Katy trail but infrequently because I have to drive into Dutzow to access it. I live in Gerald and I would just love the convenience of a trail closer to my house. I would ride a rail trail much more frequently if it was so close. I also like the safety associated with riding the trail networks. I also have a road bike and while I enjoy riding the roads in Franklin County, it's also really nice to ride my bike on the trails when I don't need to worry about traffic. PLEASE develop the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept rock island trail.

Please accept the DONATION (that means it's "FREE") of 144 miles of out-of-service Rock Island railroad corridor. BUYING this path would cost hundreds of millions of dollars. Again, they want to GIVE it (free) to the state of Missouri. This corridor would eventually be transformed into a cross-state bicycle and pedestrian trail, and would be a nation-wide MAGNET for cyclists. This represents an amazing asset for tourism and economic development in Missouri. It will intersect the KATY Trail--a trail that generated \$18 MILLION in total spending. The communities with the most to gain are in rural areas.

Let me say it again: there is NO COST TO THE STATE to accept this GIFT; and, if it were accepted, THE STATE HAS NO OBLIGATION to immediately build the trail. In fact, this COULD BE LEFT TO NON-PROFITS AND LOCAL JURISDICTIONS.

THIS IS A NO-BRAINER. Please accept the GIFT.

I am an avid trail user with my family of 4. I also use the trail as a weekend getaway with friends for the weekend. I would love to be able to ride my my home in Lee's Summit and get straight on the trail.

Please consider the health benefits for the community.

I own 120 acres of farmland adjacent to the proposed trail near Owensville. 6/10 of a mile of our farm is adjacent to the proposed trail.

I am strongly in favor of the proposed trail.

I don't want to lose the railroad corridor.

I believe it will be up in economic benefit to area communities.

What a wonderful way to get exercise. We have bicycled the Katy trail many times, from Clinton to St. Louis. We stay in bed and breakfasts along the way. Several times we got off the trail and from Washington, Mo, take the Amtrak back to Kansas City.

Please ACCEPT the Rock Island Trail!!! This can only benefit the state of Missouri.

Yes, make these small railroad towns relevant again.

The Rock island trail and the Katy trail are world class off road bike trails. The world wide, people travel to Missouri to travel the 300 plus miles of trails. The small towns along this trails benefit greatly. Please see this as a gem of Missouri !

Please support this. Bikers need to be safe and ride on this project

Please accept the donation for this trail. It will add attract more tourism dollars to the state and add to the outstanding national reputation Missouri has for outdoor recreation.

Please support the Rock Island Trail. I was born and raised in Missouri and now live in Wichita Kansas. Many of my friends, along with my husband and I come to Missouri EVERY year to bicycle on the Katy and would also use this expanded trail. Thanks.

I think these trails are a win-win. Bringing tourists and revenue, and allowing people to see more of this beautiful state! The more trails the better!

Please carry through with the plan. So much to gain, so little to lose.

Good trail systems are a big part of why I've stayed in Missouri. I use them as a basic form of transportation, not only recreation, and they benefit the economy. Please approve this useful piece of infrastructure

I think it's so important for us to develop this trail. Adding opportunities for individuals in Missouri to get out and be active is crucial not to mention creating places where people from other states can come to use trails. Do not back out of this!

Please accept Rock Island Trail Project and enter into Trail Use Agreement.

Thank you.

I strongly believe it should be done. As a devoted user of the Katy Trail I've seen first hand the economic impact trails like these have on the towns they pass through. Last month several of us rode the new Rock Island Spur to the Katy Trail and on to Sedalia. Great trip, camping at Windsor and patronising the local restaurants as well as the municipal campground. Go for it!

Governor please accept the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please

I recently rode the Rock Island Trail from Pleasant Hill to Winsor and then on to Sedalia. A very nice addition to the Katy Trail. Each year my friends and I host Katy Trail rides for friends and family. The Rock Island Trail in an important Spur that will allow more people from Kansas City to access the Katy Trail instead of driving to Clinton. I support Rails to Trails monthly and hope we can continue to invest in these abandoned Railroads as a means of transportation and exercise while enjoy the beauty Missouri has to offer. Thank you.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail project.

What a wonderful idea, for families and friends to have get together to walk/run/bike. It also helps out the community, great for local business! We cannot wait to take a beautiful walk through our home town and others and enjoy the beautiful Ozarks! Think of the bigger picture! Wouldn't you love to walk this with your kiddos?

Please support the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the rock island trail!

Please, by all means, accept this agreement. I have been a user of the Katy Trail since the first section was opened to the public, and I look forward to being able to enjoy another beautiful, quiet way to enjoy the Missouri countryside on a bicycle. The Katy Trail is known world-wide as one of the premier rails-to-trails project in the world, and greatly enhances Missouri's reputation as a bike-friendly state. Another, similar trail would only add to this reputation.

Please accept the land and future trail. We will never be able to bring nature and natural areas back. It is more cost effective to preserve them now!

I support the conversion of the Rock Island right-of-way to a pedestrian and bike trail.

I heartily support this effort. Road the Katy Trail earlier this year (round trip) and thoroughly enjoyed it. Need to have towns, stores for supplies and services along the way. The Rock Island trail enables a loop for round trip travelers like me to get to see another part of the state. Best wishes for success

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! This is a great book not only to Missouri residents, but it will attract cyclers from all over the world...who by the way, will be gladly spend their money on local products and services (cyclers generally are not poor and like to spend money). How could you not support this venture, especially when you're accepting free land rights!

I support the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. I have used the KATY trail along the Missouri River for many years for hiking and biking. It is one of my favorite recreational areas in the state. Compared to other outdoor recreation areas, hike/bike trails are much more cost effective as they can serve a large volume of visitors and do not require

much maintenance or personnel management. It would be a shame and a loss to Missouri residents to pass by the opportunity to secure a trail use agreement for the Rock Island Line ('cause it's a might good road!).

Please support this. It is a great Trail for bicyclists and a safe place to ride.

Strongly encourage proceeding with this project.

My wife and I are in our 50's and life time residents of Missouri. I appreciate the wide range of things that DNR is doing in our state but the thing I am most proud of is the Katy Trail. My wife and I spend \$3000 to \$4000 a year on cycling related travel. The Katy is already a top rated destination trail but the Rock Island will put Missouri in the spotlight nationally and the economic impact will be significant.

I am FOR the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. Allow it to go forward. We, as a society, need to preserve nature and encourage increased recreation opportunities and positive health habits.

RN/BSN

Take the land and connect it to tje Katy Trail!!! Tourism brings in the money!!!

This gift and trail project should be fully supported and will bring tourism revenue and other benefits to the state of Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I believe that this project would be a huge asset to Missouri. Having lived near both the Appalachian Trail and the Ice Age Trail I experienced how many traveled to hike in new areas. Many of these areas are rural and had cottage industries and jobs develop to support hikers. Missouri has some great outdoor assets but no defining outdoor experience to draw others in, rather it is often overlooked for areas a little south in AR or west in CO. This Trail could be that defining asset and will almost certainly have a positive ROI in a short period of time.

Please accept and develop the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I believe this would be a good use of the Rock Island Railroad corridor and provide opportunities for many to enjoy the trail as well as for the towns it passes through to provide services that could help generate much needed income in these towns. I do encourage you to enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad.

Thanks

I very much support turning the Rock Island right of way into a trail. I have a second home somewhat near the Rock Island trail - just outside Swiss, Mo and would plan to use the trail even more frequently than I do the Katy trail.

I have already donated to this project, and will do so in the future. I do this as I am sensitive to the fact that the state has limited dollars. In that regard, I hope that the trail is allocated capital building credits (I may have the wrong term) - I bought \$10,000 of these credits for helping to build Forest Park Forever.

Please accept the offer !

Please accept the RUT! I am from NM and just recently returned from the state sponsored KT Ride. You have a treasure there that my state will never ever have. Please keep adding to this wonderful trail so more of your state can be seen from the tranquility of the KT!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Missouri is a wonderful state to have bike trails in and it only makes sense to expanded upon the existing ones. As long as this agreement does not make Ameren money or make the citizens responsible for negligent environmental harardous created by a private company, then it is a no brainer.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail land from Ameren. This is a great economic opportunity for our state and a great use of land.

Missouri should definitely accept the gift of this trail...no brainer!!!

This gift should be accepted of course. The people who care about this state, our state, not Greitens' state, are asking this to be done.

Please continue to fund and support the trail. They are a wonderful resource for families and for tourism.

We need to do everything we can to grow the state's economy for all regions big and small. Amenities like these are what draws people to a region.

Please accept the rick island trail

Our family spend a great deal of time outside riding, camping, floating, hiking. Increasing more trails adds more chances to see the beauty that MO had to offer, not only to those of us that live here, but others outside our state that are looking for adventure the great Show Me state

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project,

Please accept Rock Island Trail!!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail offer. We love riding in Missouri and our bike group usually does a weeklong trip on the Katy trail every year. Having another trail to ride and different towns to visit and explore would add so much to our trips and so much to the Missouri economy.

I would love to more bike/walking trails throughout Missouri and Kansas. I am a physical education teacher who walks the walk and talks the talk. I have biked the current trail for

several years from Clinton to St. Charles and rode the Amtrak train back to KC. While on this route, my friends and I always stop at local restraurants and shops along the way. Adding more trails will be good for the local economy. Adding to the trail will give more people access to a healthy outdoor activity. According to United Health Foundations Healthiest states in 2015, Missouri was ranked 35th. We can do better by offering our residents better access to healthier exercise options. The best part about this exercise is that it's free!

I am planning to ride from Pleasant Hill to Windsor this fall. I would be very disappointed if development of the trail did not continue

Even if you make no improvement to the trail, I will still be able to hike the route when it becomes the public domain ... that's enough for me

I am a retired professional transportation planner in Ohio and worked on many trail proposals. A major challenge is acquiring right-of-way for constructing a trail. This is usually especially contentious when dealing with railroads. To have a railroad offer to donate 144 miles of rail corridor to the state for a trail is an amazing opportunity and I hope the Governor will accept the offer and follow through with construction of the Rock Island Trail.

I should add that I am an avid cyclist who has biked solo across the country. As mentioned, I am retired and am more interested in trail riding instead of roads. I have biked the C&O Canal and Great Allegheny Passage from Washington to Pittsburgh. I will be riding the Ohio to Erie Trail from Cincinnati to Cleveland in September. The KATY trail is on my bucket list and I hope to be riding it to visit relatives in Kansas City in a year or two. These are wonderful resources.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Your support is critical to this project. What a great addition it will be to Missouri's trail system.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island trail. Please!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I believe the trail would be great for Eldon and all other communities it passes through.

We are residents of Southern Illinois who are seriously considering moving to the Beaufort/Leslie/Union area specifically because of the access to the Katy Trail and the Rock Island Spur. We hope that looking at the success of the original Katy Trail, the great State of Missouri will move forward with this project as both a future economic engine for the area and a way for people to experience the beauty of Missouri up close.

To Governor Greitien. Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Thank you.

Please accept the rock island trail

Please accept the Rock Island Line. Thank you.

My wife, son, and I use the existing portion of the Rock Island trail regularly. The trail is amazing but could make a profound addition to our wonderful state parks. The Rock Island extension will link the KC metro to one of our states most valued resources! Please invest in our citizens.

Plas support the rock island trail.

Any additional trails like the Katy will benefit the state, its employees and citizens. We support Greenways in Springfield, dollars and volunteer hours. We travel to other states to use their rails to trails as often as possible. More trails managed by DNR or Mo Parks are a win-win.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please take care of our future and help us build the new Rock Island Trail.

I support it. I am on trails in our area 5-7 days a week and have been for years and I have noticed how much mkre they are being used these days which is great. The more active our state is the better outcome for everyone with healthcare cost and being a happy/healthy state. I would love nothing more for another trail similar to the Katy Trail or Am Foster Trail to spend time on appreciating out beautiful state.

As a proud resident of Eldon, MO I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

Yes, please develop this as a recreational trail.

I cannot wait for this to be completed. I want 144 continuous miles to ride, with amenities and sights to see along the way. Last weekend, I rode 138 miles on the Flint Hills Nature "Trail," and i'll tell you this: 40 miles of it was nice; the rest was garbage. Bridges were out, gravel road detours were in. Nobody keeps it up, and it shows.

Tell me how I can help make this one right.

The Rock Island Line is going to be an amazing asset for the state of Missouri. We've seen the amazing numbers of people that learn about and enjoy new parts of our state because of the Katy Trail. Another amazing asset like that? That helps connect the state from West to east AND the Katy trail to the Ozarks? We are blessed. Let's do it!!!!

Please develop the Rock Island Trail project, expanding the statewide bicycle trail network.

Governor "Eric",

As an African-American Mom of four biracial children who have kept me quite busy through the years and the "Mama Né" to four inquisitive multiracial 'grandpeople', I invite you to join us for an 'eyes-on' daytime adventure along this picturesque, albeit potentially prosperous stretch of Missouri showcasing the 'Show-Me-State'!

Please restore this project!

I support the completion of the Rock Island Trail, as it would be an economic benefit to many areas along the route.

Can't wait to see it done!

Please be in favor of adding this trail!!! Many friends of mine visit the area so that we can explore MO's beauty such as the Rock Island Project!

Please accept The Rock Island Trail

Please accept the rock island trail

Please go forward with this trail that will provide free exercise, income to many communities along the trail, a draw for others to come to Mo. such as the Katy trail does, as well as a safe, relaxing, and healthy place for friends, coworkers, Girl and Boy Scouts, churches, families, etc to get together and have face to face communication without electronics!!!!

We as a state need this trail!!!!

Say yes as a manner of supporting our people with healthy ways in which to live our lives!

Say yes to support more exercise and less blue light!!!

Say yes to support these small towns along the trail!!!

Say yes to rock island for all of us in Missouri!!!!

All,

My name is [REDACTED]. Many of us from thw Wichita area enjoy riding the Katy Trail. If fact we are planning this year's fall ride.

We would love to see the completion of the Rock Island Trail Project.

[REDACTED]

Please support the Rock Island Trail. Our state and country would benefit greatly from the completion of this project!!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please allow this trial to be built. Missouri has a beautiful countryside that should be seen and enjoyed by many! Trails make states destinations for outdoor enthusiasts, exercise enthusiasts, and families that may not be able to afford expensive entertainment. I voted for you and Your support is appropriate as this is important to both parties.

Please make this happen. This would be a great addition to the state.

Please add this trail to the parks in Missouri.

Please accept the rock island trail

Please accept the trail donation. Great for tourism and local economies.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Bike trails like this are a significant reason why I, and a lot of folks I ride with, consider spending our vacation time in Missouri.

As a child I lived in Meta Mo which the Rock Island Rr was a big part of our lives I would like to see it preserved for all

people to enjoy. I think it would be a great asset to the town of Meta and our great state of Missouri

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

We want this trail. It is great for the economic prosperity of small towns and great for the health and happiness of all Missourians!!

The Rock Island Trail Project is an important corridor for those of us Missourians who support biking and walking. Please consider your support of the Trail Use Agreement as stated.

Thank you.

Oh please accept this Trail Use agreement! A 144.3 mile recreational trail is a wonderful project for our nation's exercise options in promoting better health for our citizens, especially our younger generations.

I think this would be a great addition to our trail system. Creating more trails like this gives cyclists and hikers more opportunities to get out and see the outdoors that they were not able to do.

We need more and more green space if every kind. Accept this amazing gift please.

We are excited about developing the Rock Island Trail coming through our tow for hiking and biking.. We feel it will generate a new life in our community both in economics and recreation. We have seen the impact of the Katy Trail and would hope the Rock Island would have a similar impact to the communities along the trail and state of Missouri. We would encourage action to be taken to make the necessary transfer for the trail to become a reality not a dream.

What a great opportunity! Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project!!! This is the kind of investment that enriches the lives of Missourians today and generations to come.

Trail would be great for the economy in Missouri. It would bring much needed tourism funds to small towns all along the trail. I live very close to this proposed area and see no down side to this.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail donation!

When you have the opportunity to add something so amazing like a trail like this to Missouri's list of outside activities, covered significantly by a third party, why wouldn't you take it??

I'd absolutely take advantage of it if it was there. And I'd love to show my son the trail, as well!

Please make this happen!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! It's a meaningful people for the health, welfare and community of Missouri

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

This project would be very beneficial to Missouri. I live in Kansas and have come to Mo to ride the full length of the Katy Trail 4 or 5 times. I would definitely come to ride this trail as well. Do it!

Please accept and move forward with the creation of the Rock Island Trail! Please!

Many including others who do not live in Missouri will enjoy this trail.

Besides providing a safe route for cyclists to enjoy their sport, get exercise and enjoy nature, it will boost tourism in our state.

██████████

Getting ready to bike the Rock Island Spur Trail tomorrow and the Katy Trail end to end this week. These trails are so important on many levels. They bring new life to the communities they pass through. And in a time when obesity is such a drain on our health care they give people across the state easy access to hiking and biking. Missourians have already decided that they love their trails. Just get out and walk one and see all the people.

Please accept the rock island trail

Please accept gift of land for trail

Please make this trail happen!

More trails = healthier, happier citizens!

I support the trail

This a great project; one I urge Governor Greitens to support. Projects like this encourage more families to enjoy the outdoors and promote healthy lifestyles for all of our communities. Please do your part in helping see this project through!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

I support this project and urge Governor Greitens to sceep the donation.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Many Missourians and loads of visitors from other states and nations have enjoyed better health and an appreciation for our great state from the saddle of a bicycle. Please accept this gift so these opportunities can be expanded.

Please accept the Rock Island line. Great for tourism, economic development, Missouri's image, public health and so much more!!!

Please accept the gift of these donated lands.

This will be a great addition to our wonderful state of Missouri!

Missouri is too beautiful to not have safe paths and recreational trails for it's citizens and visitors.

I think that would be great. I also believe they need to work with some vendors to put up retail along the way so that the people using it can have a place to get snacks or repairs. And bathrooms. Even if the vendors or Mobil that could set up stands at peak times. I've ridden some of trail from p hill. If you don't go prepared on a kind bike trail you are in trouble

If you build it, they will come. Bring more awesomeness to MO!!!

please accept the trail donation

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

WONDERFUL idea!!! Promote Missouri tourism; help rural communities' economies; promote physical fitness and offer residents ways to walk, run and bike safely, instead of forcing them along the side of public roads & highways.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will greatly add to the wonderful KATY trail system in Missouri.

The Rock Island trail will be a great addition to our state. It will attract tourists from out of state, bringing with them money to be spent in lodging, food, and creating a boost to small rural towns along its route. Jobs and businesses will be created. Also, it promotes health and fitness. Please support the Rock Island Trail, as it will have a positive impact on rural Missouri, a boost that is certainly needed!!

I think it would be great for young & old to enjoy the trail. Great idea

I am super excited about having another trail in MO! This would be awesome.

We are Missouri residents and spent a majority of our free time enjoying hiking trails. We we absolutely like to see the DNR enter into an agreement with the Missouri Central Railroad.

Another world class bike trail in Missouri would be a great asset!

The Katy trail is a unique gem in not only the state but even the country as a whole. To have two such trails, together allowing the exploration of Missouri in a perfect loop would represent a tremendous commitment to the enrichment of our state and be a source of pride for all who live here. Please accept this land and pursue the development of a trail which would be used for many years and to the enjoyment of many.

Please accept this project. This type of recreation corridor, in conjunction with the existing Katy Trail, will make the state a destination for cyclists and runners, as well as serve the citizens who live close to it. The economic benefits of bike/pedi trails is well documented and widely accepted. I'm

not aware of the Governor's hesitation in accepting this project, but I appreciate him providing this survey to gather feedback and I trust the correct decision will be reached.

I fully support entering into the agreement. Considering the positive effects of the KATY trail, how could one not feel that this will only enhance the quality of life and community for the state.

Great use of property abandoned by the railroad.

Please accept the gift and develop the trail as a continuation of the KATY trail system. I would love to ride from KC to St Louis and support small businesses along the way.

Can you say one term governor?

Govenor Greitens keep up the good work that you are doing and please support the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept !

Please approve this new trail. We need more common access eercise and relaxation areas for everyone.

Missouri is a beautiful state and we deserve to be known for that! More opportunities to take advantage of the outdoor activities (such as another cross-state trail) will only be a draw for tourists and constituents alike. Please approve this project!

I think that the trails would be beneficial for residents!

Please accept the rock island trail! This has been a blessing to those of us who live in south east Jackson county and class county. We can ride/walk/or horse ride safely. No more wasting gas to travel far to bike. This is what we need to boost our economy. Just ask the farmers in chilhowee who opened a place for us to get ice water and a clean bathroom. They welcome the cyclist to their small town

I think the addition of this trail corridor into the Missouri DNR state park system would be a great asset to the state and would spread and enhance the great success the Katy Trail has been to the state. I am a regular bicycle user of the Katy Trail. I have spent money renting bikes along the Katy Trail, eating at restaurants, staying at B&Bs and participating in the DNR's annual Katy Trail bike ride several times. I am excited about the possible future opportunity to ride my bike on the 144.3 mile Rock Island Trail.

I live in west St. Louis County and have friends who live in the area along the Rock Island Trail corridor and this trail project would give me a reason to visit the communities along the trail and spend my recreational dollars in those communities.

Another rail to trail is yet another reason for tourists to make Missouri their active vacation destination. It adds value to the state and is another family friendly healthy activity for both local families and tourists alike to enjoy.

I highly support this initiative. Trails like this are vital to attract and retain people in Missouri as well as provide healthy recreational activities. Thank you!

Please accept the gift of the Rock Island Trail land/right of way.

I believe this trail will continue to improve bike tourism as well as promote and protect our states natural beauty.

Please accept Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail donation.

Not only would developing the trail fill a much needed source of recreation for our area, it would also provide economical opportunities for residents and businesses along the trail and nearby. A lot of this area is suffering from business downturn, etc., and this could be a big boost to these communities by bringing in tourists from in and outside of the state.

I have ridden all of the Katy trail on multiple times. I have witnessed rebirth of some communities along the trail and others near. The Rock Island trail will most likely spur growth in the towns along and near its path. Why would we not want another trail of this type.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!
Thank you!

Please accept the rock island trail from Ameren

I am very hopeful that this project will be completed. I have noticed how much the Katy Trail is used and I am certain that this trail will also have a lot of use. I have always been excited to think that our school children could ride safely here in Owensville to the schools.

This is exactly what the people of our state need. Missouri has the 10th highest rate of obesity in the nation at an unacceptable 32.4% of adults. We need to be providing opportunities for our citizens to be active. Plus, this has the added benefit of providing the opportunity to be outside and in nature.

I live on the West side of the state, but fully support my tax dollars being used for this project.

Please do everything possible to facilitate the use of this trail for Missourians. DNR is the right agency to handle this and the benefits to Missourians are HUGE. Walking and/or riding these trails is great entertainment, good family time and wonderful exercise.

Would be a great move to increase both the cycling draw to state and promote healthy lifestyle

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I am in favor of your accepting the Rock Island Trail.

Governor, please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Yes. Do it.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This is a once in a generation opportunity!!

Anything that encourages more people to get outside and move is awesome. This trail would see a great amount of use and would be great to promote tourism in Missouri.

This would be a wonderful asset to our state and community. It would be a great family amenity that would be a draw for future generations.

I don't see many negatives for this development. Only adds.

I believe it would be wise for the DNR to take part in the trail development. The trail Rock Island Trail connects to the state's highly popular Katy Trail, and offers a direct link to the Kansas City population center, making the route an important outdoor recreational facility. This project advances economic development, health improvement and quality of life offerings for Missourians as well as visitors to our state. As a frequent Katy Trail user, I have met people from around the state, and even many visitors from other states and overseas who were attracted to riding the Katy Trail. The state's participation in the Rock Island would add even more enticement.

Definitely needed in this part of rural Missouri. Economic benefits; health benefits; safety for hikers and bikers - keeps them off traffic roadways.

I recently rode from Pleasant Hill to Windsor, then headed eastward on the Katy Trail. I met several people from out of state, all of whom were most impressed with the trails. I know I easily spent \$1000 in the small communities on the trail, and there were 4 in our group. These trails are world renowned and bring tourist dollars to Missouri; expanding the trail system brings dollars to rural Missouri and has health benefits for Missouri riders.

I strongly urge the governor to support the extension of the Rock Island Trail. In the short time that it has been open, it has provided small communities along its path an opportunity for economic development that has not been available through other means of tourism or traditional economic development opportunities available to larger communities.

In addition to providing the potential for growth for so many small communities, it provides easy access to nature and the great outdoors that is vital to personal health and mental wellbeing. The trail is used by families, church groups, scout groups, individuals, novice bicyclists and experienced cyclists from out of state and even outside the U.S.

The benefits of a bicycle trail to a community cannot be overstated. Even those who were originally opposed to these trails running through their farmland or community initially are now on board in accepting their value and the important role they play.

I support accepting the trail

please make this project happen!!!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The Rock Island Trail has already brought new business and tourist into the town of Windsor Missouri.

Most little towns that we reminisce about and wish our children could have been a part of are all at the risk of extinction or already gone.

Nothing but good can come out of the trial between Missouri Central Railroad and the Rock Island Trail. Hopefully, other towns along the way will follow suit for the improvement and quality of their towns and citizens.

Windsor is looking to bring our town to the heights we remember. Since our world is constantly on the run and in chaos, with traffic, computers, and getting the kids out, families look for a little piece of mind that is safe, quiet and entertaining.

As a teenager I remember Windsor bustling with a friendly atmosphere, genuine down home people, soda fountains, people strolling through Farrington Park, fishing, paddle boating, having picnics and sometimes music lovers just gathering to play music and sing.

"Build It And They Will Come" is what I really think bringing back a heritage of the young and old alike with the Rock Island Trail.

Hopefully, a conversion between the Rock Island Trail and Missouri Central Railroad will entice businesses to take a closer look at Windsor and small town around that has struggled to preserve a time forgotten by some and never experienced by others.

I believe we can bring back some of the wholesome family entertainment and legacy our generation would be proud to be a part of. I think we should proceed as far as possible to further a agreement that would serve and preserve for the future.

Please make the Rock Island trail to mimic the Katy trail. Having a safe, lengthy place to ride bicycles with my entire family is very important!!!! This extension will make a huge positive impact on accessibility from our area for us and many, many others.

Please move forward on accepting the Rock Island Trail. I currently use the Grant and Katy Trails regularly and would like to see more trails developed.

Thanks,



I think this is a bad idea. These abandoned tracks run through landowners farms and livestock operations and the land should go back to the original owners.

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail." Thank you.

Please accept the Rock Island. Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept this donation from Ameren.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Love to have "staycations" in Missouri!!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I believe that it would be a good idea to convert the railroad corridor into a recreational trail. Like the Katy Trail I believe it would offer economic advantages to communities along the corridor.

I think it would be an excellent idea, fairly low cost to maintain, and provide an economic boost for many small towns.

Please build the 144 mile Rock Island Trail extension. Beyond a shadow of a doubt, this is the kind of thing for which Missouri should be known.

Please complete the Rock Island trail. It's great for Missouri.

This would be a great addition to our state. I hope it goes through.

This trail would be an outstanding addition to Missouri, attracting people from around the country. Please accept this deal and make the trail a reality. Please, this is a good thing for everyone.

Please accept the Rock Island Line Trail. It is an excellent decision for Missouri.

I support the DNR entering into ah Interim Trail Use Agreemeng and the Rock Island Trail Project bc I think it would be an economic boon for small communities along the trail and a lot of fun to ride.

Although I am not a Missouri citizen, I would love to see this trail developed. I would use it, as I'm sure other out-of-staters would. Not only would it benefit Missourians recreationally; it would also be a source of revenue. Please support this project!

Please accept the rock Island Trail!

Build the trail, it will be a benefit to the citizens of Missouri.

I rode on the Katy for years when I lived near it. It would be great to have that kind of access on the KC side of the state. I visited family in Ohio this week and was blown away by the trails networks in that state. Missouri should have a wonderful way to get from place to place away from cars, noise and smog. Please let's adopt the Rock Island line and get to work!

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

Rails to trails are great. I just spent my second weekend on the Katy trail, the first alone and second with a friend who was disappointed to miss the first trip. It's good recreation and good for the economy of small (or larger) towns along the trails. The state should accept the trail and add more tasks to the system.

Very much in favor of the Rock Island Trail project. We have enjoyed biking on the Katy for many years, and want to bring the same to our area. Many positive things are in the future, if this comes to pass.

This expansion will provide a significantly positive economic impact to the state of Missouri. It will increase safe family friendly options for riding, running, and walking and help improve the health and fitness levels of all populations across our state. Please approve this plan!

Say "Yes" to the rock Island Trail. Expand a world class biking system for the benefit of our state and citizens.

It seems like a good idea to develop the trail. I know how much fun the KATY and Little Blue Trace are. Also the Prairie Spirit Trail in Kansas is great as well.

I think a trail link between Kansas City and St. Louis would greatly benefit the state along with all the small towns in between that have very few regular visitors. It would be a boon to small businesses.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island trail! I can name at least twenty people that have flown in to do the Katy Trail, so imagine if we have a complete loop what will happen. Every year Road Scholar runs tours throughout the season. Woman's Tours will run one next year. People fly in and spend a week or more in MO. I met four people from Colorado last week at the trailhead in Pleasant Hill doing the whole trail. They are spending money here. Most that cycle like this want to be able to do London distances. We have the chance to increase that. BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME AND RIDE AND RIDE! I have ridden the Katy since the first organized ride started, almost 30 years now I think. I'm 75 years old and I ride all over the country. Next month I will do 385 mi on the Erie Canal. The drawl is the distance and the safety. It will help the economy of every town on the trail. Then there are the hikers! Come take a ride and I'll show MO at its best!

Public trail networks will bring tourism and quality of life to our communities.

Accept the donation. I appreciate the idea of having this to hand down for future generations.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail...it is sooo important to us ...plse listen to your constituents who have elected you and who you represent...thank you

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

We need the Rock Island Trail. Please accept it.

I love using the Katy Trail and the Frisco trail. I have ridden the Katy twice with my brother and each time it is an excellent experience and way for us to see the small and historic towns along the trail. I would love the the rock island to be developed as a bike path so that myself and my family could enjoy the fun or riding bikes on a safe path and seeing historical sites. Missouri has some amazing trails and needs to

develop more in the next several years to provide a safe way for people to get outside, exercise, and explore this beautiful state. Please develop the entire rock island line. I live in Bolivar and use the Frisco trail several times a week. Providing trial use on the rural areas of Missouri is an excellent way for people to get exercise.

Thank you for your time.

I believe that converting the abandoned Rock Island Railroad right-of-way to biking/hiking trails would be good for Missouri tourism and would help to promote healthy lifestyle choices for Missouri residents. It would be a terrible mistake to pass up this opportunity.

Please hear me regarding the corridor trail. I live in Owensville and I am so looking forward to this trail. My whole family have bikes and we are a family of trail bikers. We do not bike on the streets because of safety. My grandchildren and I will be using the trail regularly. Please help us get this done and support us.

This should be a no brainer - please ACCEPT the Rock Island Trail! Once it's gone, there is no getting it back. These opportunities to protect the future of our state only come along once in a great while.

My wife and friends often ride our bikes on the KATY trail. We especially enjoy the area in and around Rocheport, Mo and the areas near Hermann. We would greatly enjoy having additional trails to ride and places to campout and enjoy the outdoors in Missouri!

Please don't turn down the gift of this great offer of the Rock Island Trail project!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Yes please. I live near the trail route and am looking forward to being able to utilize it. I don't usually vote, but say someone was doing things I liked, such as approve this trail thing, maybe I would consider it. Yo.

The state should accept the Rock Island Trail. The Katy Trail is a treasure that will be enjoyed for generations. Trails like this are not only great for our economy, they are great for the spirit of our communities and our great state. Do not miss this opportunity.

Thank you,

██████████

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. The Katy Trail provides great recreation for Missourians and tourists. We always meet people from out of state when we are on the Katy Trail. PLEASE!!!!

The Trail will bring much needed business to the small towns in my county!

Note: must not let main-stream companies - restaurants and hotels - move into said small towns located along the trail!

Thank You, Sir/Mam

And Thank You Governor!

I support this!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Don't ruin this for all future generations.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Accept the Rock Island Trail!! This is a no-brainer! There is no downside - every attraction like this helps to generate more tourism for the state of Missouri which equates to more revenue for the state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will bring tourists to the area and there are so many people here that have been waiting a long time to get a connection to the Katy Trail for biking and hiking

We would like to see the trail built.

Hello,
Three of my friends and I just rode the KATY trail along with the current stent of the Rock Island Trail. It was a wonderful way to see our beautiful state that is unique and rewarding. I've met people from all over the country on the current trails and is certainly boosting the Missouri economy. With the new expansion of trail, more cyclist from around the country will visit our beloved Missouri land and understand it's wonder. Furthermore, the small towns along the trail will certainly benefit from the bicycle traffic. Please continue to expand the Rock Island trail so that the people of Missouri can enjoy it's benefits.

Best Regards,
[REDACTED]

Please accept the land from Ameren and complete this trail

Missouri should act fast to not fall behind AR in working to become a trail town. While maintaining the trail is some thing to consider we should not pass on the opportunity to make MO a destination state for hiking and hiking

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Will enhance what Missouri has to offer the citizens of the state and the nation.

So excited to hear about the Rock Island Trail Project development. As a resident in the KC area, this trail will be a great asset and opportunity for hiking and biking trips.

I really enjoy and appreciate the Katie Trail and believe the Rock Island trail would be a great addition to the Missouri State Park system. I also believe the trail system is a great selling feature for Missouri.

Trails bring visitors to Missouri and they are an asset we should all be proud of. Please provide funding for future trail growth. Thank you! [REDACTED]
Columbia,MO

I support the Rock Island Trail project. It will bring economic development to small towns along the route while increasing recreational options for Missourians and visitors. I hope the state continues to prioritize infrastructure for alternative transport like walking & biking as well as mass transit options

like high speed rail. Our highways are critical infrastructure but we need to provide our citizens options of travelling locally and across the state.

Please accept the Rock island trail

Govenor Greitens, Please accept the trail. This would be great for our town. Here in Mid-Mo. I voted for u because I believed that u are for the people.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project.

I think the rock island trail should be accepted and put into place

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Eldon and other communities are depending on this and could do wonders for community betterment, revenue, jobs, and general morale. Thank you,
[REDACTED]

I live in Eldon, Mo and see this trail as beneficial to our community, which has been striving over the past few years to become a healthier community. I ride the Katy trail yearly with my family, as well as with a group of over a hundred students from the Lake area. Having an option to ride for those students closer to where they live would be greatly beneficial.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Tourism is great for Missouri's economy.

Please accept it!

This trail will provide an economic boost to so many small towns-why would you not support that?

How many miles of trails do we need and how many people work on trails that could be working on roads?
If I never seen a bike on the road I might feel different but they are under utilized now, why maintain more.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Line.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the trail. It should help the economy, and get more people out walking and biking.

I hope the trail project is completed! The trail is already bringing people from across the country to Missouri, which brings in - you guessed it - revenue from tourism

Out-of-stater who has enjoyed the Katey Trail. What an enhancement this additional milage of trail would be to bring my friends and me back to your beautiful state and trails again.

Please accept the rock island trail. It will bring business to the state

I am in full support of this agreement. The KATY Trail has proven to be an enormous advantage for Missouri and a second trail will be n equally valuable asset.

I think this could help some of the small communities along the proposed trail. Beaufort, MO, on my end of the trail, could use the added income. It just makes sense to capture the abandoned railway trails to give bikers a safe option to explore our state. Our highways continue to see traffic increases, and are less safe for bike riders.

Given the huge popularity of the Katy Trail in bringing tourism, hikers/bikers, healthier lifestyles, and revived economies to struggling rural communities - similarly the Rock Island trail project should move forward.

Certainly there are matters to discuss/resolve with regard to trail access and protecting adjacent landowners' properties and property rights. This state has been successful in addressing those issues with the Katy Trail, as have other states that also recognize the enormous value of opening a variety of outdoor experiences to Missouri residents and tourists.

The potential benefits of this trail to the thousands of potential users, landowners and towns along the way far outweigh individual concerns that can be addressed.

For the good of the many this project should move forward.

PLease accept the Rock Island Trail

The people of Missouri need this. I would like to see this happen, it would be great for all residents.

Please accept the trail.

Please approve the rock island trail. It will be a big economic help to the small towns asking the trail and provide a great place for pepole to hike and bike and enjoy the outdoors.

Sounds awesome, the railroad tracks are in disrepair, and inactive for rail service. A trail would benefit both individuals and communities.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Shared public spaces, particularly those which allow access to nature and an opportunity to spend time with family are important to the wellbeing of Missouri.

Thank you!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. The project shows vision and forethought and will be great for Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Thank you!

There is every reason to encourage the creation of Rock Island Trail. It will be an asset for our whole state of Missouri just as our Katie Trail is

Please accept this trail

I think it is very important to develop the Rock Island Trail Project, a conversion of the former Rock Island Railroad corridor into a 144.3 mile long recreational trail from Windsor, MO, to Beaufort, MO.

The Katy Trail is a significant economic engine for towns that border it. Eventual development of the Rock Island Trail would not only provide additional miles of auto free access to these areas but would also provide a similar economic impact.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Many small business have had success operating along the Katy trail. Adding more trail would likely add jobs to Missouri and bring big-city money into small townships where it's needed. If the Rock Island Trail were complete, the combined trail with the Katy would attract out-of-state residents and bring additional cash into the state.

It also encourages people to get outside and live healthy.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I do certainly hope and pray that you put an end to this outrageously expensive and completely unnecessary project!!! It is a complete waste of tax dollars! Our roads and bridges NEED repair we DO NOT need a silly trail that only a handful of people will even use.

We need the trails sir!

This would be an economic boom for many of the small communities along the trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Me and my friends and family LOVE the trails. In fact, we are planning a 100-mile ride this weekend, complete with camping and dining at restaurants. Whenever we ride, we love to stop over at every town we can, buying food and supplies, talking with locals, supporting local businesses, and enjoying the beautiful scenery and historic spots along the trail. We all cannot wait for the expansion and hope to ride the entire length when possible! THANK YOU!

These rails to trails projects are a waste of money for the limited number of people that use them.

I am very excited for the Rock Island Trail Project to move forward to completion. Using the historical landmarks that bring a variety of options for bicyclists across the state of Missouri only make sense and cents\$! These wonderful old rural railroad towns along the routes have long been forgotten. Completing the entire Katy Trail Loop would be a fantastic boost to the local economy. I strongly support the signing of the Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project. This economic development project will benefit many of the forgotten rural communities in Missouri.

It would be an economic boost for the town affected by the trail.

It would increase tourism. Many people even from foreign countries ride the Katy Trail.
It is another opportunity for people to maintain health which has lasting effects.
A trail has low maintenance, therefore, affordable.

Since they have torn up the track, they NEED to finish what was promised.

This is a great opportunity to expand Missouri's outdoor resources. As an avid cyclist, I can attest to the countless benefits and wonderful experiences cycling enjoyed cycling Missouri's trails and roads. Another trail designated for cycling would be awesome!

Yes!! Trails like these bring in tourism dollars to the state and increase the health and well being of it's inhabitants. Other states have done this with great success. Look at what a draw the Katy trail is!

I support accepting the trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I'm from Kansas. I rode the Katy Trail last year and had a great time. I plan to bring my wife back and do it again soon. Adding the Rock Island Trail to the Katy is a wonderful idea. Please do this.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

As a life-long Missourian, I am very excited about the prospect of the Rock Island Trail. The Katy Trail is a special thing for this state and having the addition of the Rock Island to add to our library of great trails would be an excellent thing. The Katy has added something to each town it passes through, whether is bustling businesses based off traffic from the trail or simply just adding a pleasant aspect to living there. Countless Missourians have enjoyed the benefits of the trails and I believe that the citizens of the towns along the Rock Island would see similiar benefits as to those along the Katy and even more Missourians would be exposed to the great small communities that make up a section of Missouri. Please go forward with the progress of the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the gift of this property for the purposes of providing a second cross-state trail. Increased access to the "great outdoors" is vital for people's physical, mental and spiritual health. Thank you for considering it.

I have very much enjoyed Missouri's excellent cycling trails. I think they are an asset to the state. I look forward to the development of the Rock Island Trail, and anticipate using it. The development of cycling in Missouri has many benefits for our state and its citizens, including financial benefits from increased tourism.

I hope the Rock Island Trail Project will move forward quickly.

I hope that the state will go ahead with this project. Replacing the rails with trails does the following:

1) Connects Communities

2) Provides a way for community members to stay active and healthy
3) Provides safe transportation alternatives for pedestrians and bicyclists
4) Repurposes the rails system of transportation to one for walking and cycling.

All these things have positive impacts and in years to come, the entire state will benefit from this project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please move forward with development of the trail. I use rails to trails all over the state and think the Katy Trail and fellow trails are what make Missouri an attractive place to live and work.

Governor Greitens,
Please accept the Rock Island Trail, we need another trail system.../avid cyclist from Excelsior Springs.

Please accept the Rock Island trailway!

Please support the Rock Island Trail Project. Saw you on Fox News this morning. You were great!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.
This is something that needs to take place.

The Rock Island trail will benefit this community by offering a place to walk, ride bikes, excersise, and get into nature. Also, it could bring more business to our community which in turn my create jobs.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the trail

I travel through Missouri and the US looking for biking and hiking destinations. I see state and national parks filled with people looking for a great escape from the city. Proving additional outdoor options helps make Missouri a place to stay/live and perhaps a destination for others looking to explore. I'm in favor of Rock Island Trail and making our state a better place to live.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

We need more greenways! Please make this idea a reality! Access to water/bathroom facilities along the way would also be valuable!

I think the Rock Island Trail Project would be a great asset to the state of Missouri!! I ride the Katy Trail and Grant's Trail regularly. We have a beautiful state! We can enjoy it more thoroughly with trails such as this.

This will help out a lot off old railroad towns. Please support this project.

I am absolutely in favor of the trail. I just hope its paved.

PLEASE ACCEPT THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL

Please support to continue the development of the Rock Island Trail. The new portion is beautiful and a pleasure to ride. Adding to this trail will benefit both the physical and fiscal health of Missourians.

Thank you.

This trail would be a great asset to our community. I know it would get used daily by walkers, hikers, bikers or even a safe place for kids and family's to ride a trail for some exercise. People travel many miles to use the Katy Trail from our area. Thank you for your consideration

[REDACTED]

Owensville Chamber of Commerce

Please accept the Interim Trail Use Agreement and Rock Island Trail Project. This trail will greatly enhance the current system. Kansas City is working diligently to complete the section of the Rock Island Trail from the Kaufman Sport Complex where the Royals and Chiefs play to the trail system in Pleasant Hill, MO. From here the Rock Island Trail spur to the Kathy Trail connects to Windsor, MO.

The entire Kansas City metropolitan area will benefit from trail tourism created by the Rock Island Trail system. Our region has trail opportunities that to connect this system to two other other systems that span great distances. One system follow the Prairie Spirit Trail westward across Kansas, a rail-trail, system. The other is system that would travel north to Omaha, NE along routes near the Missouri River.

I just rode the KATY trail from New Franklin to Windsor over the July 4th weekend, I rode it on the Sunday in one beautiful day. I have also rode RIT when it first opened. RIT is too rough on my rode bike so I will need another bike to ride. I have from KC and would LOVE to bike from my house (Gladstone, MO) to STL. Wouldn't that be awesome to leave a car at home! Talk about helping save our planet and get exercise all at the same time. I take it the Gov doesn't cycle? Should try it! Fun and enjoyable scenery. I met soooo many people from other States on the KATY trail spending money in the MO small towns...helps economy. PLEASE expand our trail system....we need it here in the Midwest - capital of overweight people!!

Trail riding is 100% safer than us riding on the streets with cars. Hate it. Unsafe and they always want to run us over!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This opportunity will never come back. In addition to all the great recreational opportunities this trail can be an economic boon to all the communities it passes through.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Trails are great for Missouri!

To not take advantage of this opportunity would be short sighted and foolish. The Rock Island Trail will more than pay for itself in recreational tourism and revitalization of small

towns along the path. I think DNR HAS TO stand behind this project.

I have followed the development on the Rock Island Trail Project and believe it to be a great investment in the state of Missouri and the communities it will connect. This trail will be business to many small communities that are in need of an economic boost and and will provide an opportunity for people our communities along this trail to participate in a safe environment to walk or bike the trail. Governor as you are a person who believes in physical fitness this trail provides the opportunity for citizens of Missouri to pursue walking and biking as individuals as well as families. What an awesome family activity the Rock Island Trail could provide at little cost to families across all economic levels. I see this as putting small rural communities on the forefront of state government and make recognition that rural community need funding for opportunities to grow, just as much as Kansas City, St Louis, Springfield, Jefferson City and Columbia. This is a step toward saving many small communities that are struggle, not all citizens of Missouri choose to live in cities, they prefer rural Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I support this effort and will be glad to make private donations. I live at [REDACTED] in University City, MO. I also have a second home near Rosebud, MO, near where the Rock Island Trail will run. I very much support this as a state park and will provide donations to help make it happen.

These trails are so vitally important to helping us have terrific places to exercise and spend time with our grandchildren.

I fully support this project as a very viable opportunity to continue to cast our state in a progressive light. Recreational accommodations such as these are invaluable to the image of our beautiful state. Additionally it will bring economic opportunities to rural towns that would otherwise have limited potential for SN influx of tourism.

It is so exciting that the Katy Trail would join with the Rock Island Trail! I look forward to riding this trail and seeing more of beautiful Missouri from my bike. I now live in MO and part of the choice for my new home was the relative proximity to the Katy Trail. Before moving here, I traveled to MO to ride the Katy Trail as well as others and I highly recommend it to everyone I know and meet. What a wonderful attraction and benefit of living in MO!!

Please complete this project. I will help local communities. I am an avid Katy Trail rider.

We strongly support the Rock Island Trail Project. Living in Kansas City, we are limited in our use of the Katy Trail because we must travel almost 2 hours to enter the park.

Missouri has an opportunity to enhance it's reputation as an outdoor destination. With the donation of the corridor and support of Missourians and the State, we can further Missouri

as a destination for those wishing to experience Missouri outdoors. Our growing abundance of trails is a boon to the State. Visitors from all over the world could have the opportunity to experience what we have. This interim Trail Use Agreement would give Missouri a leg up on competition that is growing within the US and the world. To ignore this opportunity is like the loss we experienced when the Tour of Missouri was discontinued. The financial and wellness factors alone make this a win-win opportunity if we take advantage of it. My family and I truly hope it occurs.

Thank you,

This is a great opportunity for Missouri to create one of the best trail systems in the nation. I am fiscally conservative and haven't run the numbers, but it seems like a solid investment.

Please sign the agreement and start the project! Thank you!!

Dear Sir or Ms.:

A number of fellow old 'Nam vets and I ride the Katy Trail every week, and love it. The numbers of fellow riders proves its popularity, but before its existence there were promises that few would walk and ride the trail, that businesses would not be created along it, that those who did use it would leave trash, et cetera. None of this proved true.

A second trail would be wonderful! And, in terms of health for all us users (those of us who are disabled, as well as others), there would be a cost-savings over time to society at large.

This seemed intuitive to me, and I was happy to see a study recently that gives compelling evidence that this is so.

In short, I am just one of many - many! - users who are strongly in favor of additional miles of trails.

All best - - [REDACTED]

As a frequent user of the Missouri and the nearby Illinois (MCT) trails, I urge you to do what you can to aid in the development of the RITP by coming to terms with the the MCR.

The popularity and the recreational benefit of enlarge the Missouri system would be so greatly enhanced by this 144 mile addition.

My bicycle rides of 30, 50, 70 and 100 miles on the regional trails for the past 5 years has given me an appreciation of the value of these trails...not only for the users but for the businesses that line the routes.

Overall, these trails provide a safe and nature-inspiring haven for the cyclist, the stroller, and the runner.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

It seems to me that this is a very positive investment opportunity for the State of Missouri. A rail-trail on the Rock Island Line corridor is a fabulous opportunity to invest in our state that can boost local economies as proven with the example of the highly successful development of the Katy Trail. As a national tourism destination for trails, Missouri has the opportunity to grow with this trail project. The Rock Island Line trail and Katy Trail can be the backbone of a 450-mile connected, cross-state trail system.

We've been on the trail to Windsor-- it matters! The connection is so vital to helping others better experience the Katy and to having epic "through" adventures!

Please support the Rock Island Trail. Why?

A rail-trail on the Rock Island Line corridor is a wise investment that can boost local economies;

Missouri has an opportunity to grow as a national tourism destination for trails;

The Rock Island Line trail and Katy Trail can be the backbone of a 450-mile connected, cross-state trail system.

I support the Rock Island Trail Project,

Please support the MORIT trail. Why?

A rail-trail on the Rock Island Line corridor is a wise investment that can boost local economies;

Missouri has an opportunity to grow as a national tourism destination for trails;

The Rock Island Line trail and Katy Trail can be the backbone of a 450-mile connected, cross-state trail system.

Time and again new rails to trails have greatly increased the economic picture for many small towns that the trail would pass through or by. Don't pass this opportunity for all up. It will have long lasting positive impact on Missouri.

I would like to see this trail in use!

I believe this would be a worthwhile investment by the state of Missouri to provide trails for use by walkers and bikers from our and many other states. It would also help with the economics of several towns along its length.

I think it is a great opportunity to make a wonderful addition to the trail network currently in place. This addition will provide a new adventurous route for trail activists as well as preserve the history of the Missouri Central Railroad.

Thanks for your support of the new trail. This provides numerous economic benefits for the communities as well as better bike safety for all. As a race director of a major bike race, I know how important this is to our long-term future. Give me a call if you have questions.

[REDACTED]

This is a great opportunity. Ask any of the small businesses located along the KATY trail and they will tell you how important that trail is to their existence. The KATY has a great reputation across the country and this additional trail would keep the tourists coming into the state, and bring back those who loved their time on the KATY and now want to use this new one.

Do it!

This is an amazing opportunity to create a trail that can be enjoyed by people from all over the country. It will help to bring new business to towns along this corridor, similar to what happened with the Katy trail.

I have done the cross Missouri ride on the KATY trail for several years and have enjoyed it immensely. These always included a nights stay in one of the B&B's or motels along the

trail. We have since moved to Texas but STILL come back for our yearly ride. This year we are bringing 2 other couples from Texas for the ride. They are looking forward to seeing what we've been raving about.

Really looking forward to some new territory with the new trail. I believe it, like the KATY, will benefit the towns along the trail with lodging, food and other supplies. Please help to make this new trail a reality for Missourians and all the travelers that come the state to enjoy this great resource.

If Governor Greitens Communications office is smart, they'll create a video of Greitens biking the entire Rock Island Trail with a squad of veterans to honor their legacy of service and commitment to physical health

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

Trails are important economic drivers and are an especially important economic and business opportunity for Rock Island communities, who badly need and want this kind of economic opportunity.

The Katy Trail is an amazing national example of how successful and important trails can be to the economies of rural communities.

I am asking you to move forward with the development of the proposed Rock Island Rail-Trail Project. As a member of the Rails to Trails Conservancy, I must – at times – talk out of both sides of my mouth . . . As a conservative, constitutionalist I don't like the way special interest groups pressure and lobby the government for social projects. God knows the government spends too much money and I am taxed enough already!

However, I do affirm the true economic value of rail-trail development! For the last 10 years, our vacations have always revolved around riding rail-trails. We have gone to the Black Hills of South Dakota four times to ride the Mickelson Trail, central Missouri to ride the Katy and Southern Missouri to ride the Frisco-Highline, the desert of Texas to ride the Caprock Canyon Trailway, and all over Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Plus I have Google Earth marked with “thumb-tacks” for future trips to Idaho, Illinois and Kansas.

This means thousands of dollars. Literally, thousands of dollars in fuel, food and lodging. From my point of view, having another trail to ride in Missouri would be stellar. And should this include the rail-line that runs through Eugene, having a tunnel on a trail is especially appealing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

██████████, a man who loves to peddle!

Yes! It's land unused being used for the benefit of thousands who will enjoy it!

Biking and walking are both healthy activities, the more trails we have safety available the more opportunities to get out, explore, enjoy and exercise. There's no better way to give back to the community than to provide everyone the opportunity to get out and enjoy nature in all forms. The more trails the better.

This would be a fantastic addition to Missouri's recreational opportunities.

When I first learned that the Rock Island Railroad corridor could be the next trail, I was overjoyed! My wife and I both have family that grew up along this corridor, so the ability to travel along this path offers a chance to see mid Missouri as our grandparents, aunts, uncles, and parents did.

I frequently ride the Katy trail, and notice increased usage year after year, so there is interest in having more trail options, but many may not even realize that the Rock Island trail is in jeopardy.

Please do all you can to make this a reality and put Missouri at the top of the list for trails and greenways.

This Trail is so very important! It would boost the economy bringing tourists from everywhere. Also as a connection with the Katy Trail it would be vital in expanding the 450 mile route. As a Missourian, I love riding the Katy Trail and am involved with many groups that use it both for riding and running. It always involves going to a local Winery, eating place, renting bikes for friends who don't have their own, and other ways that the local economy is supported. Also it is so important for Missourians to get out and appreciate the beauty of these areas. I moved to Ballwin from California 11 years ago and the Katy Trail has been one of my favorites. I have also left messages for Governor Greiten to accept the Rock Island Trail project. Thank you!

My brother and I just rode the Pleasant Hill to Windsor route and I must say that is was very enjoyable!!! It would be great if the rest of the RIT would be developed.

I would love it. It would be very nice

The trail is a wonderful idea....and folks enjoy biking, walking, and being safe on it. Yes, do it!

please, please accept the Rock Island Trail. As a lifelong Missouri resident, the continued development of the system of trails is a major asset of Missouri. I've met people from all over the country & around the world on the KATY. We presently have one of the best (if not the best) in the USA, but we need to expand it if we are to maintain our lofty place.

I feel the Rock Island Trail would be a great boon to outdoor activity for Missourians.

As one who traveled to Missouri for purpose of biking the Katy Trail, I have spent money on food, lodging, souvenirs and admissions BECAUSE of your wonderful trail system. If you follow through and build another trail across your state, I will happily visit again and bring my tourism dollars with me. These trails are great recreational infrastructure and I really hope you'll build another.

I am from Iowa and we loved our 4 day 3 night trip on the katy Trail Staying at B&B's. Can't wait to have more opportunities to travel this way in your state!

This would be a wonderful addition to our state in conservation, tourism, and economic potentials associated with each.

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

I would support the proposed Rock Island Trail Project being a NONMOTORIZED trail for equestrians, hikers, and bicyclists to continue Missouri's Tradition of being a great trail state and encouraging it's residents and visitors to be outdoors and active. We can help the obesity epidemic by encouraging our citizens to move. We can help our rural communities by bringing jobs, tourism, and economic assistance to the communities along this project in rural Missouri.

As an equestrian, I would personally use this trail and encourage others to use it. We need more horse trails all across Missouri!

Rail trails are an excellent way to maintain right of ways and create recreational and health opportunities for the residents of the areas that they are in. They also provide some degree of bicycle tourism. They are well worth the modest price.

I think this is a tremendous opportunity for Missouri to build another renowned cycling trail. If the right of way is broken up we lose a once in a lifetime chance to preserve this historic resource for all to enjoy! Please accept the trail!!

I support the Rock Island Trail Project.

Missouri does not have towering mountains nor thunderous ocean shorelines, but we do have some beautiful countryside to share with visitors throughout this and other countries. Leverage what we do have to entice and reward visitors well as Missouri citizens. Don't let this opportunity get by us!

I think these should connect .It should include, bikes,hiking and horses. This could improve economies in some small towns.

Horse clubs and bike clubs would meet,eat, and stay.

My thoughts are it would really be useful to have this project in place. We are in need of more recreational trails for horse riding and hikers. I am one who truly loves the outdoors and experiences the freedom that comes with nature and all of the blessings we receive from the woods and trails while we are riding our horses.

Praying that this project goes thru.

We support the Interim Trail Use Agreement because we have ridden Rails to Trails bike paths in many states. We feel they are an asset to any state as they bring in many tourists.

DNR, Gov. Greitens and state officials,
The Rock Island Trail Project has progressed past the point that state officials should be questioning whether or not to take interim use of the trail. Since this project became public knowledge in the local newspaper in 2014, people of argued and discussed. In Owensville, Gerald, Rosebud, and Bland, Belle, and Eldon communities, projects have been in the works for at least two years. Property values have gone up

since people are purchasing and cleaning up main streets where the trail will see the most visitors.

Gerald's mayor opened the Bistro at the Mill two years ago, and is hoping to open a bike rental and storage center for Lost Valley Lake and St. Louis visitors. Trash behind Rosebud's Main Street on Highway 50 has been cleaned, buildings painted, and in some cases new owners have moved in.

Owensville seen the close of its only coffee shop on main street with the passing a loved community member two years ago. A t-shirt place across for it moved out and dilapidated buildings surrounded it. This spring, a new coffee shop moved in, someone bought the dilapidated building next to the old Owensville Hotel, and a block down from the trail, and is renovating it for a bike shop. A home that has not been lived in on first street for some time will see new owners this fall. The young couple hope to open a bed and breakfast after the live in renovations.

Bland's main street is dilapidated. A local resident has been buying properties and is even now working on a store front that will be bike shop/ bunk-for-the-night/ and small eatery. Belle has already received over \$100,000 in economic development funds, \$93,000 to build a trail through their city limits. The trail project was placed on hold last month by state officials because of reasons you are now requiring this survey. They have also received a Coover grant for almost \$13,000 for bike racks, signage, benches, flower pots and trash receptacles on main street, down Highway 89. The city has also agreed to a two-year rental of its MFA building to a local non-profit group that plans renovations for a visitor's center. Several town hall meetings were held on the project last fall.

The self-help Belle has given themselves and worked towards to improve its community is inspiring.

Eldon has seen the development of a new retirement home that would not have come about without thoughts that the Rock Island Trail was coming through. Towns without grocery stores now have grocery stores.

DNR, Gov. Greitens, this project is big. This project affects more than one town, or even the towns along the Rock Island. Springfield and Rolla have already thrown in their support, several communities want spur trails to being commerce to their areas. This line has more to give the small communities that developed around it. This project has surely surpassed the point of turning around.

Now, just as friends and neighbors have not only come to terms with this project, begun looking forward to it, property values increasing, main streets becoming busy centers again, the state seems to be re-negotiating. If you are truly an advocate for commerce, economic growth and jobs, you will support this trail.

I understand the state will be incurring cost for the trail, however the increase in revenue, will be a boon for small communities and will eventually trickle up. I don't think the "trickle up" effect will take long, seeing as how quickly property and businesses have taken on the Rock Island. Feel free to contact me with the information below.

Sincerely,

██████████

The Rock Island Trail is a natural addition to the Katy Trail which is proven to add revenues for the towns along the trail. Please enter into the trail use agreement and make Missouri a destination for cyclists from across the nation.

I am very hopeful that the DNR enters an Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project. I have ridden the complete Katy Trail twice and stay at a bed and breakfast with friends each year at Rocheport to use the trail. It would be nice to have a new trail and new towns to explore. St. Louis has a big biking community and I feel the trail would get a lot of use.

To Whom It May Concern,
I support the trail wholeheartedly! I think it will be a big draw for tourism, and having private entities willing to chip in for maintenance makes it a great idea for Missouri.
Thanks much,
[REDACTED]

What an awesome opportunity this presents. As a Scout leader I was always looking for available places to ride bicycles as my young scouts undertook the Cycling Merit badge. The culmination ride of many that were required was a 50 mile ride. I can not express to you how important this trail would be to the thousands of Scouts from not only Missouri, but from surrounding states as well. In this day and age of inattentive drivers with cell phone ears I feel that this is a no brainer. As a side note, I have marveled at the small business opportunities that arose from similar trails around the country. As a new retiree these are the areas I seek out when traveling. Can you think of any better way to see a new destination than by riding a Bike?

Accept the donated corridor.

We were traveling in Texas at another cycling event and the push to get the Texas trail network built up was the topic of the Saturday night banquet. It was thrilling to note for the 6 Missouri couples that the topic was all based on the KATY trail network. What an opportunity we have to expand the nations most talked about trail system

Tourism is a leading business in Missouri. The Katy Trail has brought a lot of dollars to Missouri and the addition of the Rock Island trail will improve tourism. Trails are a growing part of any states Park System. Missouri use to be the leader with the longest trail, but other states have seen the benefit and are now growing their park trails faster than Missouri. Are the leaders in Missouri government going to make Missouri a backward state again?

Some states charge to use their state parks.

This is a wonderful opportunity to expand the trail system in Missouri and make our state even more of a destination for cyclists.

I started using Rails to Trails in Ohio back in 1985. Rails to Trails are a wonderful way to encourage healthy exercise which our country desperately needs. Thirty two years later I am still hitting the trails. Having just ridden 48 miles, this past Sunday on the Katy Trail. I would like to encourage Missouri to move forward with the Rock Island Trail Project.

This is exciting to me as a mule rider that rides trails throughout Missouri and across the country. I recognize the need for equine trails and Missouri has beautiful landscaping and wildlife to enjoy; by utilizing and opening more trails for equestrian use is a positive step to encourage tourism and trail use. Thank you for your consideration.

I think the Rock Island Trail Project needs to proceed full speed ahead. I've had friends from California visit and, when I mentioned taking a hike on the KATY Trail, their faces lit up. We had a great time. The Rock Island Trail will give us the opportunity to bike an entire loop, rather than simply returning the way we came. It would be a boon to the small towns along the way. I'm sure B&B's and restaurants will spring up in no time. We're not talking about just Missouri money flowing to these towns but money from all over the country and beyond. I'm already looking forward to taking this trail. Hopefully parts of it will be finished before I'm too old to enjoy it.

This is a tremendous opportunity for the state of Missouri, and specifically for the towns along the Rock Island trail. Yes, there are some costs to develop the trail, and there are some opposed to the development of the trail, but look back at the creation of the KATY trail. What a terrific asset that has been for the state and for all the towns along its path. Cyclists from across the country come to experience the KATY and they will come to ride the Rock Island trail as well, helping to boost the economy of the towns and the state via sales taxes generated. As an avid cyclist, I have ridden the full length of the KATY stopping along the way for meals and for overnight accommodations. There are national companies like VBT (Vermont Bicycle Tours) and Road Scholar that organize cycling vacations along the KATY. Rails to Trails organization names the KATY as one of the best and longest trails across the country. All of this will be enhanced by expanding the trail system to include the Rock Island Trail. I strongly support the Rock Island Trail Project and look forward to heading across the state once again on my bicycle once it is completed. Please hurry, I'm not getting any younger!

This is a great idea to develop another trail like the Katy Trail into a biking/hiking trail across Missouri. As someone who has ridden nearly all the Katy trail twice over the past 10 years, I support whatever it takes to develop another similar trail for use by Missourians as well as tourists bringing money into our state.

I am for this arrangement to provide a trail system that would be second to none in the world.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! We can not have too many trails or public parks in the state of Missouri. It's what makes Missouri beautiful!

Great for Missouri! Tourism and beautification for our state is always a plus. Where else in the United States can you bike, hike, or ride your horse this distance safely!

Yeah!. Thank you for adding the Rock Island Railroad property to the growing number of recreational trails in the country. What an opportunity for MO both recreationally and

financially for the town's the trail passes through. Can't wait to ride it!

I cycled the Katy Trail with five family members June 18-23 this year. We were amazed at the quality of the trail and we enjoyed stopping at all the small communities for breaks, snacks, and meals. We stayed six nights in six different towns (city in the case of Jeff City) and again enjoyed pubs, restaurants and walking the historic streets.

This is what destination vacations/activities are all about!!

Two of us traveled from Texas, two from Colorado and two from Wisconsin. We six have met in other states for week-long rail-trail cycle tours.

Rail Trails are clearly good business for each state which has invested in them.

Please add to your terrific park offerings by taking possession of the available Rock Island abandoned rail corridor.

Development can come later as funding and investment allows.

I am a huge fan of the Katy Trail. I have taken the train to Sedalia and rode back to St Charles a couple times. I am also a big user of the trail in the St Louis/ St Charles area.

I believe this is an amazing opportunity to add onto this trail and create a loop which will first of all serve all those people in Missouri. I also think that this can and will create a buzz throughout the country and attract many people to ride from all over. I have grown up and worked in the St Louis area while traveling the country on business. Much of the questions about our state focus on the negatives that come out of STL or KC. It is such a great opportunity for people to look at Missouri as one of the greatest trail riding opportunities in the country. I am a huge supporter of this.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I am an avid hiker and runner, who can not understand any reason why our state would not accept this gift.

The trails are a great way to bicycle safely with friends and family. When we rode the KATY trail we met people from all over the US riding the trail. It's a good way to see Missouri and gain an appreciation of what's happening outside of our neighborhoods.

As an avid cyclist and someone that enjoys what Missouri has to offer in terms of nature and beauty, I can't imagine that our state wouldn't take advantage of this opportunity. I would use a trail like this one, as I'm sure many other Missourians and, more importantly, Americans would. I'm taking a trip to New York next spring, and will be providing tax money to that state when I stay there for the ride. I would think that people from other states would make their way to Missouri and spend tax dollars here with a beautiful trail like this one.

This is a great opportunity for the state of Missouri. Yesterday I rode 13 miles on the Rock Island Spur near Pleasant Hill and think these types of recreational trails are outstanding scenic facilities. We have the opportunity to create a world-class bicycle and hiking trail network. On my travels, I have found widespread awareness of the Katy Trail. On a trip to Alaska, I talked to someone who had traveled to Missouri to ride the

Katy Trail. This is a tourism and economic development opportunity for Missouri. The trail route can showcase the Ozark region and provide a loop route for tourists.

I support this project.

Americans need more long distant bike trail like this project. I believe many Americans including myself will travel long distances to enjoy the riding on bikeways. Please consider funding and finishing this project soon so I can enjoy it.

Greetings,

Having ridden the entire Katy trail and multiple Ragbrai week long rides, I can tell you this is a fantastic opportunity to draw riders to Missouri and will be a significant economic boost to the nearby communities. I'm sure this would draw riders from around the country and probably the world. Another example is the Mickelson trail ride my wife and I plan to ride in the fall located in South Dakota nearly a thousand miles away.

Please support the Rock Island Line corridor.

Thanks

The rails to trails concept is outstanding. I spend a good deal of time riding the many miles of equestrian trails our state abounds in, and meet people from all over our nation who recognize Missouri for this feature. Building additional multi use trails is a great way to show off our state and draw people here. But no motorized uses, please. The birds make all the noise we need.

The Rock Island trail will project the state of Missouri to being a leader in providing outdoor opportunities for individuals and families.

This is a unique opportunity is one that will have tremendous historical meaning in the future. In addition with tremendous growth in biking and hiking this will mean that citizens of Missouri, the U.S. and international visitors will have one of the grandest and greatest bike trails in the the United States. This trail will provide both recreational and ECONOMIC benefit to citizens and businesses alike.

My family total supports the Rock Island Trail Project. We have used the Katy trail for many years. I have had multi-generational (4 generations) family bike rides on the Katy trail. It is a great source of fun and exercise. We have experienced many of the little towns along the way. We have seen some of these towns take advantage of the commerce of having cyclist using the trail to create nice places to eat and enjoy the scenery.

It would make total scene to invest in the Rock Island trail.

We have already been talking about riding the "Loop" Katy Trail/Rock Island trail loop.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This is a wonderful thing for the state of Missouri. Every year, people come from all over the United States and Canada to bike in our state. One of the things that I love most about riding the Katy Trail is all the people you meet from all walks of life.

Our state should accept and develop this addition to the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Investment in our state's financial future! Would benefit all.....

I would love to see the state take over this land. I am a St. Louis resident and love biking these old rail lines. Several friends of mine come in from out of state occasionally to bike them with me. They all wish their state had trails like we have.

This weekend my wife and I rode the KT trail. How beautiful. Apparently many other people are of same opinion since there were many bikers, walkers and runners. How blessed we are that people decades ago had the foresight to fight for this magnificent trail that has national visibility. Today we have the same opportunity that we had when the state of MO converted the KT. Please do not let this opportunity pass us by. Our children will thank the people that are working today in making the RITP a reality! Tangible benefits include the perception by out of state people that MO is progressive in advancing outdoor activities, health benefits to trail users and money brought into our state to name a few!!

This would be a great addition to the Katy Trail and potential tourist income for the communities along the new trail

This trail will be an asset to the state of Missouri. We already have people from other states and from other countries come to the Katy Trail. Also we need to protect our natural resources.

I FULLY support the Rock Island Trail Project and definitely don't support the governor's thoughts on slashing or getting ride of the project. Quality of life is VERY important to me and this project addresses part of that thought. Our family friends use the KATY Trail every year and look forward to the day when we can use the Rock Island.

Being a Senior equestrian, I feel the expansion would open up areas not currently available to horseback. And if it were multi-use, hikers, bikers AND equestrians, all, would greatly benefit Missouri's beautiful hills and vales and wide open spaces. Towns along the trail could grow with exposure and business accommodating hikers, bikers and also equestrians. Many of the Rock Island Trail Towns have significant history in the settling of Missouri. I feel there are not enough trails open to all three modes of use, now and it would give more young folks and tourists a reason to reacquaint with the idea of "getting on a horse". Many folks now don't bother having a horse because there "no place to ride" safely without some "motorized something" buzzing around the corner to push folks off the path or scare a horse out of it wits. I believe being the "Trail State" is complimentary to Missouri folk and is quite the "draw" to tourism and recreation. PLEASE consider adding the Rock Island Trails to our existing scheme of trails. Thank you.

What a great idea! We have a Rock Island Trail here in Colorado Springs, CO. but it's only 10 miles long. :(If you can hook in with towns along the trail and business that cater to cyclist's, it would be a win-win situation for MO., jmho.! I'd

really like to take a weeks vacation and RIDE the trail although I'd prefer a "concrete or asphalt" trail, I'd be willing to buy cheap set of knobby tires and ride this trail.

Sounds like a very worthwhile project, hope it comes to life soon, I'm getting old! ;)

I have biked on the Katy trail on several occasions over the last 10 years. Each time I have ridden it I have crossed paths with riders from all over the country and the world. The Katy trail already attracts cyclists and pedestrians, but it could attract far more attention and revenue if the Rock Island trail turned the Katy trail into the KatyRock loop. If that was done, the WOW factor would kick in for some very positive world attention. The beauty of Missouri would be featured in publications and the progressive outlook of our state would grab the attention of exercise enthusiasts from the entire US. The reason the Katy trail is so popular is that it is relatively flat which appeals to riders of all shapes and sizes including me... a 62 year old 35 year Missouri resident. As a result, people who otherwise may not get a lot of exercise, ride the trail because they can handle it. So the appeal of the KatyRock would range far and wide at home and abroad. It would be a tragic lost opportunity to fail to complete this loop. If you build it they will come. This is way up on my list of what Missouri could do to make a big hop toward the top of great recreation destinations.

Seriously? It's stilly that we even need to complain about this. Accept the land so we can build bike trails on it.

With no understanding of how funding is appropriated or allocated I would think that the completion of trails from Clinton or Windsor to Kansas City would be more critical, and profitable, as it would make access easier for a large population of casual users that may not bother with a drive from Kansas City to Clinton or Windsor. The segment that allows connection with Kansas City is the one I would support.

I am proud to call Missouri a leader in the Rail-To-Trails concept. I use the current section of the Rock Island Trail monthly and enjoy the Katy Trail several times a year. Both are outstanding benefits to living in Missouri and the extension of the Rock Island is an outstanding idea.

I am 100% in favor of the Rock Island Trail as well as a rail-to-trail connecting the Frisco Trail with Rock Island and Katy. I'm a retired physician. An outing on these Trails is absolutely delightful and wonderful exercise. We need to preserve these right aways for the public good. Please make the Rock Island Trail happen. Make Missouri proud.

████████████████████

Please allow horseback riders on the trail. These rails to trail are a great "all weather" opportunity for horsemen when hunting or weather closes the trails generally used in conservation areas and state or national parks.

Yes! Providing the trail is non-motorized and multi-use - for hikers, bikers, and equestrians and not just for a single group of users.

Yes would love to have it and feel it is well worth maintaining

I would like to see this trail being built and help bring more outdoor options to the people in the area. In addition this could bring in visitors to the area and revenue to Missouri.

Please continue to move forward with the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. The economic development impact of rail trails cannot be disputed. My young family of four just returned from seven days in Colorado. The main impetus for traveling to the state was to ride bicycles on the Rio Grande Trail between Aspen, CO and Glenwood Springs, CO. We spent an average of \$125 on meals each day in addition to tourism related activities (hot springs, pools, adventure parks, etc). We stopped at trailside restaurants in addition to having meals at anchor communities on both sides of the trail. We were staying with friends but we spoke to many other families from multiple states who were staying in lodging properties. Bicycle tourism will bring dollars to the state of Missouri.

Improve tourism, towns grow, non motorized use, bikes, horses, hiking. Grow our known trail system

Please consider making these trails non-motorized multi-use trails, open to Hikers, Equestrians, & Bikers. Mo. was voted Trail State back in 2010. By opening these trails to the above I believe it would add to the Tourism, job growth, and would improve the quality of life in Rock Island Trail Town,s which many have Historic Value.

Thank You in Advance for any consideration!!

I think any time a multi purpose trail is made that includes horses/mules is a terrific idea. We ride all over the US and are thinking of adding MO to our next itinerary. The more trail options the better. We come from MN so this sort of trail system could bring in more snow birds that ride horse and bike.

Yes to bicycle trails!

I think that sounds wonderful. The Katy Trail is being enjoyed by so many people, I would love to see even more opportunities for locals and for visitors to our fine cities. Also, I am an avid trail rider by horseback; I have learned how lucky we are to have so many fine parks and trails available to us, Cuivre River State Park in Troy, MO being one of them. Thank you for your consideration.

Great opportunity, please don't pass it up !

I fully support the Rock Island Trail Project as long as horse back riding is permitted on the full length of the trail. I am almost 69 years old and trail riding is one of the reasons I have retained my physical strength and, possibly, mental alertness. I am also on a pension so having access to trails without having to pay large fees for use is of great benefit to me. Please assure that horseback riding is permitted on the Rock Island Trail for its entire length. Thank you.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

As a citizen of Missouri I fully support developing the Rock Island Trail Project into a 144.3 mile long recreation trail. It would be an outstanding offering to tourists not only nationally, but internationally and an incredible economic opportunity for business people to provide services along that trail.

Please support this terrific project!

What a Great opportunity for the state of Missouri. The amount of tourism and economic growth this would bring in for our beautiful state would be phenomenal. We love the expansion of the Katy Trail into Pkeasant Hill; we live in Lee Summit and frequent the Katy Trail and Little Blue Trace at least 4 times a week. To have more options - and the opportunity to see more of our state would be fabulous!

With a son living in Denver, know the economic value of trails attracting tourists, leading to buying food, gear, lodging etc. I feel Missouri maybe the state with the most beautiful hills, trails, potential bike trails unknown to the average citizen in the United States. People and even Road Scholar provide access to the Katy Trail. Approve this, complete it and talk it up and will pay for itself and present a positive view of Missouri.

Great asset for an "outdoor" state!

This would be an awesome trail. This is astounding countryside and would bring many tourists to the area, helping it to attract people from all over the nation. It would bring income into the area to help the nearby communities and their families. Adding this trail would give us over 450 miles of trails when added with the Katy Trail. Please let's make this happen it will help to put Missouri in with other states that receive national recognition for their trails and family friendly places that people can visit.

If you want Missouri to stand out as a destination, cross-state trail routes are becoming increasingly attractive to visitors and potential residents. As well as a community connectivity across the state. Truly a rare opportunity that should not be overlooked.

I live in Westerville, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus. I often plan vacations around significant biking opportunities. I think the conversion of the former Rock Island Railroad to a recreational trail is a great idea. I think it would be a great asset to people living in the area. I think it would draw biking enthusiasts, and their travel and recreation dollars to the area. In my experience, even biking-related day trips bring travel dollars for meals, gas, and stops at nearby attractions.

I recommend you proceed with the Rock Island Trail Project. Best regards,

██████████

I would like to have the additional miles added to the Missouri trail system because it would add recreational aspects to the tourism industry and help provide more trail miles for hikers, bikers, and equestrians.

The Eldon community has had so many economic setbacks in the last 15 years. We are working hard at bettering our schools

safer for long distance riders that enjoy multi day riding vacations to keep us off the roads and car accidents that are usually fatal to the rider. I want to see Kansas City and St Louis connected by this trail and other local trail systems at each end of the state. This would be a unique project only found in our state. Please make this a priority and see this through to completion. Thank you for all you do in our great state of Missouri. Let's add another monument to our state!

This kind of trail development is a boon for everyone - it provides economic benefit, outdoor recreation, and makes great use of existing resources. It's also a donation, and while it will cost money in upkeep, that's why 80% of the state just voted in favor of funding for state parks. The only reason not to consider it is that it's associated with Jay Nixon, and that's an ass-backwards way to make governance decisions. Not that I'd expect better from our new Governor at this point, as he's clearly only interested in setting himself up for a run at the national political stage.

The Rock Island Trail is a win/win development project for the State of Missouri! If completed it can set our State apart worldwide as a biking/hiking destination, with over 400 miles of continuous scenic trails. This opens up all kinds of economic possibilities, and puts us back on the international radar in terms of outdoor sports/recreation that ISN'T fishing/hunting.

Beyond that, Missouri will be jumping ahead to embrace the 'walking/biking as transportation' trend that has taken hold and continues to be the wave of the future, bringing safe and affordable alternatives to kids and adults traveling to school, work, etc. in their communities.

Missourians love (and use) our State Parks! And we are willing to pay for them. In this case, Ameren's donation makes paying a little less painful. If DNR doesn't step up, though, we will lose the energy, momentum and financial commitment that so many communities have worked to contribute to this project. Let's do this! (On a political side note - This project is NOT Echo Bluff! Hopefully the new governor understands that and knows that to kill THIS project would be a PR nightmare for his new administration.)

Do it, important for recreation and economic development. I'll use it and spend money, as will my friends. The Katy has been a huge success and makes MO unique.

Missouri was voted the "Trail State" in 2010. The addition of this trail system could provide a significant tourist destination that would bring Missouri back to the forefront. The expansion should be a non-motorized, multi-use trail, open to hikers, bikers and equestrians. Economically speaking, revitalization of trail towns would improve quality of life in these towns, many of which are former rail towns with historic value. Additionally, it would increase job growth in trail towns, increase Missouri tourism and revenue from cyclists, hikers and equestrians as well as increasing recreational opportunities.

This gift from Ameren will bolster the state's tourism desirability especially in a time when active recreation is increasing in popularity. The Governor should accept the Rock Island Trail without delay. There is no budget or political

downside and I fail to understand why there is any question about accepting this gift.

Yes! I think expanding the trail for multi-use (cyclists, hikers and equestrians) would be good for Missouri. It would provide an economic boost to the trail towns because of added businesses and job growth. Just look at what the Kathy Trail has done for the state. It would also encourage tourism to these old historic rail towns. Missouri is the "Trail State"!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

This is a great opportunity to expand the highly successful trail system in Missouri for very little cost. The small amount required to complete and maintain this trail is far outweighed by the benefits from both economic and improved health opportunities for both residents and visitors. The State of Missouri should do whatever is needed to make the Rock Island Trail a finished reality.

We need to decide if we're going to support and promote healthy living styles by providing opportunities such as this to create trails that promote riding and walking. These days it's becoming harder and harder to find places to ride without having to put our lives at risk with automobile traffic. Please consider making this trail happen.

Please approve this project. It is desperately needed in this economically depressed region. Thank you

I fully support this trail project and have personally seen the positive impacts of the rails to trails program thus far. Please let it continue as planned.

I am in support of this project. However, after the interim period how will the trail be maintained/sustained; at what cost and from whom? Thank you

I am very interested in additional multi use (bicycles, equestrian, and hiking) trails in Missouri. Not only would it provide MO citizens additional areas for recreational interest but adds the potential for tourist revenue. Please make this happen for current and future generations.

I think this is a terrific idea to convert the Rail corridor to a Bike trail. I'm all for it and I think this could create Tourism income for the little towns along the trail. This is a great chance we should not miss.

It's cliché but it holds true; if you build it, they will come. Complete with resurgence of old towns which can house, feed, and entertain bicyclist thus generating taxes.

The addition of this corridor to the Missouri trail system is good for Missouri's economy. Tapping into the ecotourism from trail users worldwide ensures a unique and healthy trail economy for the state.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail Project. Turning our back on this opportunity would be tremendously short-sighted.

I would like to see more equestrian trails open to the public. We share trails in a friendly, open fashion with hikers and health aware people. We believe in keeping the trails clean and clipped. Horseback riding is a wonderful, clean, morally correct activity for families. More miles of trails would encourage people to come to Missouri from far and wide. We have friends (as well as ourselves) that are always looking for more trails to ride. BRING THE HIKERS, BIKERS AND EQUESTRIAN PEOPLE TO MISSOURI!!

This is a marvelous project that provides a long term benefit for recreation, health improvement, family development, and economic improvement for a very nominal initial investment. There isn't one reason why this doesn't have 100% support by every Missourian.

It would really add value to the Eldon & Lake area as a destination for many bikers & hikers. The economic impact would benefit all of MO because adding this trail could be one of the longest trails. A project like this is great family fun for all ages & encourages good health. Please say yes for the health of all Missourians & our visitors

Rock Island Trail is a fantastic idea! I will use this trail and spend money at Missouri businesses along it, very gladly. PLEASE make this a reality!

This is an excellent opportunity to make Missouri the premier bike trail state of the Union. Please do this for our future generations and the health of our current population. Thank You!

As I user of the Katy Trail, I am in favor of developing the Rock Island Trail. It appears to me the Katy Trail has financially helped the small towns along the trail and I am sure that the same would happen along the Rock Island Trail. Developing the Rock Island Trail also makes MO a mecca for rail to trail conversions and should help spur tourism within the state. I support the development of the Rock Island Trail.

The trail would be an asset to the area and a great way to promote physical fitness.

These trails are excellent for families, tourism and recreation. Missouri should show case the beauty of our terrain more with them. Please support this bike trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I fully support this! It's a great way of providing opportunities for biking throughout one of the most beautiful areas of Missouri. Now that I am approaching retirement, I'm looking at areas in the nation that provide a car free route that is safe and scenic. I've ridden parts of Katy, the Burke-Gilman in WA State, the Cumberland, and other bike trails. More people are looking for ways of having longer trips, overnights by camping or B&Bs, restaurants, etc. This would be a good way to open up this area to economic activity that would help the local economy as well. My family and many of my friends are in Springfield and I know they support this trail system as well.

I fully support the completion of the Rock Island Trail for recreational uses. I have traveled the full length of the Katy Trail a few times and recently enjoyed the Rock Island Spur from Pleasant Hill to Windsor. I have stayed in hotels and bed/breakfast and dined at local eateries, while my wife and her sister shopped in nearby businesses. Completion of the Rock Island Trail would make Missouri one of the premier destinations across the nation.

What keeps most off the pedals is their fear of getting hit by a car or truck. I agree, and luckily, Springfield has a pretty decent set of bike ready streets, although there are some bike lane deserts that simply have no good routes. I'm usually against most government interference, but the health, both mental and physical, of most americans is in demise. Two thirds of adults are overweight or obese, yet our bikes hang out in the garage, wasted. I have zero issues with cars and regularly need my vehicle for work (remodeling houses), but a path that keeps cars and bikes separate can only promote biking, and therefore physical and mental health by removing riders fears of an accident.

I ride the Katy every year, and recently rode my bike from Springfield to Kansas City via the Rock Island Trail and Frisco Highline Trail. It's nice to have a safe place to bike away from cars. My spurt on highway 13 connecting the two was loud and less than ideal, and I think promoting a bicycle friendly environment encourages all aspects of health. The Katy has become a very popular place to ride, and has provided some jobs during the main trail season (shuttles, bed and breakfasts, repair shops, local convenience stores). It's a great way to get out of the city and stuff your stomach with as many mulberries as you can eat. Anything as reasonable as additional bike trails where no practical options currently exist has my vote.

Dear Missouri DNR,

I hope you will support the 144-mile Rock Island line that connects many communities in the State of Missouri.

In the fall of 2000 I had a unique opportunity to ride a bike from St. Charles to Clinton along the KATY Trail, and enjoyed the experience immensely. My hope is to be able to return with my family, with my Boy Scout Troop, or with my Venture Crew to experience your countryside in a safe, peaceful, and scenic setting. If the Rock Island Property is added to your already impressive inventory, that would be an additional incentive to return to Missouri.

My home town, Natick, MA, recently paid \$6 million to purchase a rail bed from the CSXT Rail Road Corporation. In addition to the purchase price (plus several hundred thousand dollars in engineering and planning fees) the construction cost to build our trail will exceed an additional \$8 million. Would you like to know how long our trail will be? 240 miles? 140 miles? No!: Two miles. Massachusetts recently neglected to add these two miles when negotiating purchase of Rights-of-Way for State-run Commuter Rail. Our community felt that this 2 mile segment was too important to pass up--and voted to spend our hard-earned money to prevent an unfriendly CSXT Company from chopping the corridor into irretrievably small, disconnected, unbeneficial parcels.

I hope you will embrace this opportunity to preserve the Rock Island Line by accepting title to the property. This valuable 140 mile-long resource should be preserved by the state — I

hope your state has the wisdom to preserve an amazing corridor for the benefit of everyone.

Sincerely,

██████████
Natick, MA

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Awesome Idea!

I am 76 years old and I ride my bike in an empty mall around the parking lot 20 miles a day. When I can I get to a bike trail. I have been across the Katy Trail 6 times and part to stay off the main highways. Over the last 2 years I have changed my life. Using mostly my bike and changing my eating habits I have. Lost 100 pounds. I will keep riding my bike on any trail I am close to as long as I can continue ridding. I like paved trails the best but I do just go to a different area and ride. Help keep me safe and all other bike riders by providing more places to ride.

Please accept Rock Island Trail !

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

We love biking on the Katy trail and this would be a great addition

Yes. Don't bail on quality of life improvements for a fantasy "tax policy". This is critical for MO residents and for tourists.

Do it! Great tourist attraction. Bolster the rural communities.

I support this rails to trails project

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

Please allow the rock island trail project to go forward

The trail would be great!

As a resident of Missouri, I believe that DNR should acquire and develop the Rock Island Line corridor to a trail. The benefits of this trail to Missouri citizens and visitors are economic, recreation, and tourism. It is a 'win-win' situation when you consider these benefits. I personally seek-out trails when I travel to other states. Visitors from other states will seek-out this trail, the KATY trail and others. The Rock Island Trail Project will add to Missouri as a destination state for trail use!

this would increase recreational opportunities in Mo. and bring in more tourism, especially non-motorized traffic. multi-use trails are very popular for hikers, bikers and equestrian use in these areas that are scenic.

Missouri has many scenic trails already in place that are utilized. this would be an extension of existing beautiful trails with good footing.

there may an added benefit to the small "trail towns" that host guests with both bed-n-breakfast establishments and eateries along the path. this would increase jobs for some businesses, especially small business. this increases revenue for all.

The Katy Trail has provided many Missouri bicyclists with a safe place to ride and enjoy the outdoors. Expanding Missouri's trail system through development of the Rock Island Trail is another step toward providing healthy recreational opportunities for more of Missouri's citizens.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. We need this trail for Missouri.

I am an avid Missouri trail user be it hiking or horseback and am in full support of providing more trail miles for the citizens of our state. There is nothing more important than encouraging people to opt outside and see the beautiful world we live in rather than spending their days cooped up indoors. I think converting unused railway into trail is a perfect use for the land and that it will be a benefit to many people in this state. I specifically would appreciate seeing more horse friendly trails, but realize the upkeep of these facilities is much more than a bike trail. No matter the trail use I think the Rock Island Trail project would be a great even fit to the state.

Need to make the trail a non motorized multi-use trail, open to equestrains,hikers and bikers.

Would make a good tourist destination and revitalize towns along the trail. Also would keep the historic aspect of the area's along the trail.

This seems like a reasonable project that fits Missouri and it's people. The cost and benefits seem well aligned.

This trail would provide opportunity for family outings, exercise and commerce. My family supports the trail!

Please develop this new trail. The Katy trail is great but sometimes it is to popular . Having just the Katy trail is like having only one state park. Population increases and a second trail is needed.

I would be very much in favor in converting the RR to a recreation trail provided it is for non-motorized traffic (hikers, bikers and equestrians) with exceptions for certain handicap (motorized wheel chairs or slow speed ATV type) units. This will add to our "Trail State" in a very positive way as seen in other similar cases where the trail conversion has added economic value/development and should help to preserve historic towns.

I think that the trail will be of great use and I am glad it will be close enough to us to be able to utilize it. The continuous trail connection to the Katy trail will even give more options to many people. I am an equestrian so I am hoping that the Rock Island trail will be equestrian friendly. By having a multi use trail more people in our state can enjoy the efforts everyone has put forth to make this trail system possible.

I think this is Great! I would drive from California to ride this.

I support the Rock Island Trail Project for its positive economic and tourism impact.

Perhaps I am being selfish in NOT supporting this development. My family has owned property beside the Rock Island and the Osage River for over 60 years. Although the area is remote our fishing cabin has no glass windows. They have been broken by intruders who choose to disregard No Trespassing, No Hunting and Private Property signs. In fact they are used for target practice. Padlocks on out buildings have been broken on more than one occasion. So, am I happy at the prospect of having strangers within 50 feet of our cabin. I think not. Our site offers one of the few spots along the Osage where one might fish and thus the river bank becomes an attractive nuisance. Is the property owner liable for a hiker's injury? This is something that I am sure every property owner along the Rock Island is asking themselves. I do have a liability policy, but how much do I really need. The coverage isn't inexpensive and I don't think the DNR is going to pay any property owners premium. No, I am not in favor of the recreational trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I think the rock island trail would be a great addition to our state trails. Like the Katy it will be an incredible source of tourism and boost the economy in cities and towns is passed through! Develop this recreational trail!

This is a great idea. Missouri already has one of the greatest trail systems in the country. This will be used by our residents as well as be a great draw for increased tourism to the state. Thanks.

Please add this trail to Missouri's arsenal of outdoor activities, tourist attractions and local amenities! I am a native Missourian who moved to Colorado in my twenties, seeking a more outdoor-oriented lifestyle. I am now planning to move back to my home state and it saddens me that such a beautiful place as Missouri lacks the outdoor infrastructure that Colorado boasts of. Encouraging outdoor activity on trail networks boosts public health, local businesses, and state reputation; and there is no such thing as too many trails! Thank you for considering my comments.

I kindly request that the Governor accept the land to be given to the state as part of the settlement with Ameren and utilize that land for the purposes of creating the Rock Island Trail Project. This project will provide valuable tourism to the state increasing opportunities for small and local businesses, especially in smaller communities desperately in need of revitalization.

As an avid Horse trail rider of course I feel the more trails we have available will not only benefit those of us living in Mo. but also continue to bring in out of state riders who add vast amounts of money to this state. Every time we or someone from out of state travel to use those trails available it brings in money spent on gas, food, lodging as well as other goods needed and shopped for while here.

For example: Southern Illinois used to be a booming business for trail riding while supporting many private camp grounds

for riders and their horses but with that states conservationist shutting off trails it is quickly dying out. It has greatly hurt the income potential for not only the camps but for many surrounding venues.

When we retired we had always said it would be either So. Illinois or Missouri. Due to them shutting trails down we chose Missouri and that is where our money is being spent.

I meet many people that used to go to So. Illinois that are now coming to Missouri to ride instead and believe me they spend a lot of money in this state while here. If the trails stop being supported in this state the horse people will travel and spend their money in a state where it is and all the people talking of retiring here to ride will follow.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This is a fantastic idea to bring in a continued diversity of tourism and outdoor programs for youth and adults. Having 143 miles of uninterrupted trail would be considered top class trail for many avid bikers/hikers/equestrians would enjoy.

This is a wonderful idea. Much needed for children and Adults. A good use of conservancy and DNR funds. Rail to trails are excellent we have use them in Ohio, Wisconsin and Illinois, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and others. All were well used and valuable.

If a trail was there I would more likely to visit your state

Do it. Missouri have the chance to become the major rail to trail bicycling destination in the nation. Tourism \$\$\$ are good \$\$\$. This is a golden opportunity.

Please accept the Rock Island trail project as part of our extensive and amazing trail network which we ride with our students.

Please allow the Rock Island Trail to be built. It will be a great compliment to the KATY Trail, and I think it could be very beneficial to the residents and businesses of the small towns it passes through.

The state needs to accept the 244 miles of rail from ameren. It will help bolster the economy and bring jobs and tax revenue to the state. Making this a win win for people in this area.

Accepting the rock island trail will be the next step to making Missouri the go to rail to trail state for visitors. Tbie cycling tourism movement is growing swiftly and attract millions of people. we are higher incckne anx spend lots of money visiting your state. Please consider adding the rock island to the already beloved katy. We're ready and waiting!

Thanks, [REDACTED]

The RIT would be a tremendous asset to Missouri. What's a Scenic ride in numerous tunnels in being exciting right to do and totally complements existing Katy Trail. Seems to have the support of many if not all of the small communities along the way. It seems to me it's a total win-win.

This looks like a great opportunity to add more recreational trails in Missouri. Working with volunteer organisations like

Back Country Horseman the maintenance and operation of this trail should not impose a significant financial burden and will promote tourism in the State.

Please support the Rock Island Trail Project. Cyclists, walker and hikers need this outdoor space.

I think developing the Rock Island corridor into a trail is great - and look forward to the day when I can ride on that trail. The rails to trails program has provided my wife and I much enjoyment and exercise in a safe environment. We often take our grandchildren on rides on the Katy trail. Please include the Rock Island project in the rails-to-trails.

I support the Rock Island Trail Project.

We need this trail for people who want to get out and take advantage of the great outdoors. What a wonderful way to spend an evening with the family biking, walking, or exploring new towns that you may never have known existed! My family, neighbors, and friends want this to happen for many communities. For the benefit and health, and FUN of all Missourians to enjoy and a great way to repurpose our railways. Thank you for your time.

I would like to voice my support for the Rock Island Trail. My wife and I have spent many weeks and weekends traveling from southeast MO to ride on the Katy and have enjoyed it immensely and I know the trails are a great tourist draw. We just spent 8 days in Pennsylvania riding on the The Great Alleghany Trail. We met people from all the place including two from Michigan that that have ridden the Katy Trail. It is also a great way to see some of the small towns of Missouri. In closing, I am 64 years old and I sure would like to see this done before I get to old to enjoy it.
Thanks for consideration.

It has been a dream of mine for years to take our family vacations at home in Missouri via bicycle. Only the Rock Island and Katy trail are capable of fulfilling this dream! Hooking the Rock Island up to the Katy will make Missouri a worldwide destination for rail-to-trail hikers and bikers, and will be a massive economic boon to our state.

I'm an active person and I love being outdoors! I also love to travel. One of the things I look for when traveling is a place that I can be active. I am a recreational cyclist and have made weekend trips to points along the Katy Trail so that I can take advantage of the trail.

It would be amazing if the Rock Island Project were seen through. To have such access in my backyard would be fabulous. I know that I am not alone in my desire to be where I can be active. This trail would surely increase tourism at the same time as providing an incredible amenity for the locals!

I hope you accept the donation of the rock island rail line for trail use. The benefits this trail would provide for the state, the communities the trail will pass through and the people that use the trail will be enormous and hard to pass up.

Missouri needs more trails to enjoy. This will bring people to our state as well as get our residents into healthy behaviors.

What a great idea! This trail would be a wonderful addition to our state parks/trails system. I'd use it, and I'm sure thousands of others would, too. It would be a huge benefit to the local economies as well as a benefit to recreational hikers and cyclists.

As is the Katy trail, the rock island trail and the expansion thereof will allow families to get out and enjoy nature in a health promoting, rural community supporting way. People who otherwise would not visit the quaint rural communities have the opportunity to experience them, and the communities benefit from such visitors. I support the proposed completion of the rock island trail.

I'm looking forward to staying in shape while supporting economic growth in towns along the trail.

We so need and want this, it will bring a much needed economic boost to the areas. Please let's do this.

We need these trails. They bring so much to the quality of life of Missourians.

It would be great - but only if horses are also allowed. We have few good trails that are more than a few miles for equine trail riding and the Katy trail is limited. To go along with this, there needs to be a few more trail heads or places where the trucks and trailers can park close to the trail.

I think the Trail Use Agreement would be a good thing, providing a safer environment for bicycle riders and those on foot. As we see more vehicular traffic on our roadways, it is becoming ever more dangerous for bicycle riders, walkers and runners.

As a rural community economic developer, I work with many small towns across the state, some along this corridor, to look at ways to stimulate economic growth. The tourism and small business opportunities from the trails are significant and I strongly support this effort. The completion of the Rick Island Trail will provide numerous opportunities for the small towns.

I know the word "vision" can be defined differently by everyone, and saying the Rock Island Trail requires vision to appreciate is a stretch. Let me share something instead. In the early 1970s I attended MU Columbia. One of our favorite pastimes (excuses to skip class) involved driving around the countryside. I remember finding some neat little towns as well as some that were clearly dead or dying. One of the latter was Rocheport. A mile or more off I-70, it was a classic case of a once thriving little town that now had no reason to exist. Flash forward to today, and Rocheport is home to a number of businesses and is thriving. The reason? The biggest is the Katy Trail.

Similar stories are visible elsewhere where small crossroads get new financial blood and larger towns add a new "industry." Significantly, the story is already being repeated along 47 miles of the Rock Island Trail between Pleasant Hill and Windsor.

Missouri has a dramatic opportunity because of the success of the Katy and the chance to create a massive, state-crossing loop with the Rock Island--the largest in the country. The combination won't be a new Grand Canyon or Napa Valley, but it will be a significant and unique national, even international attraction. I love riding, walking and running on these peaceful and beautiful corridors, but I am always amazed, too, at the numbers and variety of people who also use them--and bring their business. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity Missouri should not miss.

I believe this would be a great addition to our recreational system. Horse people are people of all ages and love the outdoors. This gives us some freedom to ride and explore our great state of Missouri.

Governor Greitens,

I respectfully request that you accept the gift of land and enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement with the Missouri Central Railroad. As you know, the base of Missouri's economy is changing, and we should make tourism in our beautiful state a cornerstone of the future economy.

Converting old rail lines to multiuser trails is a great economic aid for local small communities, encourages increased physical activity for state citizens, and increases Missouri's standing as a tourist destination.

I have lived along this abandoned railroad tract for over 25 years. Overgrown, empty unsafe shelters, and unusable miles of trail could become the total opposite. The trail would bring visitors through our town which has suffered a loss of population and jobs in recent decades. It would also provide local access to a walking and biking trail giving lots of opportunity to get up and get out for exercise. The success of the Katy Trail serves as an example that could readily be replicated. I have noticed folks along the proposed trail beginning some entrepreneurial projects in hopes of meeting the needs or wants of trail users to serve as the catalyst for their business ventures. Lots of opportunities for service projects for those needing that type of opportunity as well. There are plenty of folks out there wanting or needing to give back to society for one reason or the other...seems like a perfect solution to a lot of needs.

I am a Missouri resident (Chesterfield MO) and a frequent user of the Katy Trail. I fully support the development of the Rock Island Trail extension and development of the new "southern" corridor . A state rarely haves such an opportunity and we need to take full advantage.

It will be a great addition for the state and we should do it! I enjoy the Katy trail and think more trails will add to the states ability to attract tourist. I would definitely frequent it and add to the Missouri economy along the trail with purchases at stores and restaurants and maybe b&bs.

We need more places to ride our bikes. I live in the Branson area & we would definitely visit the Rock Island Trail. We do not have access to this kind of trail in our area.

Just do it! Will boost MO as a cycling destination

This trail would enhance the quality of life opportunities smaller, rural communities are looking to have. Recreational opportunities for healthy living attract doctors and business professionals that help to stimulate the local economy of small towns.

The trail would enable a nice loop in conjunction with the KATY and bring more visitors to Missouri for a longer period of time.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. What a wonderful gift to the citizens of Missouri who want to discover the beauty of our state while improving their own physical well-being. I can't think of a better use of a portion of my tax money than maintenance of this trail that has no purchase price.

Rail lines were once the life blood of commerce; many now rest unused. The Rock Island Trail proposal will put those lines to good use. The Katy Trail is already the longest stretch of repurposed rail line affording hikers and bikers a comprehensive overview of the State's beauty, history, and its complex resources. Passing by rivers, streams, bluffs, and farm land, riders are closer to an understanding of all that Missouri offers. More important, the repurposed trail is another support for the recreational-tourism industry in the State. Equally important is the economic boon the trail will provide to towns that lost rail traffic. A close look at the revived depots in Boonville, Sedalia, Pleasant Hill and so many more across the state show what the Katy did for those communities and what the Rock Island can do for others. In conclusion, green-energy recreation is on the rise. In 2013, 16.2 million bicycles of all wheel sizes were added to the number already in use. The number of hikers and recreational walkers is also increasing. MO should take advantage of this trend and add the Rock Island to the Katy, bringing biking and hiking trail options to the international forefront as the loop will be one of the longest in the world as well as the nation.

This trail is a sound investment in small communities across Missouri. Communities that typically struggle, in part due to lack of retail business. Please move forward to expand this trail and make Missouri a cyclist destination!

I think that this is a fantastic idea. I would love to be able to access this trail. I live in Washington, Mo and have access to the Katy Trail. I see what it has done for several of the small communities that I drive through daily on my commute to work in St. Louis along Hwy 94. having spent a lot of time in the Beaufort area as a child I see how this could greatly help it as well as the other communities along the way. I hope that Missouri takes advantage of this.

This is a no-brainer, turning outdated infrastructure into a tourism draw.

Please support the expansion of the rock island trail. This expansion will be a great thing for small business down the line. Thank you for your consideration!

Please complete the Rock Island Trail project

Missouri is so far behind in so many things, why not bring something great to Missouri like the fabulous addition of Rock Island Trail Project. Every time I am on the Katy Trail, I meet many visitors from all over the world. I am always pleasantly surprised by the foreign travelers on the Katy Trail. I meet many more people from other states than I do from Missouri. It is obviously bringing income to the state. Also, the biggest complaint about the new spur from Windsor to Pleasant Hill is that there are not overnight accommodations and very few restaurants; driving future growth to those towns.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

As a regular user of the KATY Trail, I would support the conversion of the proposed section of the Rock Island Railroad corridor. I haven't yet ridden the existing section of trail on the RI rail bed but I can see that it greatly increases the utility of the KATY Trail by providing greater rider access to the Kansas City metro area. The proposed section opens up a multitude of route loop options using the KATY Trail and existing rural roads.

Some considerations:

Connectivity with the KATY Trail at the east end would be greatly improved if there were a bike lane on the bridge across the Missouri River at Washington. The current bridge there is not bike friendly.

Having a paved (asphalt) section of the trail (50 mi?) would provide options for road bikes that are not well suited to the crushed limestone surface.

I think this would be a wonderful addition. Cycling is a popular sport that attracts many people. It is a great form of exercise and recreation. I think if this happened to me presents itself we should definitely Build more bike trails in the state.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

Equestrian trail and hiking and biking trails attract visitors from multiple crates and local counties. A linear park would provide opportunity for recreation and business. Win win!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

I strongly support this.

We are very much in favor of this project going forward Any thing that promotes families getting out side together and seeing Missouri thru a different lense.

This would be a good asset for the State and compliment the Katy Trail.

Thank you for reviewing this comment.

We strongly support the proposed Rock Island Trail.

We have ridden the KATY Trail since its beginning. Last year we crossed the State 10 times. Over the years we have crossed the State at least 30 times.

We own farms west of Jefferson City and south of Bland.

From a farmer's point of view, we endorse the proposed trail.

We have watched towns like Defiance, Augusta, Green Ridge, Pilot Grove, Windsor, Mokane, New Franklin, Roche Port, Rhineland, etc. regain their vigor as a result of the KATY Trail.

We have met riders from around the world crossing our Great State.

Economically, the KATY Trail has been a blessing for many rural communities, and larger ones, like St. Charles, Clinton, Sedalia and Boonville. Let these blessings also benefit Leslie, Gerald, Owensville, Bland, Belle, and others.

Personally, it has been a terrific recreational resource.

Nationally, it has been a tremendous draw and a signature vacation.

There are many recreational choices from which people may choose. People flock to Colorado for the mountains. But, even Colorado does not have a cross-State venue like the KATY Trial.

When the Rock Island Trail and the KATY Trail are connected, you will be able to ride from St. Charles to KC and back on different tracks (and help build our economy).

There will be only one place on earth to do this (and to spend your money). That will be our Missouri.

As a farmer, business owner and rider, I can only hope that the opportunity to develop the Rock Island Trail is not passed by.

The Rock Island/KATY Trail system, as the world's best Bike Riding Venue, is too important an asset to turn away.

Besides, it is a hell of a lot of fun!

This would be an important addition to revenue-producing recreational opportunities in Missouri. It should be open for nonmotorized use: hikers bikers and equestrians.

Absolutely this must be done. Missouri's Trail system brings jobs and money to Missouri besides adding to the health and happiness of Missouri's citizens.

I just completed riding both the Rock Island and Katy Trails (approx 300 miles). I stayed at the B&Bs along the way and ate at the restaurants along the trail. Total spent was \$932.08 to the Missouri coffers. I usually ride the Illinois trails near my home, but once or twice a year I go out of state. If the Rock Island is completed, it would be hard for me to consider riding anywhere else but the "big loop" in Missouri. I estimate I would spend \$2,000 each year. While on the trail this year, I met people from Austria and the UK who were visiting Missouri specifically to ride the Katy.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This would be great! A few of us from KC have been making more rides out on the trail and exploring areas we didn't know existed. Love having this so close to town!

It's a great idea.

Sounds really cool! I'd definitely use it.

Yes, please open this path up to horseback riders. I belong to Back Country Horseman of Missouri, and I know it's important to the members with trailers to maintain and expand trails. I know you have many decisions and priorities to make, but many of us horseback riders feel like land is getting

gobbled up by developers and we look for protected, designated trails wherever possible.

I would love to see this trail come through Gerald Mo. I think it would make a big impact on our little town.

The Rock Island Trail is an important addition to Missouri's trail network. The alignment on high ground gives a very different view of Missouri than the riverside KATY Trail. It is close to the tourist draw of the Lake of the Ozarks area and includes spectacular crossings of the Osage and Gasconade Rivers. It connects more towns into the Missouri trail network. It offers opportunity for a circular ride (or nearly circular plus some on-roadway travel) so that a long trip could be planned to end and begin at a single location.

As a long time cyclist in Kansas City area, I just want to voice my support for this new trail. It gives Missouri a chance to have the best trail system in the country and a real reason for locals and tourists to visit our small towns. Let's get this done!

Yes! This is an unique opportunity for Missouri. The trail offers benefits for the towns it passes through, as well as benefitting all Missourians who wish a safe place to exercise, get outside, and discover our state's hidden gems. This trail will receive national attention and reflect positively on our state. Chances like this are rare. Too good to pass up. Yes! See you on the trail.

Please consider this Rock Island Trail, as this is needed to connect to the Katy Trail, attracting cyclists worldwide to this great Missouri wonder

Riding is my passion! I would like to see more trails for horse,backing.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! It will be a wonderful addition to the State of Missouri's natural and recreational resources that will be utilized by our citizens and guests from out of state for years to come!! Thank you!

Please support our Rock Island trail project!! It is greatly needed for every one!!

Please make this happen and accept the Rock Island trail! It would greatly complement The Katy Trail.

This sounds like a great way to increase tourism in our beautiful trail state. I would hope that the trails would be limited to hikers, bikers, and equestrians.

I try to bike at least 3 times a week but its dangerous to do on regular streets. If we could work together to build more bike trails, it would benefit people to continue to work towards a healthy lifestyle, provide a safe venue to do it in, and encourage children and adults to get outdoors! Please work with MissouriCentral Railroad to develop more trails!

All you need to do is look at the tourism impact of the Katy to see the Rock Island Trail is a good thing for Missouri. Please do not be short sighted and pass up this opportunity to make

Missouri an even better tourist attraction. I look forward to riding the Rock Island.

Yes! I am really hoping that DNR enters the Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail project continues.

We are avid users of the Katy Trail here in the Jefferson city area and have met many people from all over the world. It's a wonderful place for families to enjoy nature and get some exercise.

It would be wise to preserve the old Rock Island rail bed in this way. Then if it's ever needed in the future for big-time transportation it would be easy to switch it back to a railroad. My husband and I own 6/10 of a mile along the Rock Island just outside of Owensville . In fact, we have a farm right across the railroad tracks from the public schools there.

We would be happy to see it made into a biking/hiking trail. It would be a safe place for the children to get to school without crossing the highway.

We have not participated in any litigation against the use of our land for this trail.

Please put me down as being in favor of this project.

The Department of Natural Resources should ACCEPT the property donation and enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement. This 144 linear piece of real estate that ties to the KATY trail and passes through the heart of scenic Missouri should be preserved- this parcel would be such a valuable addition to the Missouri State Park system.

Its value cannot be estimated because it could not be put together again if passed up. If the Interim Trail Use Agreement is not put in place, the property will revert to the adjacent property owners and will be gone forever.

It is a rare opportunity that should be preserved despite state budget issues.

Please, Please, PLEASE! Accept the Rock Island Trail!

I am a HUGE fan of the KATY Trail, have bicycled the entire trail many times, and completely understand how many people will come and visit our lovely state to ride a new trail, based on the incredible number of people I have met from other states when I have been on the KATY trail. Additionally, many many people who live here will benefit from it like I do with the KATY currently.

The Rock Island Trail project should be supported by all in Missouri who care about making our future better. These trails support recreation for many type of users including cyclists, hikers, runners and even bird watchers. Most importantly these trails provide economic benefits to nearby towns.

Having ridden on bike trails in many other states, even I was surprised on how owners of small businesses in small towns were physically expanding their businesses as revenues increased beyond expectations. Business owners in Missouri deserve this brighter future too.

Along with the Katy trail, the Rock Island will attract many people from other states given the length of the combined routes. Together with Amtrak's bike services, this should be an economic boon for our state from St. Louis to Kansas City and the cities of Columbia and Jefferson in the center of the state. Smaller towns along the routes will see new opportunities in providing B & Bs, restaurants, bike services and touring support.

Please do not hesitate to accept this opportunity to improve our state for generations to come.

I believe this would be a hugely beneficial project. Supporting health and fitness as well as nature is an important aspect in a growing area.

I personally would like to see this happen. I feel it will benefit the community, the small towns, as well as the residents of the community and those passing by.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This would make a great trail for Horseback riders, Bikes & Hikers. This would give a place for many people to go that live along this trail. This would be a safe place for people to ride & hike. We could never have to many trails for us to use. Volunteer groups could help maintain the trail.

Please accept the Rock-Island Trail. I just finished shuttling my brother around on this trail. He went from Pleasant Hill to Chilhowee the first day, Chilhowee to Windsor the second and will go from Clinton to St. Charles the next few days on the Katy Trail. He said the Rock-Island is beautiful and the small towns are gearing up for the increased business possibilities.

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. These trail agreements are crucial.

I think it would be an important project that would benefit the state of Missouri. Especially if the trail will include horse riding trails. One of the reasons I moved to Missouri was to take advantage of all the horse trails and private horse camping sites.

Let's do it!!! The Katy Trail is an awesome addition to our state - people from all over the country and all over the world come to Missouri to ride it, to enjoy and experience Missouri and to spend their money here. Our state needs to be progressive and a leading advocate for Rails to Trails conversion and everything it means to our state and its citizens. My 86 year old mother walked the 1st 40 miles in 1999-2001 and my 11 year old great nephew just rode 92 miles last weekend. My husband and I have biked the entire trail and I bike at least 6-8 times a year on it. This will be another addition to the trail system of Missouri! Let's do it again and again!!!!

I am a Kansas resident. Kansas has finally wised up and starting to develop some rails to trails. Too late for some great missed opportunities. The trails bring people and money to the areas. About \$100 is approximately how much I have spent on each Katy Trail trip.

It would be a huge mistake not to jump onto the opportunity for the Rock Island trail. It's economic and recreational benefits will draw visitors to Missouri. This should be supported by everyone.

My extended family, friends and colleagues STRONGLY support the inclusion of this additional section of former rail line into the Katy Trail Bicycle system. Recently, while bicycling a section of the Rock Island spur with our young children, we encountered two large group of cyclists from Ohio and Colorado. Everyone agrees the Katy Trail is the BEST THING in Missouri!

This seems to be a no brainer! This adds great value to our state, both from the direct gift of the rail line and the value of the finished trail to the residents of Missouri and the visitors from around the country and the world as they bring economic impact to the state and the communities along the trail and ancillary communities supporting the travel to and from the area. Not to mention the intangible value of experiences for those that visit in the many decades to come!

I am a huge fan of the Katy Trail and have ridden it end-to-end five times. Each time I have met many people from out of state and even people from foreign countries. The Katy is a terrific tourism draw and is widely used by Missouri residents who live nearby the trail. The addition of the Rock Island corridor would be a spectacular addition to our already famous trail. This addition will give us the best trail in the entire country.

I am lucky enough to live close to the Katy and have been on it frequently over the last ten years. I have to give a hearty thanks to the great staff at DNR. The MO Parks people do a terrific job of keeping the trail in wonderful shape, even after severe weather events and floods. In addition, the bathrooms are always clean and well stocked. They are the reason why we have the best trail around.

This trail expansion would be good for MO. It would allow increased recreational trails for hiking, nonmotorized biking, and equestrians--all of which are excellent for health. It would add positive economic impact to the towns along the trail.

I am an avid trail rider and love interaction with people in all the little towns along the existing trail system. Please consider entering into this agreement. I personally think this benefits many types of recreation from biking, to hiking and equestrian us.

Trails are a great way to keep people safe while increasing health, tourism, and general interest in our state. Please make the new trail a reality for Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!!

I support the Rock Island Trail. I have ridden the new section several times and it is one of my favorite pastimes. I met several great people and look forward to meeting many more. It brings people together from all different areas and cycling is great exercise. Please keep the trail going, thank you!

It's a gift, take it.

As late career professionals who have recently discovered bike touring on rail trails, my wife and I want to add our

encouragement that the Rock Island trail extension be developed as expediently as possible. My wife and I are in the final stages of a year long planning effort to tour the Katy and Rock Island trails over a three week span this August. We are staying in everything from campgrounds to hotels as we travel along the trails and back again plus are planning on frequenting the local places of business for all of our traveling needs. The extension of the Rock Island trail will only serve to draw more people, like my wife and I, to Missouri to enjoy the environment which will surely encourage more growth in the local economy.

I think creating another rails-to-trail on the Rock Island corridor is a great idea and great opportunity for the Department of Natural Resources. I'm a avid user of the Katy Trail and would love to have the opportunity to ride a new trail on the Rock Island Railroad corridor. Please continue with this endeavor to create the Rock Island Trail Project.

We appreciate more multi-use trails in Missouri. Equestrian activities can, and do, contribute to the economy of the areas in which they are allowed. Horse and Mule riders work with the governing bodies of the trails for maintenance and upkeep of said trails. Please include us, as we are taxpayers also, in the plans for the Rock Island Trail.

Trails are used by many for healthy exercise. People and businesses along the trail will benefit. There is no down side: let's develop this trail!

Please support the Rock Island Trail. It would pave a way for travelers the world over to experience the rich culture of Missouri's history. Also, it would provide enduring historical value for generations to come. I'm not sure if any other state as done anything quite like it.

I have used the Katy Trail and other rails to trails biking trails in Missouri and outside of the state. They are a beneficial use of old railway beds: they bring a lot of tourist dollars to small towns on the trails, they encourage healthy lifestyles, and provide an opportunity for people to see the beauty of the state. I encourage the agency and the state administration (Governor's Office) to support the use of this railroad line for a bicycle trail. Thank you

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

I am a triathlete who has lived at the lake for 8 years. I have only two places I bike and cars still go by at 60 miles plus even on rural roads with very little regard to sharing the road! I never feel completely safe. I will be attending a funeral for my friend this week who is an avid cyclist who died tragically this week from a bicycle crash on "residential" roads at the lake from loose gravel. We have no safe places to bike. Please support the trail!!!!

Missouri was voted the "Trail State" in 2010. Increasing recreational opportunities will bring an increase in Missouri tourism and revenue. The expansion should be a non-motorized, multi-use trail, open to cyclists, hikers, and equestrians and would increase job growth in Trail Towns. This revitalization has happened in towns along the existing

47 miles. The addition of this trail system will provide a significant tourist destination. Economic development would improve quality of life in Rock Island Trail towns, many of which are former rail towns with historic value.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Ride the Katy Trail some time. It's rich with wild life & rural pacing.

It's the cheapest & safest mental health therapy available anywhere.

Two such Trails would not only provide Missouri with more choices

for recreational walking and cycling but attract more velotourism.

It's the farsighted choice.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. ??

This is a great way to continue to increase the ability for more Missouri residents to benefit from our state's natural resources please don't let this opportunity pass us by, Governor Grietens.

Governor,

The economic benefit to Missouri of a state wide multi-use trail system would be tremendous!!

This type of system would not only be used by those living nearby, but bring money into the state from other states as cyclists come to enjoy the beauty of Missouri.

Please accept the generous donation from Ameren.

Please accept the Rock Island trail. Missouri is a great state for cycling and walking...here's a chance to make it better!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Why not enter into an agreement that will provide healthful recreation for our citizens and promote tourism. Missouri is becoming well known for the bike/hike trails that we already have. It is becoming increasingly dangerous to ride bikes on public roadways with heavier traffic and motorists that do not drive with caution when sharing the road with cyclists. I am 68 years old and have been cycling for nearly 30 years and feel much safer on these trails.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail, this will make a tremendous resource for area residents and bring added tourism to the area.

Please accept the rock island trail for by bicycles and hikers.

The trail system is good for the state and its economy. The Katy Trail has proven to be a true asset and jewel for the entire Midwest. I have utilized it many times all over the state. Biking continues to grow and the rock island will foster additional growth.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. Missourians, now more than ever, need great places that encourage them to get outdoors and exercise. Trails also provide a safe alternative for bicyclists and walkers/joggers away from vehicle traffic.

This is a great opportunity to increase our state's reputation as bike-pedestrian friendly. These activities promote health & well-being, which can lower obesity rates and help to rein in soaring medical costs. These are family-friendly activities that also promote small businesses along the routes, such as restaurants & bike shops, bolstering these economies. Thank you for your consideration of this chance to enhance our state.

I am looking forward to the day that I can ride from Kansas City to the Katy Trail on the Rock Island Trail. The Rock Island Trail will be a long-term investment with so many benefits.

Hi this is [REDACTED] from Springfield, Missouri. I use the Katy Trail and Frisco Highline Trail extensively, both with groups and by myself or with my wife in our tandem.

I am looking forward to the new Rock Island Trail and am asking the state to accept the donation so we can add to our states rails-to-trail system.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail - citizens need this type of trail for their physical and mental health, today more than ever. It offers an opportunity for all ages to get up, away from technology, for exercise and enjoyment of Mother Nature. Recently on a path, I saw a family of two grandparents, two parents, and three children on bicycles, relaxed laughing, and enjoying each other - nothing better!!

Please accept the trail!! It would be great for Missouri

PLEASE ACCEPT. THIS WOULD BE SUCH A GOOD THING FOR OUR STATE.

Please accept the rock island trail as a biking trail in Missouri.

Please protect the trail and allow cyclists to use it! Thank you!

I believe that acquiring the Rock Island line and converting it to a recreational trail would benefit the state greatly. The Katy Trail draws users from all around the country and some foreign countries as well. These users spend money in Missouri. The Rock Island Trail, if built, would enhance the attraction and provide greatly increased recreational possibilities for residents as well.

I am from New York State. A few years ago I did the whole Katy trail and loved it. You build another trail, I will come. I go through the state of Missouri at least four times a year.

Please accept the Rock Island trail. The Katy has been a huge asset to Missouri, this will enhance it. Missouri is already beginning to be recognized around the world for this trail system, please allow us to continue this.

[REDACTED]

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I'm always looking for a new place to ride my horse. I enjoy sharing trails with hikers and bikers. It's fun to talk with them along the trail. And most folks have been very careful and respectful of all people and animals. It's also fun to visit towns, stores, restaurants, and gas stops along the trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It is a Quality of Life thing for us in Missouri. I have many friends that visit and love the KATY Trail. Let's keep it going. Once completed this will be enjoyed for generations !!!

Please complete, accept and promote the trail.

Yes! Why would we not accept this -- all surveys show that this type of recreational trail brings tourism into the state as well as businesses whose employees value a variety of recreational pursuits.

Personally, I live in Kansas but work and pay taxes in Missouri. I definitely would spend money in Missouri going to this trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It would bring all of the benefits of the Katy Trail to even more communities in our state.

Please accept the trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Support for the Rock Island Trail Project can and will be an economic boon for Missouri. The Katy Trail is listed as one of the best state parks in the nation, let's continue this great press for our state and develop the RI Rail corridor.

As a Kansas-side resident of the metropolitan Kansas City area, I come to Missouri often to ride on the beautiful Katy Trail. Those trips include multiple overnight trips, where I spend hundreds of dollars on motels, gas, food and other services and merchandise.

As I move toward retirement, my intention is to spend even more of both my time and money on cycling on trails like the Katy.

I am excited about the development of the Rock Island Trail. I believe it will provide even more economic development in small rural towns in the state of Missouri.

I firmly believe that the addition of the Rock Island is a wise investment and would make the state of Missouri one of the top destinations for cyclists in the US. The potential economic impact is massive.

I am hopeful that the Governor and other state officials make the wise choice and move forward with the trail. It simply makes incredible long term sense.

How can one not accept this great donation for a good cause. DO IT!

Please accept this proposal. It's a greatly benefits Missouri.

The Rock Island trail will be a great way to connect people and cycling. It will also connect towns and small business to more visablity and profits. This trial system will get people out on their bikes and exercising in a safe beautiful setting. Save the trail and continue improvements.

Please accept the rock island trail

Please approve this!! I believe this will have a positive economic impact on the small towns along the trail !!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Let make be know more we have Katy Trail and wow we add Rock Island trail.

People more love come MO. and small will all Money come from Mom and pop places best.

I love Katy Trail lot work get it so lets work hard and get these trail done.

I love touring on Katy trail eat and stay in small town let grow get trail going good.

More Jobs in small towns with them to a lot .

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Why would you pass up this offer? It would result in good benefit to Missouri citizens and bring more money to the State with folks using the trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the rock island trail

We plan our vacations around bicycling and I have come across many other riders that do the same. I rode up on some fellow trike riders and starting talking with them, I didn't recognize them. They were traveling from the north to the south and went a bit out of their way to stop in Saint Joseph because they hear about our amazing trail system. We, and people like us, seek out rail to trails all over this great country to visit. We love seeing the small towns along the way, staying at their BnBs, hotels and campgrounds and we look for local eating establishments and visiting the small towns and shops. Many states are using Trails to enhance their tourism. Fitness is on the rise, bicycling is on the rise and states cashing in on this are on the rise. Please support the Rock Island Trail Project.

I am looking forward to riding on this Trail please accept it. No reason not to. It adds to missourians enjoyment and is a boon for tourism.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept this gift. Generations of Missorians will thank you for it.

I think this agreement should be passed! It is of high importance to me for the Rock Island bike trail to be completed!

To continue moving the State of Missouri forward by opening and increasing Tourism this is a required acquisition step that MUST be completed. We the voters sent Governor Grietens to Office as we have the confidence he will continue moving Missouri forward. Governor Grietens I ask you please survey the entire process both for now and moving forward and let's get this much anticipated trail in Missouri.

Please accept the rock island trail

I very strongly support the Rock Island bicycle trail. It will bring so much economic and tourist gain to the state of Missouri, and I know that our family will be very excited to ride and explore this new trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This would be great for Missouri and Missourians.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Accept the proposal

Please complete the Rock island Trail!

I am multiple year user of the KATY trail, during the annual DNR ride on the trail, I highly encourage the Missouri DNR to enter into this agreement and for the Governor of Missouri to support this action.

It would be great to see a multi-day (7 days?) using both the KATY trail and the Rock Island corridor. Also it would be great to have 2 options for riding between Kansas City and St. Louis too!

The economic benefits of this would be enormous!

Spokane Valley WA

This trail would be an important addition to Missouri for all citizens, not just cyclists and walkers. We must proceed with the development of the Rock Island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Bike Stop Cafe! A local wife and husband owned business just opened their 3rd location in Chesterfield. Without the KATY trail, they would not be in St. Charles and Chesterfield. Ride or run or walk the 18 miles between their locations. Use their shuttle service to ride the entire KATY trail. Support local. Encourage the outdoors. Support TRAIL DEVELOPMENT in Missouri to grow our great state!

Please accept the trail. Missouri can lead the country with this wonderful public resource. How better to help struggling small rural towns and bring tourists to enjoy our beautiful state.

The KATY trail is a boon for state recreation use. I believe this new trail will enhance cycling in MO.

Governor, please accept the Rock Island Trail. Thank you for your consideration.

I would love to see this trail develop to increase tourism and support fun, healthy, active outdoor lifestyles. For similar reasons, I would also love to see Missouri bring back the Tour of Missouri bike race. I know its not directly the feedback you are looking for but thought someone reading this may feel inspired to make that happen.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It would be amazing!

The gift of the Rock Island Trail be such a boost to local economies. I remember the fight when the KATY trail was proposed but I think that park has had nothing but positive benefits for the communities along the trail. The Rock Island Trail has the potential for the same. This could be another gem in Missouri's crown of state parks.

Rail to trails is such a wonderful asset to Missouri...Note we are high on the obesity stats & prevention is so much cheaper than ER visits & chronic illness...Please allow this agreement to happen...Note it helps Missouri economics too...It is a win win

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. The Katy trail is proof that trails add to the economy in the smallest towns that need it most.

Yes, please do. Very much looking forward to this addition to the State Park system. If approved it will run right through my town, Versailles. I think this will be a wonderful thing and has a chance of boosting the local economy, as well as giving cyclists a safe place to ride just about any distance they desire. This railroad bed is just lying there fallow... the train is never coming back, let's put this resource to good use. Please

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

Please accept this trail donation and expand Missouri's state parks.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

It is crucial to missouri tourism to add the Rock Island trail to the Missouri Parks System. Bicycle riders come from all over the US and Canada to ride on this, the longest Rails to Trails park in the United States. When they come bike riders stimulate the economy in small towns in the state which keeps them viable. In addition, bicycling helps to keep the local citizens healthy and engaged in the outdoors. Please add this treasure to the crown jewel of missouri parks to maintain our dominance in this field. Link Kansas City to Saint Louis today to provide bikers with a safe place to ride across the state and bring more tourists to our great state!

Dear Governor Greitens: Please accept the Rock Island Trail project! The Katy Trail already brings loads of tourist dollars from out of state. I have relatives riding the Katy Trail before the eclipse this year! the Rock Island Trail would add more tourist dollars and make Missouri even more enviable as a

destination point for visitors. It would help the small towns along the trail, just as the Katy Trail does. Thanks!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

What an amazing gift to the citizens of Missouri! Please accept the Rock Island land for trail usage.

Please accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail project corridor.

Please accept the rock island trail! This is so important for our community! We have a plan in place for economic growth, and the trail is vital.

I think it's great. Anything to keep MO active by investing in a new trail system.

Please accept the gift

We want

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!!!!

I am 100% in support of this project. It would be great for our state's economy and make Missouri a world class cycling destination.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! We love to bike across our beautiful state!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail donation from Ameren and make its completion a priority! Thank you.

Please support the Rock Island trail project! This will improve the quality of life for Missourians and attract bicycling enthusiasts from all over the country.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Awesome idea. I currently use the MKT and Katy Trail at least twice a week and look forward to opportunity to use the new trail. This will be another option for the citizens of Missouri to promote health and outdoor activities.

The trail would be a huge asset to the state. Bike tourism brings revenue to the towns along the trail as well as to the hubs where people enter the state to use the trail. The Katy trail is a fine example of this. A second long trail in the state would really make Missouri a destination for bike tourist and other who seek an extended trail journey. There is no other place in the US that provides a similar experience.

People have worked very hard to see this project come to fruition. To let this donated land go unfinished would be a terribly sad waste. Missouri already has an incredible reputation for its biking/walking trails and to add to complete the Rock Island Trail would put us, if not at the top, then very close, of the nation for these sorts of outdoor resources.

Please accept the donation of the land for the trail. I have ridden the Katy Trail and look forward to the Rock Island trail.

Absolutely! I can't think of any good reason why this project shouldn't go forward. This is an incredible opportunity, the sort of which doesn't come around often. It would be a shame not to take advantage. I know I personally would use the trail along with my family as I'm sure many many others would as well.

I love the Rock Island. I ride it 2-3 times each week. However, it needs to be extended across the state.

This is a great opportunity to expand our existing trail structure. Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I strongly support entering into the Rock Island Trail agreement. As a regular user of the Katy Trail throughout Missouri I see only advantage and opportunity for Missourians and those wishing to find a reason to travel and enjoy Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This would be a wonderful multi-use trail system in the midwest that would bring many people from out of state to ride. Not to mention the amount of events/races that would be held on the trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project.

This is a great idea and the trails should be open for hiking, biking and equestrians. NO motorized vehicles allowed. I can see where this would continue to draw attention to the tiny towns along this route with possible openings for additional small business. Good for the community and good for the state - win-win!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The more rails to trails the better MO becomes!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please please accept the rock island trail

Please support the Rock Island Trail project

I think it is fabulous if they are able to enter into this agreement. Bike trails are not high maintenance. Myself and my extended family love having healthy alternatives for recreation. My family travels from Northern Illinois to bike Missouri trails. We often meet other people from out of state while on the bike trails. This is equal to lots of tourist dollars.

I love all rails to trails projects as an avid cyclist. These trails offer safe opportunities to riding on the road. Please accept this gift!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Yes get it completed.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It is important for Missouri.

The Rock Island Trail is important, the creation of the loop with the KATY will increase tourism, offer safe recreation and extra sources of economy for the many communities along the trail, and cement Missouri as a preferred travel destination.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Yes, yes ,yes! I am a cyclist and would use it. It would be great for the state.

Please accept the offer for the Rock Island trail.

Much like the Katy Trail, I feel this new trail will be an economic boon to the small communities along its length. Bicyclists purchase goods, stay in hotels/B&Bs, eat at local restaurants, etc. Missouri's trails have proven to draw folks in from around the country and the world. I support any considerations made to accommodate farmers/ranchers along the length as well.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Accept the rock island trail. Good for Missouri.

It would be a great asset to the state of Missouri. Do it!!!!

Tourism and public healthy lifestyles should be a state priority. The new trail is important for Missouri.

Trails are a great resource to the state. Let this come to pass. PLEASE accept the Rock Island Trail.

Doing the project will increase tourism for Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Since I work in a bike shop I know that the biggest majority of casual riders ride on bike paths like the Katy. Opening up new paths gives that opportunity to others in the state,

Please accept this gift of the Rock Island Trail!!

I am eagerly anticipating the day that I will tour Missouri by bike when the Rock Island Trail opens. Without the trail, it is unlikely that I ever will.

This trail would attract the same riders that have already ridden the Katy Trail. Also being a loop with the Katy Trail will bring in a lot more out-of-state dollars along with likely increasing use of the Katy Trail in general.

This would be great for the state. Many people travel to complete riding a trail such as this one. It will attract many to

the trail and open opportunities for the communities along the trail.

Please accept this trail!

We should never pass up an opportunity to add more parks, streams, lakes and trails. This is a no-brainer.

Every state is growing in their number of biking trails and thus providing valuable tourist income to that state. My friends and I plan our vacations around good biking trails. Missouri needs to keep pace or get left in the dust!!!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

I believe that the KATY trail is one of the things that makes Missouri stand out from it's neighbors, and has been a boon for the many towns located on it. I believe that refusing the former Rock Island Railroad would be short sighted and lose a wonderful opportunity to make our state better.

I am an avid cyclist & feel this is a win for Missouri. Biking is a great activity for all. Many citizens have no where to ride, so what better place than the Rock Island Trail. This will allow people of all ages to visit State Parks & get in some activity (walking, biking, etc)

Please vote yes

I am a frequent user of the KATY Trail and have ridden the newly opened Rock island Spur at Windsor, MO. The creation of the Rock Island Trail eventually connecting to the KATY Trail makes economic sense. It will attract visitors from out of state as well as those of from Missouri to use the trails and spend money at local eateries, hotels, gas stations etc.

The spring/summer edition of Rails to Trails has several articles about other states converting rails to trails and the economic impact it will have. New Jersey, Kentucky, Michigan, California, Wisconsin, Texas, Florida, Virginia, Pennsylvania are just a few of the states mentioned.

If the governor is serious about spurring economic development this only makes sense. People of all economic levels as well as rural and city residents will be able to use the trails for recreation...I strongly urge Gov. Greitens to allow funding to continue. I would be more than happy to meet with the Governor to answer any questions he might have

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! The addition to the trail system for walkers, bikers, equestrian,... Linking other trails...!

Missouri's parks and trails are an important part of the state.

Please PLEASE accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

What a great opportunity for the state of Missouri! Bike trails are growing nationally and are a great way to attract tourists and provide safe avenues for people to exercise and enjoy the outdoors. Please take advantage of this opportunity!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

The Rock Island trail would be a wonderful thing for our state. It would bring in much more than it would cost to maintain it and the property is being donated.

There should not be any doubt that this addition to the Missouri trails system would make Missouri one of the top spots in our nation to attract bicycle tourists of all levels. The Rock Island Trail would almost form a perfect loop with the Katy Trail through the central part of the State of Missouri. These types are a dream for the every growing bicycle tourist industry.

Please accept this valuable gift for the future of Missouri and the nation.

The Rock Island Trail would make the current KATY Trail system a worldwide destination for bicycle travelers and bikepackers. The communities along the trail could actually have a tourism season that could bring in money they would never see without it.

Please complete the Rock Island Trail.

The DNR and state parks system is one of Missouri's great points. Unlike many areas where state government has failed and the state ranks near the bottom, Missourians can point to the parks system with pride. Adding a second cross-state trail to Missouri's outdoor recreational facilities would strengthen this position.

As a Missouri native and citizen, I strongly urge Governor Greitens and state parks leaders to accept the Rock Island Trail gift.

PLEASE accept the Rock Island Trail. I just rode the Rock Island Spur and the Katy Trail for the first time this summer. I was amazed at all of the people from all over the country riding on the Katy Trail. The Rock Island Trail would be the same -- would bring more tourists and commerce to Missouri, and that is a good thing! Plus, the health benefits of bicycling are enormous!! Missouri needs to lead the way in the nation!!

We love the trail and use it regularly. We have crossed Missouri twice already on the Katy and use the Rock Island several times a week! Nice to get to other towns and see the countryside.

Please continue with this very worthwhile project. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity which we must embrace for future generations.

Thank-you.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island trail! This complete loop on both sides of the Missouri River will make this state a world bicycling destination!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. These sorts of trails are of great value to the public, and we love to use them.

Please approve the Rock Island Trail project. This would be great access to enjoy as a hiking and biking trail and to stimulate the local economy

Please, please, please accept the donation of land for conversion into the Rock Island Trail. Bike riding is my primary form of exercise, and I would love to ride this trail. I and others would spend our tourist dollars in the communities along the trail. It would be a great win for the state. Please accept the wonderful donation of land to create a trail that would benefit our wonderful state. Thanks!

Please build the trail. It will bring so many bikers from within and outside of Missouri to tour the state and spend money doing it as well as providing trails to exercise for rural communities to which such trails are not geographically accessible. This would allow DNR to improve relationships with the rural communities. If they could connect it to the Katy trail and create a loop, there is no doubt that it would bring international tourism. DNR could then do an ultra bike race for the whole loop and use that as a way to pay off the cost of construction and liability.

The corridor already exists, I can't think of an easier conversion to public use than turning it into a dedicated recreational trail with potential for bike and hike related commerce. Hotels, Restaurants and businesses dedicated to attracting anyone using the trail

Please accept the trail. As an out of state visitor, I brought a cycling group from across the country to specifically ride the Katy Trail. One challenge was the connectivity of Amtrak, coming from St Louis, to the western trailhead. It would be great to have much easier cycling access to KC and St. Louis. Not only would my group want to return but I could see with the connectivity improvement my group size increasing along with attracting even more tourism dollars.

What a great addition to the Missouri trails system! Please say yes!

I would very much like to see the DNR enter into a trail use agreement. I have used the Katy Trail more times than I can count and having an opportunity to use a new trail system in MO would be wonderful. I would look forward to visiting the towns along the way while bike packing or just riding. I think the economic benefit would be great for communities situated along the trail and would allow people to explore more and more of our State.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This is great! We should do this.

The current Katy trail that crosses our beautiful state is one of the many reasons I love our state. With that said, let's look at the proposed Rock Island Trail project. This will add to our beautiful state! Also promote exercise and well being. As a father of two wonderful children I am always looking for family friendly activities for us and the trail system that crosses Missouri gives us lots of options. Please help make this a reality!

Thank you for your time in considering my thoughts.

██████████

Lee's Summit Missouri 64081

Please accept Rock Island Trails!

Build it. I can't wait to come and ride the Rock Island Trail. Recently rode the Katy and had a wonderful time. Its a huge benefit to the state!

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! I bike all the time and would love this addition to Missouri!

THIS WOULD BE A WONDERFUL ENDEAVOR AS THIS WOULD BRING NON RESIDENTS TO MISSOURI TO ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF OUR STATE. THIS WOULD CREATE ADDITIONAL REVENUE FOR BUSINESSES ALONG THE WAY.

THIS SHOULD BE OPENED UP TO NON-MOTORIZED VEHICLES TO INCLUDE HIKERS, BIKERS, & EQUESTRIANS.

Please accept the donation. A second cross state trail would be amazing and so beneficial. I personally regularly use the Katy trail and the rock island trail would be amazing.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please follow through with the rock island trail! Missouri needs more long recreational trails like this. We're looking forward to cycling it once it's up!

I support the development of a new recreational trail in Missouri

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Bicycling has become more than just a past time for many people. It is now a way of life for adults and children both. More and more cities are doing their part to promote bicycling and I feel the Rock Island Trail Project is a great way for the state to help but having a complete trail from KC to St Louis.

Please accept the Ameren offer of the Rock Island Trail. This will greatly benefit the local towns along the trail bringing tourism and other economic opportunities. Several communities, such as Owensville, will also benefit by having a safe route for the school children to reach their schools without having to cross a state highway.

Please accept the Rock island trail.

I think having an additional trail system is so important. Not only can people get out and exercise but you can also see parts of the state you might not otherwise visit not to mention having some protection for wildlife. It is a huge opportunity for the state. We could use the trail to highlight our cities in that area as well as our native flora/fauna. I am really excited for this. Have friends who don't live far away from proposed area and will be able to utilize it when I visit them!

The Katy Trail has provided a huge benefit to the state of Missouri. Not only is it a way for families to spend time

together and exercise, but the trail provides access to many natural resources. The governor, as the trustee for natural resources pursuant to federal law (CERCLA), has the responsibility to protect Missouri's natural resources. The development of the Rock Island Trail Project would preserve natural resources while also creating a safe means for the public to access the resources. Additionally, the Katy Trail has national recognition, thus, Missouri sees an increase in tourism greatly benefiting the state. The Rock Island Trail Project is a win-win for the state of Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the trail

Please!!! Accept the Rock Island Trail!!!! It will provide a viable and valuable option for everyone in the state as well as across the country for recreational uses, trans continent travels, and will provide a unique view of your beautiful state.

I love the idea of the trail!!!

I have ridden the length of the Katy trail; it is fantastic. A combined and longer trail will attract cyclists from all over the world, certainly all over the USA. Last year I rode the GAP and C&O trails from Pittsburg to Washington; I spent a lot of money on food and lodging along the way, improved my fitness, and benefitted from the tranquility of the environment.

Such a major trail here in Missouri will be a wonderful addition to our tourism and the state's appeal to young entrepreneurs; they all advocate biking. PLEASE do this thing, it will be a wonderful addition to our state.

Recreational trails enhance communities by offering fitness opportunities and by drawing people who want to use the trail to the area. I live in the KC metro and am delighted when I can take time to go out to the Katy trail. More trails in beautiful parts of the state will draw people from metropolitan areas to use them and will also let local people enjoy the areas they live in more.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I just returned from riding the Great Allegheny Passage in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Also the Ohio & Erie Tow Path in Ohio. I spent money on gasoline, lodging, food, souvenirs, etc. I believe people from outside Missouri would come and spend money and the Rock Island Trail would be an added incentive to come to Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I think such a trail would be an excellent addition to the State's recreational portfolio. Tourism on the Katy Trail, and the participation levels of the Bike Across Missouri (BAM) activities, not to mention the levels of participation in 5K's, 10K's, half- and full marathons across the state, show that Missouri's hotels, restaurants, and campgrounds benefit greatly from active tourism and recreational activities!! I only wish it could be located in Northwest Missouri!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I love having these types of resources available to me and my family in our state!

Please continue to draw tourism into Missouri by accepting the Rock Island Trail!!

The Katy Trail is heavily used, and one of the best features of our state. I highly support all trail development, because trails are good for the state's economy, and great for the health of the state's residents.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I think it would be great. I love the trails around St Louis, often use the Katy trail and would love to see our trail system further expanded.

The State of Missouri is a beautiful place. We have many tourists and many of them bring their bicycles. Cycling through our area on trails, rather than highways, showcases our State and provides a safer environment, especially for our families.

For our local residents, the Proposed Trail would encourage kids and adults to get outside and get exercise on their bikes. Let's make it easier for people to get away from their computers for a bit.

The Katy Trail attracts local, out of state, and international visitors. When folks are here, doesn't that mean people spend money here? Wouldn't the Rock Island Trail do the same?

Governor - existing trails make Missouri a destination state and have provided countless hours of enjoyment from my friends and family. Expansion of the trail system will expand this opportunity to even more families. This is a generational opportunity - please leave us this positive legacy.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Many good reasons for it!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

This would be awesome! Please make this trail happen!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the rock island trail! This will be an amazing resource and opportunity for Missouri! I recently rode part of the Katy trail and all of the current rock island trail on recent visit from Colorado. I dream of the opportunity to ride the full rock island trail someday!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail project.

Please accept the gift from the company. The economic impact might not be as significant as a pro-baseball/football teaming coming to the state. However, over time, the economic growth will come for the state and surround communities that the trail goes through.

Please accept the property. It can be developed later.

This opportunity to expand the trail system may not occur again. Bike trails are proven economic boons to area

businesses and will expand tax revenue to local and state government.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This is a generous & unique gifts for the citizens of the state of Missouri & her visitors.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This is would be a great asset to our state's Trail system. It would bring in revenue to small businesses along the route by attracting tourists from in and out of state. Help to expand the Katy Trail and make it one of the best trails in the nation.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

We want the trail to continue across missuori and connect to Katy Trail! The trail will boost tourism, economic development in rural communities, and increase the quality of life for many missourians!

I fully support development of the Rock Island Trail.

Anything that helps get people off their sofas and into nature is good for them and for our state.

I'd like to see the trail put into use. It will be a huge blessing to Missouri's economy, and it will provide another much needed venue for exercise and interacting with nature.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please consider accepting this gift. The 144 miles of trail would be an invaluable linear park which could be enjoyed by all!

Please accept the trail. It will be a wonderful addition to the states existing bike routes.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

please accept the rock island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Missouri's trail system is one of the best resources this state has going for it. Please continue to develop longer trails; accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This is a great opportunity to bring additional revenue to many small towns along the trail as well as another recreational fitness area for individuals and families to enjoy.

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

The existing Katy trail is a tremendous asset to Missouri. My wife and I rode from Clinton to St. Charles in 2010 and found it to be one of the most enjoyable vacation experiences of our life. We supported the local economy by staying at B&B's along the way during our 6 day trip. It was amazing to see and experience the economy that has grown up along the trail in small towns that have little opportunity otherwise.

Extending the existing trail as well as creating new opportunities for small businesses along the Rock Island corridor is a tremendous opportunity for small towns and small business owners in MO.

I strongly support the decision to enter in the interim agreement.

This is an essential quality of life issue for my family and I. We regularly ride both the Frisco and the Katy and having the ability to connect the two would be a godsend for us. As someone who grew-up downstate (Marionville/Logan area) connecting to the major recreational infrastructure in the state would be one heck of a boon to our family.

Additionally, as someone who works in population health, I can assure you that the long term fiscal benefits to a state who prioritizes active outdoor recreation projects such as this are too numerous to mention. The decrease in medical expenditures, increase in quality of life and decrease in morbidity and mortality are well documented. I want a healthy MO. This is a major step in supporting that.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. These trail systems provide a safe outlet for cyclists, runner, and walkers to experience our beautiful state. It's great for exercise and for leisure and connects people through their common love of nature. I can says a former resident of Columbia, how amazing it is to have such trails throughout the city, and I am sorely missing my beloved MKT in Kansas City. Expanding the trail with the Rock Island offshoot would help bring more of that to KC and connect outdoor enthusiasts across the state. Please accept it! We need it, and I cannot emphasize enough how people like me live for days on trails like the MKT. And there ar many like me.

The Missouri government should accept the Rock Island Corridor. This gift will become a tourism bonanza and bring millions of dollars into the Missouri economy.

No brainer to accept the Rock Island Trail. Do you just hate walking and letting others do the same outdoors?

Good for the State. Good for the Park System.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Thank you

we have one of the best state park systems in the united states. It brings in humdreds of people into our state. One specifice trail is the Katy trail. My wife and I rode the entire trail and had the trip of a lifetime. We litterally met people from all over the country on the trip. From New York, Wisconson, Texas, California and ten or fifteen other states. We saw how that that trail revitalized small towns all along the trail. Many of the people we met came to Missouri to ride the Katy trail and everyone said it was better than we ever imagined. I was so proud to call Missouri home. We have an opportunity to create another destination trail in our wonderful state. I fully support the Rock Island Trail and would encourage the Governor, state legistators and the DNR to move forward and establishe this new trail. This would bring in new people and ensure return visitors to our state. It would help to revitalized many small towns along the trail and would encourage people to invest in small business to take advantage of the people

traveling on this new trail. Thank You DNR for our wonderful parks!

Accept it. Missouri needs more tourism. I just bought a new bike and would consider using this myself. Let's help get people moving.

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

Please add this to our Missouri state parks! I'm 74 and it may not be ready in time for me to ever use it, but for our future, YES!

Please accept the trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I would love to see the state take action to develop the Rock Island Trail Project. This will be a great addition to the existing recreational opportunities for not only Missouri residents, but also tourism opportunities.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Trails encourage people to move to and open businesses in the areas. It's a quality of life thing for many middle/upper income earners. Of course i love to ride, but I want to live in a state that fosters not just everyday parks, but epic parks.

Having another cross-state trail in Missouri is important - for the tourism impact on all the small towns involved. You only have to travel the Katy Trail to see what growth and energy it brings to communities who have few other options to prosper.

Biking is great exercise and recreation. We need to expand the trail system.

Please approve this! We need so many more safe & beautiful ways to enjoy our great outdoors by bike and bring along visiting family & friends. Smiles for miles!

Please move forward with this project. It would be so great to have a family friendly alternative for getting active. I know it my area it is difficult to find a safe and pothole free place to ride away from hwy traffic.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I fully support development of the Rock Island Trail. I have used the Katy Trail for the past 20 years riding its full length on 8 separate occasions as part of DNR Trail Ride in June every year.

Many Missourian's utilize the "Katy State Park" year round and I am one of those who fully supported its development and continue to see the benefits to Missourians' as well as observing trail users from around the USA and many foreign countries.

By adding Rock Island Trail to the State Park system can have great benefit to the entire state. Just look at the economic development the "Katy Trail" has had all along the trail, the same will happen along the Rock Island.

Missouri is well known for their commitment to its parks. I strongly urge that continued commitment by further develop this opportunity to enhance Missouri State Parks.

Please support the Rock Island Trail Extension.

I strongly support the conversion of the Rock Island corridor to a biking and hiking trail. This will not only create healthy recreational opportunities for all Missourians, it will also boost tourism by strengthening Missouri's reputation as a national and international cycling destination. Let's not pass on this opportunity to be the best!

Please support the Rock Island Trail Project. I live in New Mexico and graduated Central Missouri University with Master of Science degree in Industrial Safety Management. I would love to tour Missouri by bicycle using recreational and historical trails, protected from motorized traffic. Corridors like this can be economic drivers for tourism, as well as have positive environmental enhancement for the communities along the route. They provide equal access to outdoor education and enjoyment for all ages and levels of physical ability, which is good for both individual health and acceptance of social diversity.

Trails and Greenways provide many benefits that include;

1. Healthy recreation and transportation opportunities by providing people of all ages with attractive, safe, accessible and low- or no-cost places to cycle, walk, hike, and jog.
2. Trails help people of all ages incorporate exercise into their daily routines by connecting them with places they want or need to go.
3. Communities that encourage physical activity by making use of the linear corridors can see a significant effect on public health and wellness.
4. Trails can be a crucial element to a seamless urban or regional multi-modal transportation system.
5. Provide the conservation benefits of preserving green space.
6. Help preserve important natural landscapes.
7. Provide needed links between fragmented habitats.
8. Offer tremendous opportunities for protecting plant and animal species.
9. Assist in wetland preservation and the improvement of air and water quality.
10. Allow humans to experience nature with minimal environmental impact.
11. Trails and green space are important community amenities that help to spur economic development. Countless communities across America have experienced an economic revitalization due in whole or in part to trails and greenways.
12. Design, engineering and construction of walking and bicycling facilities such as trails create more jobs per dollar than any other type of transportation infrastructure construction.
13. Americans spend more on bicycling each year than they do on airline travel. Trail-based tourism is a major economic driver in many small communities, supporting local small businesses through annual revenues of millions of dollars per trail in direct consumer spending (in many cases).
14. Reduced oil dependence: Transportation is responsible for 71 percent of U.S. petroleum use. Cutting miles driven—and

reduced congestion with fewer cars on the road—is among the best ways to manage our oil-related economic, environmental and security vulnerabilities. Shifting short trips to bicycling and walking could save four to 10 billion gallons of fuel each year.

15. Aid in the preservation of historically significant locations and routes.

16. Trails also provide an opportunity to physically experience places where historical events occurred. Trails and greenways often present a uniquely effective way to highlight that history

17. Trails provide walkable access to historical areas, allowing people to enjoy the outdoors while visiting historical and culturally rich places.

18. Through recognition of the cultural, historical, and natural assets of places, trails and greenways can enhance a sense of community identity. By incorporating recreation, education and interaction into a single-user experience, trail and greenway systems bring a community to a level greater than the sum of its parts.

In Summation...Missouri has a unique opportunity in completing the Rock Island Trail Project. It has so many long-term benefits, that to not build it, would be a massive loss to our state.

Please finish this project.

Citattions...

<https://www.railstotrails.org/resourcehandler.ashx?id=3629>

<https://www.railstotrails.org/experience-trails/benefits-of-trails/>

<https://www.railstotrails.org/resourcehandler.ashx?id=3074>

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will be great for Missouri and for the region, a great next chapter to the plan for more great recreational/tourism opportunities. Thanks

As vehicle traffic increases there becomes few and fewer places to take a safe bike ride and more and more people seem to be riding as a form of recreation. Of course the rails to trails paths provide a rider friendly terrain for new riders and those of us who are older and cannot deal with hilly courses. When we plan a trip a search of local bike paths is always part of our planning process. It is a great way to be outside and our usual mild winters allows us to ride for several months throughout the year. The trails we ride usually have a volunteer group that assist in maintaining the trails. Please accept this gift as it cannot do anything except enhance the life of Missourians and those who come to visit.

Great addition to the trail system. I especially like that this would provide loop routes using Katy Trail, and I think that would encourage more people to use the combined rails-to-trails system in MO.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! My family lives just north of it's prospective route and the ability to join the Katy trail from our home would be invaluable to us in terms of recreation, and to those small towns along the route, my family and many others would bring additional tourism dollars to their local economies.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I love Missouri's bike trails. They connect me to beautiful parts of Missouri that I would otherwise not see.

Please take on the Rock Island Trail project. The state would be so lucky to have such a trail, and would benefit many years to come. I know I would love to cycle the trail. Thank you!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project.

The Rock Island Trail could provide tourist attraction to the area. I know I will be on the trail the moment it opens!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This trail will be great. The Katy is a major attraction and this could be too.

This would be a valuable addition to recreation in MO and will bring in additional revenue to towns along the trail. I ride the KATY trail and am constantly surprised how many out of staters are attracted to MO on account of the Katy Trail.

Please support the Rock Island Trail! I live in Lone Jack and it is not safe for my kids or I to bike there because the cars drive so fast and don't expect bicycles. Missouri needs trails like this! Thank you!

The quality of open space for recreation is of top importance to me in deciding where to locate my business. A healthy community is built on common spaces like this proposed trail. Please support this project. Thank you!

Please accept the rock island trail.


Dear State of Missouri,

Please accept the Rock Island Trail project. I'm an avid user of the Katy Trail, and I expect to use and enjoy the Rock Island Trail just as much.

The new trail will bring economic benefit to communities along the trail and to Missouri in general. Another long recreation trail in the state will increase our appeal among out-of-state trail enthusiasts as a tourism destination of choice.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,


Webster Groves, MO

Please accept the Rock Island Trail gift as planned. I support my family and twelve other families directly through bicycle recreation and tourism.

I encourage Missouri state officials to enter into this agreement, accept the Rock Island corridor, and develop it for further recreational use.

This would be a wonderful addition to our beautiful state of Missouri. We travel to the Katy trail several times a year and spend a lot of money in the towns that support the trail, by eating at the local restaurants, staying at the local B & B's. Having another trail in Missouri would bring more state funds to our state.

Often vacation in Missouri; a favorite activity is the use of the recreational trails. Please continue to develop your outstanding trails by accepting this agreement.

We desperately need this trail to happen in our area. I am [redacted] Owensville, Mo. and have been involved from the very beginning with Ameren donating this land to the state of Missouri. We need this trail through our city not only for the economic impact and benefit, but mainly for a " safe route to school" for our children. Currently because of where our schools are located and the proximity to Highway 19 our students are not allowed to walk or ride their bikes to school. This would have a huge positive impact on our children and it would also promote a healthy environment to cut down on obesity in younger children. We as a city are prepared to move forward and develop our 3 mile stretch through town with a lot of our own funds and would apply for some grants. Governor Greitens please accept the Rock Island Trail. I supported you in the election and ask for your support in this worthy project. Thank you for listening. Respectfully, [redacted] of Owensville

I have ridden bike trails in MO, IA, KS, & NE. Trails bring tourism, improved health, recreation, beauty, and small business opportunity. Please support the Rock Island Trail Project

The Rock Island trail would be a tremendous asset for Missouri. It will draw visitors and dollars to your state. Please help make it happen.

I've traveled from my home in Washington State to ride on the Katy Trail, it's an amazing resource for your state. The Rock Island Trail would be a great addition and you'd see me riding on in and spending money along the way. Please support the trail.

I am an avid bicyclist and support any effort to increase access to trails and other bike specific corridors. Please give full consideration to moving forward with this project.

We need this trail. Great for the Economy, increased tourism and better health

Do it.
There is growing national demand for infrastructure that supports active lifestyles and active tourism. Similar (completed) projects in our own state have increased in popularity with age (see the Katy Trail). The market for use of these trails continues to grow. More trail density in our state will complement our existing offerings, we are not at risk of over saturating the market with this infrastructure. Trails like the Rock Island trail project are relatively inexpensive per mile compared to other infrastructure (compared to developing light rail or roads for example); they bring tourism dollars to our state, and encourage Missouri tourists to stay in state; and they promote healthy activities/lifestyles (I see promotion of healthy lifestyles as a fiscally responsible choice for our state. We must curb the burden of health care costs on our citizens and governments... I'd prefer to State and local governments supporting

infrastructure that encourages healthy decisions rather than market controls or mandates). Please support this project and others like it. Failure to do so will only maintain our unsatisfactory status quo.

I would totally support this project as it would promote healthy choices for citizens.

The rock island trail is extremely important to me and acts as a tourism anchor point to continue Kansas City's status as a Big League town. We have plenty of activities to draw people in but far fewer physically active events to help our city attract permanent residents.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail gift. As a Kansas resident, I frequently come to Missouri to ride the Katy Trail, and this addition would be most welcome. Definitely a feather in the cap for your state, I believe!

PLEASE ACCEPT THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL. There are very few safe places to ride in the state of Missouri. This trail will provide tax dollars from tourists and locals both. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

If we're truly interested in creating opportunities for the citizens of Missouri then we should accept the gift of the Rock Island Trail

I love the Katy Trail and I am in favor of the idea of additional trails. I don't ride on the roads anymore, so I do all my riding on trails. Living in KC, I would love to have the option to bike directly on these trails.

This is a great idea and a great use of the natural resources that God had given the citizens of Missouri. To let these resources go to waste is to go against what God wants.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

The addition of a new 144 mile trail would be such a plus for the state of Missouri and for all small towns. Please sign the bill to allow the Rock Island corridor to become a walking pedestrian trail.

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

Yes, this is a fantastic plan. We will be the only state with this big of a loop trail. People came from all over to ride the KATY and that will only increase. I'm looking forward to riding the whole thing myself.

Our state needs this bike trail not only for conservation of the land but to also increase tourism

Please except the rock island trail
Riding the Katy Trail is one of life's great pleasures for me and my family

The trail will provide both valuable recreational activity and potential revenue streams to small towns along the trail, bringing additional visitors to adjacent small businesses.

I think the Rock Island Trail would be a great asset to the people of the State of Missouri. Please do it! We can't have too many physical activity opportunities in our area considering the alarming rise in obesity and declining health.

Please accept this trail gift!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! It's good for the state.

Please move forward to accept the Rock Island Trail. This is an exceptional opportunity to make MO a bike destination for tourists and to increase the use of MO's natural beauty.

To Whom It May Concern:

I think the conversion of the railroad corridor into a bike trail is a great idea and will pay off in great dividends. Lots of people will be happy campers and devoted voters.

Please approve moving forward with the Rock Island Trail. It will bring more tourism, encourage people to be active, and help a lot of communities in the process. It feels like things that are important to us get drowned out by issues that are considered bigger by others. I just hope that you'll hear how much this could mean to so many of your fellow Missourians and help us make it happen.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. There are many bicyclists in this state who would enjoy a new trail, not to mention the economic viability to the local communities.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail Project and have many times enjoyed the existing KT trail. The expansion of our rail-to-trail projects provides unique opportunity in our region and enhances the public's ability to enjoy the landscape. Please remain committed to these sorts of projects to better the lives of citizens.

I fully support the development of Missouri's bicycle trail system. We currently have a tremendous resource in Katy Trail and we need to build on that. 50 years ago I attended a small collage in central Missouri and the town of Rocheport was dead. Now it is a thriving community, all due to the Katy.

The Rock Island Trail Project/completed trail would be a great in so many ways!

* A great economic boost to the communities abandoned by the railroad all those years ago.

* Communities along the portion already completed are already seeing benefits.

* A wonderful family oriented healthy activity!

* Connected with the Katy Trail, it would be one of the longest trails in the country drawing cyclists from around the country and the world to our state! Puts our state "On the Map".

* Rail beds would be back in shape if the need ever arose to restore them for use as tracks!

As a former real estate broker, I was opposed to trail projects for many years and thought the land should revert to abutting

land owners. I have come around to trails being the "highest and best use"!

this is a no-brainer. Accept the Rock Island trail.

This would be great for our state! Please enter into the agreement.

Governor Greitens should say Yes to the Rock Island Trail! The trail is good for communities along its route, in terms of business opportunities -- food, lodging, bike services -- and exercise in nature.

So many have worked on the development of this trail for so long, it would be a real shame and a real loss to let it go by the wayside.

Yes to Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail corridor.

My thoughts are the trail is awesome and much needed!! Please accept the Rock Island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It has become more and more dangerous to bicycle or run on our roadways. Separate, dedicated trails, such as the KATY and now (possibly) the Rock Island not only provide a safer venue for such activities, but they also make Missouri a more attractive state for residence or to locate a business. Such trails also provide business opportunities for services and to support tourism along their length. This is in addition to the health benefits, both mental and physical. I currently live in Missouri, very near the KATY Trail, for exactly these reasons. Thank you!

I would love to have a new trail that can be used for running and or biking!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. My family is excited about using this new trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Missouri is a beautiful state and the trail is one way to experience it while exercising, or taking time for a family outing.

we need this trail ,please take the offer from Ameren.

As a former teacher and avid biker, I am of the opinion that giving kids and adults trails to ride on is a win win situation. First of all it is safer than riding on the streets and secondly, it provides a healthy activity that can help keep people in good shape all their life. My current group of friends that bike together range from 65-82 years old. Everyone is in great health and enjoys our "Life Behind Bars."

Yes! Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the trail. It will be great.

Last month I had the opportunity to ride the newly opened section of the Rock Island Trail from Pleasant Hill to Windsor. This was part of a ride that I and three colleagues completed from the Kansas border west of Belton to the Mississippi River north of St. Charles. It demands notice of the benefits to the small towns along the route, and especially along the Rock Island section. In Chilhowee the old bank, now a store, serves lunch to cyclists. In Windsor Kim's Cabins has added two units to accommodate the increase in cyclists traveling the trails; the Windsor Motel was fully booked the night we were there. Windsor had formerly been a bit neglected with the Katy beginning only 17 miles away in Clinton. In towns along the way we enjoyed local restaurants and services, and residents welcoming us as cyclists. One need only look at such high frequency locations as Sedalia, Boonville, and the Defiance/Augusta area to realize what the trail has brought. The Capitol Plaza hotel in Jeff City even offers a Katy Trail Package to cyclists who stay.

This is our second year to ride the length of the Katy. On the trail I am continually impressed as I meet riders from all over the country, some riding part, some riding all, some riding from coast to coast but including the Katy.

To add the entirety of the Rock Island is to establish a resource such as has no equal. The country has numerous rails-to-trails, but none can equal the Katy and with the Rock Island addition nothing would compete. I ask that consideration be given to the economic impact, the boost in tourism, and the wonderful benefits to all the small communities along the way that would occur with the completion of the Rock Island Trail.

Very interested in the idea, hoping that it starts getting closer to home (Carthage, MO.)

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please approve this project to allow athletes to train without fear of automobile interference.

Please move forward with the trail project!

The Rock Island Trail would be a great addition to the Katy trail and allow for a loop route across MO. It should definitely be preserved intact and can gradually be brought up to the standard of the Katy Trail as resources allow. I have personally rode the full Katy Trail on the group ride last June 2016 (with my wife in our car) and would love a similar experience on the Rock Island Trail.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year

I love the KATY trail. This is something time and time again I use when the weather permits. Time and time again I run into people from across the country who are taking a vacation to bike/hike the trail. They are jealous I live right near it and can go on it whenever I want. This is truly a hidden asset to

Missouri. Adding to this trail with a Rock Island Trail should be a no-brainer. Those same enthusiasts will seek out this trail and be just enamored with it. You don't truly realize the benefit of the trail until you get to use it and see others who wish they could use it as much.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

This is a key initiative that will provide positive impacts to the Mid MO area and eventually the KC area as well.. These impacts can be measured in economic, social and health parameters.

This trail will increase the health and safety for cycling for many riders in the KC area, reducing accidents and trauma to riders by giving them an area to cycle. The people who walk the trail will also benefit in the same way, although there are nearly as many accidents with walkers.

The economic development will be positive for both local and state businesses. By directly connecting the two metro areas of Missouri it will provide a far easier way to bike across the state. Business along this path will benefit.

The state of Missouri is rich with outdoor activities and conservation, it is a hallmark of the state that drives immense value. This will continue to develop that value and not allow Missouri to fall behind in this area.

Accept the trail and embrace cycle tourism. It will benefit everyone.

Thanks

Please accept the Rock Island Trail gift from Ameren. This will be an enormous benefit to our state, and will continue to encourage physical activity across the state.

We want the Rock Island Trail accepted fully and promptly, not uncertainty for years to come!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

This would benefit the state by providing much needed economic development in towns along the Rock Island Trail. The increase sales tax and income tax would offset any cost after completion.

I am excited about the rock Island Trail...please accept it. Do something for someone other than yourself!

I can't believe there is even a debate here. The entire country is in the midst of an obesity epidemic and we are wondering if we should create more space for physical activity?

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail project!

Please accept the rock island trail!!

Please except the Rock Island Trail as a donation to our wonderful state. This is an offer to great to refuse. Having visited many small towns in Missouri this will greatly impact their economic development opportunities. Additionally, my family travels out of state often to ride other rail trails. We

spend an average of \$250 each day on typical tourism-related expenditures.

This is a great opportunity for the state of MO. We have far fewer trails than IL, their Madison County Trail system is highly used, and Missourians deserve more trails for use. Governor, please approve/accept this gift.

Please accept the trail. It makes good economic sense.

Make the Rock Island Trail happen, please!!!

Please accept the Rock Island corridor so it can be turned into a trail. Thank you

Please accept the rock island trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the State to receive an incredible gift. The Rock Island Trail will provide not only a bike path akin to the very popular Katy Trail, it gives residents and businesses along the trail new opportunities for recreation, tourist business and an input of benefits similar to those generated by the Katy Trail. What in the world is Governor Greitens doing in considering turning down this gift. Please fellas, come to your senses!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Thank you. Steve Cockrell

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

Please accept the 144 mile donation of the Rock Island Trail. We ride on the trail almost every week and truly enjoy the experience. This Trail would make a great addition to the biking experience across the state.

IF Missouri wants to attract tourist DOLLARS and preserve a part of its HERITAGE, it will go ahead with the Rock Island Trail Project.

The Rock Island Trail will add to Missouri's economy by continuing to make our state a cycle destination and contribute to the citizens overall quality of life.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the agreement for the Rock Island Trail. Missouri needs more things like this to leverage our natural resources and draw tourism.

In an era where physical activity is on the decline and putting our and our children's health at risk we need more opportunity to exercise not fewer.

This trail is a safe and pristine green space that can't be undervalued.

Please accept this gift and commit the funds to keep it as wonderful as it is now.

Any outdoor space that benefits the public should be considered by the Missouri house and senate. Personally I would use this trail.

Love the idea to build this trail. It makes Missouri an even more cool place to live and a destination as a state that promotes outdoor fitness.

This would be huge for the state of Missouri. In southwest MO trails are becoming big and will need to connect all across the state. The famous Razorback Greenway Trail is moving North and Missouri needs to be ready!!!

Please accept the proposed Rock Island Trail. The outdoor activities of Missouri are one of the features that have endeared this state to me, and I would love if these were able to be expanded.

All for this great trail! Can't wait to have another rail trail in our state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Missouri is a state with rich natural resources. The Rock Island Trail will attract tourism dollars from people across the world seeking to enjoy the beauty of this region, as well as providing increased opportunity for Missourians to enjoy our great state.

I highly recommend approval of this project. Trails are a gift to the population and a valuable resource for physical fitness and communing with nature. How could anyone oppose this?

As cycling on roads has become increasingly more hazardous to cyclists, please accept the Rock Island Trail. Currently, the best trail system we can access other than the KATY trail is to travel 45 min. to an hour by car to access the MCT trails in Illinois. Many cyclists would support the expansion of the Katy Trail to include this new project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

YES! As an avid user of the existing rails-to-trails, I would welcome this addition!

This would be a travesty and a tragedy if the state chose not to accept the Ameren offer of the right-of-way. The DNR should enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement and proceed with the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please do this. We need more bike trails.

Trails address so many of the issues that our state and country struggle to influence. Trails create connectivity and activate places and areas that may otherwise not be enjoyed.

Availability and access to trails encourage more people of all ages to bike. More people biking means healthier more engaged community, economic impact that previously didn't exist, family recreation opportunities, decreased carbon emissions, increased quality of life and a bunch of awesome fun!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I grew up in this area and even though we currently live in Ladue, we keep a lake house outside of Owensville. It is a lovely area and the Trail would be a boon to the economy of the area. Please consider this in developing this project. We need more projects in our state that encourage outdoor activities and fitness, not less.

As someone who voted for you, and Iraq vet who enjoys cycling with the family. I am hopeful that you find it favorable to Missouri to go ahead with the rock island plan. Please accept the rock island trail proposal. This was one reason I was excited that I was in Greenwood, because of the future trail coming in. It will drive business and healthy lifestyles.

Please complete the Rock Island Trail Project. I ride the trails often and my husband and I have met many people from all over the world that come to Missouri to ride on our trails. They love it. It really hurts to think this wonderful addition will not be completed. Can you imagine all the opportunities for tourism that will result from having a trail that goes from Kansas City to St Louis????

I've been waiting for this trail segment to be developed for well over 10 years. This would extend an incredible State asset (Katy Trail) to the front door of Kansas City. Don't let this opportunity pass us by. Too much hard work and good will has been spent to make this happen. This trail will become a great asset for the Kansas City and surrounding areas to build on. I can't even believe it's being questioned. There is no down side!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. Governor Greitens, I have been impressed by your leadership and commitment to the people of Missouri thus far. This project would be beneficial in so many ways and on so many levels for the health and financial aspects of the communities located along the trail.

In addition to being alternative transportation for many, trails are an integral component of outdoor experiences that connect citizens to the varied natural resources of our communities. We should be expanding these systems and interconnecting them across our region and with other communities and states. The Katy Trail system is a jewel among the most heralded and popular trail systems in the country. Let's continue to provide the proper resources to maintain and grow it.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This will be a valuable addition to the park system. There will be other benefits as well including increased tourism, improved business for local towns, healthy exercise opportunities for residents of the state. pollution free open space, and many related benefits. Also, this will preserve a unique resource for the future.

The acceptance of the land for the Rock Island trail should be a no-brainer. This will increase the recreational opportunities in Missouri and increase the business income and sales tax revenues. There are no valid arguments against this.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Thank you.

I think the more trails and outdoor resources we have like this, the better.

I don't understand why the State of Missouri would not accept the land from Ameren intended for Rock Island Trail. Even if the land is not yet developed, please accept this valuable natural resource. This land is part of the restitution for damage at Johnson Shut-ins!

Please do not pass on this gift to Missouri residents!

the katy trail draws a lot of people to missouri with the rock island trail even more would come to use it and spend their dollars while here.

Please build the rock island trail. This is vitally important for our community and quality of life.

As a devoted rider of Missouri trails I see this new trail as a new and exciting opportunity for us to show off our state to countless others! Please ensure funding for this wonderful resource that will in the end pay for itself by the patronage of towns along the trail.

I think that this is a wonderful idea. It will benefit the communities, the state and everyone who will use it. In my opinion this is a natural and wonderful way to use railroad corridors. I am in full support to turn this corridor into a wonderful and natural trail in Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I am eager for our state to have this cross state rail to trail asset. We travel out of state sometimes to ride other state-owned bicycle trails, and we believe this would be another great draw for people who enjoy these opportunities to visit Missouri. It would be a point of pride and a great use of DNR resources. Please enter the trail use agreement.

please accept the Rock Island Trail. Rail trails are amazing ways to get families into cycling safely. Bike paths rule. Bike paths are Safe, Fun, Quite, and the best way to see the country. They Bring BIG money to regions that support them.

Absolutely, yes. Outdoor recreation is one of the fastest growing industries in the U.S., and will greatly enhance Missouri as a destination for tourism and economic development.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

The Rock Island trail would be a huge benefit for the state of Missouri by increasing tourism and creating an opportunity for people in the area of the trail to walk, bike, horseback ride and improve their health. Please continue to build out this important resource for the people of Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Increasing public access to public land and public waters should be a high priority to reverse the Obama, EPA, and US Army Corps of Engineers moves to limit access. We should NEVER sell public land just to pay the operating costs of the state or federal government. Thx

We love planning trips on Missouri's trail systems and look forward to exploring the towns this new route would open up to us:

I would like to see the Rock Island Trail project be accepted and become available for recreational use. The addition of the trail is appealing for individuals near the trail and those who would use it to tour more of the state by bike and foot. Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It would be wonderful to have even more Rail-trail to visit and enjoy, I believe this would make Missouri a leader in what seems to be an increasingly popular outdoor experience.

There once was a man from Missouri. Whose choices had citizens worried. He was given the power to strike down the matter, and leave us all trailless and sorry....

I've rode the Katy Trail a few times... and it is awesome. I see people enjoying the outdoor, helping their health, and creating positive economic outcomes in the small towns along that path. These projects have a relatively low cost compared to interstates, stadiums, and other transportation or entertainment project. I feel it's an easy decision to make this trail happen, and would be happy to pay my taxes to this effort, even if it means it cost me more money. It's WORTH THE INVESTMENT!

I have run and biked almost the entire Katy trail it is a gem. Please accept the rock island donation for all of us and my kids

Having these trails in MO gives the state something to brag about! I have fellow bikers from other states who come here to ride the beautiful Katy. PLEASE keep this trail plan going forward and continue to make MO a destination state!

The Rock Island Trail is not only a beautiful treasure for all to enjoy but another way to enjoy the great outdoors! Then there is the economic value it brings to area and surrounding areas. It's a WIN~WIN for all!

Please approve the Rock Island Trail. I already use the area near Pleasant Hill and it is wonderful!

I support the Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project. My family and I enjoy biking and walking outdoors and this would be a great addition to our state trail system. The increase in size of the state trail system will bring visitors and their money from out of state. Visitors to Lake of

the Ozarks will use the trail in Eldon and other locations. Don't let this opportunity pass by.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Our family has enjoyed the Katy Trail for years and when visitors come to our beautiful state, we are happy to share that ride with them. The Rock Island Trail is another way for Missourians and visitors to appreciate Missouri.

From my perspective the KATI bike trail has become a huge tourist attraction. People come from all over the world to ride this 200 mile trail. To add another 144 miles of trail to our states collection is a great opportunity for economic development from tourism and another big opportunity to get people outdoors.

Clearly American's spend way too much time on computers and TV...a safe linear park, such as this trail, can make a big difference in how families spend their weekend. Please, Please approve this gift and this project.

Please accept the rock island trail gift from ameren

This would be such an amazing opportunity for the state Missouri. Such a wonderful and healthy opportunity and outlet for our community. Please consider accepting this gift on behalf of our state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail -- it will be a boon to the state of Missouri and to the recreation and tourism industries.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I just rode the spur and it is a wonderful addition to the KATY trail!

This is a great opportunity for the state of Missouri, both for its citizens and for tourism from other states.

Please accept the rock island trail. It will benefit the state and its tourism

Please accept the Rock Island Trail...

Yes!!! Please add to Missouri's bike trails. It is a great resource for residents and tourists.

Kids are off to college, no grandchildren and now it is time for us to get back on the trails. I'm looking forward to expanding our riding experience to more trails throughout Missouri.

Cycling on the road seems to be an ever-increasing risk and something I am tiring of. These trails are great for both short and long-range excursions and I am proud we have these to showcase some of the scenic and more remote areas Missouri. I have read forums of numerous people from out of state that travel to Missouri to take advantage of our increasing network of trails. BUILD IT! We will come...

Trails are vital to keeping communities healthy. Please support the Rock Island Trail. Every community needs access to exercise in a safe area. Trails also bring tourism which benefits communities.

Do it!

I strongly expanding our state's bicycle and park infrastructure. Please accept the Rock Island Trail - it will be a gift for generations to come.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

My wife and I (now in our seventies) and several other members of our extended family have used and greatly benefitted from riding our bicycles on the Katy Trail from Windsor to St. Charles, and we love to brag about it with folks we visit in other states, as well as with out-of-state visitors we encounter in Missouri. Adding the Rock Island Trail Project to other great Missouri attractions will benefit many more Missourians significantly, just as Katy already has benefitted thousands of us--both in terms of additional tourist dollars spent in our state's economy and in affording more opportunities for residents to exercise mind, spirit and body by cycling safely in the beautiful Missouri outdoors. Please do all you can to promote this worthy cause by entering into the Trail Use Agreement with Mo Central RR and furthering development of the Rock Island Trail Project.

--Ride on!!!

Please accept this trail gift. It will benefit all Missourians and people from across the country that will come to use it.

Please accept the rock island trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please do the Rock Island Trail

Missouri needs the Rock Island Trail!!!

Love the Frisco Highline trail. I have taken countless newbie bike riders on it because they are scared to ride on public roads. After a few rides and their confidence is built they head to the roads and a healthy lifestyle. This trail would open so many new options. Can't wait to ride the whole 144 miles, hopefully ;) Thank you

██████████ bike rider...

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project, a unique (and perhaps limited) opportunity to provide additional scenic recreation in Missouri and economic gain to the area!

The kc area could desperately use new trails and the old railroad is the perfect opportunity to make that happen. Building parks and trails is a clear sign of a successful state and sends the message to families that this is a great place to move to.

Sounds like a great thing to add to Missouri. Please accept the donation.

This would be a lasting jewel for Missouri

Please do this! Look no further than our friends just to the south of us (NW Arkansas) for an excellent example of how to integrate biking into a thriving tourist attraction.

To whom it may concern,
I am an avid cyclist and have enjoyed the katy trail, for the last 8 yrs. I have frequented businesses along the way.

The opportunity to expand cycling trails in Missouri provides the state a unique attraction to market to tourist across the US and around the world. This is a golden opportunity for Missouri. Don't screw it up like when Jeff city dumped the Tour of Missouri stage race.

I have driven by this rail line hundreds of times over the past 10 years wondering why nothing is being done with it. So excited to hear that the opportunity exists for it to be added to the Katy Trail. Great opportunity for Missouri to put a stamp on being the leading rails-to -trail state.

Please accept the rock island trail.

This sounds like a great project. My family and I look forward to using this new trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I frequently ride the portion of this trail near Chilhowee and Leeton with friends (I live in Warrensburg). It is a wonderful addition to the Katy Trail. The Katy already brings thousands of visitors a year to Missouri. The addition of the Rock Island Trail will make Missouri even more of a destination point for cyclers. It is a move that will benefit all Missourians. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Many of the small communities along the former Rock Island railroad are small rural towns off the major interstate highways. The Rock Island Trial Project could be the shot in the economic arm that they need. I believe that the trail project would be good for the entire state of Missouri, giving us something that no other state has. Of course this won't happen over night, but I believe the state should allow this trail project to go forward.

Please develop the Rock Island Train Project!

Please accept rock island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!!

Please support trails for our citizens. There is no higher function of government than to support and help average citizens. Trails and other outdoor destinations are vital for our tourism economy, too.

The Katy Trail has not only provided a great outdoor facility for family activities, it has been a boon economically for towns along its way. Please go forward with the Rock Island Trail Project!

I firmly believe that trails are very important to our society. We need places to get out and exercise in the fresh air, to walk and talk with family or take a family bike ride. Please please please accept the trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I love to bike as well as many others. we need safe places to be able to do this.

I support the Rock Island Trail Project. It would be good for the economy, health of our residents and longevity of our area.

I have been looking forward to this trail since I have heard about it. Please build it.

I just completed my seventh Katy Trail Ride in the past eight years. I discovered that ride and traveled over 800 miles to experience an incredible Quality of Life event. I developed friendships with people from all over the country, Ohio, Kansas, Illinois, New Mexico, Louisiana, North and South Carolina, even Missouri. I made that trip six more times and plan to continue as long as I can. Each year new friends are made from across our Nation and our group has become a mainstay. Accepting the Rock Island Trail Project would be another incredible asset for the State of Missouri, that like the Katy, would attract persons from all across the country who do not have access to a traffic safe trail that extends more than a few miles. Economically, another extended trail will benefit Missouri with tourists who discover more of the State's treasures, I routinely spend time in the Ste. Genevieve area visiting Hawn State Park, and in the St. Louis area with its many attractions. I would strongly recommend approval of this project.

██████████, Huntsville, Texas

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. My husband and I are both native Missourians and still both have family there. We visit frequently and are avid cyclists. We would love to see this trail completed. As the song says, "the Rock Island Line is a might good road, the Rock Island Line is the road to ride!"

Please approve the Rock Island Trail project.

Please accept this trail! it will connect to the Katy and the Katy brings into Missouri a lot of revenue. it would be a great addition to our trails.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept trail

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail--what a great wellness and recreational addition this would be here in Missouri! I'm a southwest MO resident, but always glad for exciting things to do that aren't too far a drive--that often puts me in other states and I'd rather stay in MO (and spend my money in MO) when I can.

Never turn down an opportunity to add more park land to your system. A rails to trails is really special, a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Additions are always welcome. Many people tend to forget about the trails or don't have a trail close enough for them to

enjoy. Additions to the trail system creates new pathways for both those of us who have already enjoyed the trails for years as well as brings options to newcomers to view our great land and enjoy time in nature with family and friends. The people who use the trail system have always been friendly and welcoming to new comers. I hope the Dept of Natural Resources and Missouri Central Railroad will complete the Interim Trail Use Agreement so all may enjoy this new area of our great country.

Rock island trail would be a great project. It would encourage active lifestyles for citizens of Missouri and possibly lower medical costs for citizens. It would be a great opportunity to complete a great trail system in Missouri.

I urge the DNR to enter into the agreement and begin development of the Rock Island Trail as funds allow.

The Katy Trail is a valuable resource for MO and the Rock Island Trail will be as well. The rural communities in the state have so few opportunities and this new trail will bring live to many along the trail. This will bring visitor from throughout the country to parts of our beautiful state that they would never visit. MO needs to invest in the trail which will bring tourist money to these areas for years to come.

Please do not pass on this wonderful opportunity!

absolutely, accept the trail.

Please accept Rock Island Trail! We are from Ky and have spent thousands in Missouri riding your trail system and staying in lodging

Yes please accept and help complete the Rock Island Trail - We use the trails all of the time and know of people who come to our state to ride these trails which is also a help to our state.

Accept agreement

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Features like the trail add to quality of life and make our state more attractive to luring and recruiting business and employers who hire employees that appreciate such amenities.

Please Accept the Rock Island Project!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The Rock Island Trail would be a great addition to the trail system of Missouri. It would allow access to areas not reached by the Katy Trail system, as well as allow connections to the Katy Trail.

I live near this proposed trail and work near it as well. This trail could mean so much for our community as well as for the surrounding communities . Much-needed recreation opportunities would be provided for the health and well-being of so many. It would also help bring in extra business to the area . I am asking the governor to please support the efforts of passing this trail as a reality .

Governor,

Please accept this trail on behalf of the citizens of our state and their descendants.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Dear Governor Greitens,

I'm an avid cyclist, who takes advantage of using our awesome rails to trails bike routes, mainly the Katy Trail...it would be so awesome to continue onto KC..I've ridden end to end multiple times and have many friends who also love these trails. They are so beautiful and safe from traffic

Trails are a major asset of Missouri and bring significant economic benefits to the state. Before moving to Missouri my bike club made an annual trip to ride the Katy Trail and attend significant events along the trail. If one is good would not another be even better

Please accept the Rock Island Trail gift from Ameren. This will greatly help Missouri tourism and provide additional recreation and healthy lifestyle options for MO residents

The Rock Island Trail is a critical part of the economic development for the river towns along the Missouri.

The rails-to-trails using the gifted land would be a boon to the state by inviting hikers and bikers to enjoy Missouri.

WE have an opportunity to preserve and enhance Missouri's forgotten railways are a perfect place to encourage outdoor activity for all ages and physical abilities

Once again the state of Missouri has a chance to cement its reputation for having among the best parks and trails in the country. This reputation has, in the past, contributed greatly to the revenue of the state. Please allow the Rock Island Railroad corridor project to proceed.

The Rock Island Trail is a wonderful gesture of compensation for prior damage caused by Ameren to Johnson Shut Ins state park. It will be a lovely addition to the recreation options in our beautiful state. I firmly SUPPORT the Rock Island Trail Project and extend my thanks to the DNR, Missouri Central Railroad, and Ameren.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Dear Governor Greitens, please accept the Rock Island Trail!

I am very much in favor of this project. Our trails system is such a great draw for both local and out of state visitors.

Please please go forward with this wonderful opportunity!

Please accept the rock island trail project.

More trails=more fun, exercise, and leisure for Missourians.

Just do it.

Wow! Do this. We need many more trails in Missouri for safe riding.

My friends and I would LOVE to have another trail to cycle on- it's safer than road cycling where cars run you over. I would think that would be a very scenic trail once completed. The Katy trail draws many cross country cyclists during the summer months which is great for the local economy- I just helped a couple from Louisiana ride from St Clair, Mo to Washington, Mo in order to get on the Katy trail. With the epidemic of morbid obesity I think it's imperative that we have places across the state where people can exercise and that draws them outside to keep them motivated to improve their health- which saves us all money-being a retired nurse practitioner I can certainly speak to the poor health from lack of exercise this nation is in. I hope you consider this an investment in not only a park but promoting health and fitness, unless you like to see more money going to take care of people with chronic health issues.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I LOVE the idea of extending the trail! It is our family vacation!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It would be a fantastic addition to the recreational opportunities of our state!

Please accept! We've met so many people around the states that are aware of the Katy Trail, MO could easily become the biking destination of choice with another trail on the map!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project.

I would highly support this project. Missouri would be so fortunate to have this trail. Not only bringing for Missourians to enjoy but great way to bring tourists to Missouri.

I am very much in favor of adding more bike trails in MO especially the Rock Island Project connecting with the Katy Trail. It draws tourists to MO and promotes a healthy life style which is a good investment for our tax \$.

The upkeep of our current Katy Trail is difficult and expensive as it is. We have tens of thousands of riders who use it and at times there are sections that are nearly impassible. To add 144 additional miles would, I believe be a huge and even too big of a strain on the current budget given our financial situation. Invest in what we have and let's make it the best thing in the country.

Every year while I am on the trail I run into people who are going cross country. The additional trail will not benefit us.

Yes! Missouri needs more accessible and safe places for active transportation.

As someone who actively uses the trails in St. Louis, I love the idea of adding this as part of the trails in Missouri

As avid bicycle riders my wife and I have enjoyed rails to trails all over the Midwest. The idea of having the Rock Island Trail Project coming through our town of Stover is very

exciting. I hope the Governor understands the economic impact for the small towns willing to embrace the trail.

As a devoted citizen of the great state of Missouri, I am offering my strong support for the DNR agreement to develop the Rock Island Trail Project. I believe our state, and in particular our rural areas will benefit tremendously from the project. Quality of life is important to me and my family. This project will have much to offer Missouri families, and families from numerous surrounding states, in improving the quality of life.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I believe the trail would be an excellent use of this property and would contribute greatly to tourism in the state as well as being a highly valued legacy for generations to come.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail extension

Please accept the rock island trail from ameren.

More trails = more money from tourism. Missouri is the best State to ride in, please approve the Rock Island Trail Project.

That would be great for all who like to cycle and it would be an attraction

to come to the State of Missouri....

I think this is a great idea and would allow for activities that would quickly catch on for Missouri residents. Furthermore, it would help to preserve the rail history for recreational purposes.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This trail will position Missouri to become a premiere trail destination. It will also greatly benefit the people living along the trail, who will have more access for physical activity opportunities. The Rock Island Trail will also provide an economic boost to communities along the trail. This trail is a WIN for Missouri! I highly enjoy riding the Katy Trail and look forward to using the Rock Island Trail as well.

As a St. Louis native and now Kansas Citian who's ridden the KT trail from beginning to end, I would love to continue developing the Rock Island Trail Project. Since the current KT trail terminates in Clinton, Missouri and not all the way to Kansas City (where there is conveniently a train to take you back to the trailhead where you left your car), it's quite cumbersome to complete the full KT trail as it exists today. With more people in Kansas City being able to easily access the trail, I believe many more would take the cross-state journey and see the beauty Missouri has to offer. I'd personally like to see more people on the trail and more tourism dollars being spent in the smaller, more rural cities that exist on trailheads across MO.

Missouri's trail system is one of its greatest outdoor assets; as a Columbia, MO resident, I utilize the MKT and Katy trails several times each week, for running and biking. We have ridden our bikes from Columbia to Jefferson City, to Rocheport, and to Boonville, and would welcome the

opportunity to ride the Rock Island Trail. Our trails here in this state attract many tourists to the area, as well; we have met many cross-country bikers and hikers over the years, and adding more trails will only increase that base, and generate more tourism revenue for the state. Please accept the Rock Island trail.

Yes! Please accept the trail!

An image of the Katy will only help the small towns along the way with the most environmentally friendly tourism possible :)

I think this would be a great thing for bikers/walkers/runners. It will help keep them off the busy roadways and help prevent collisions with vehicles.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! What a fun, healthy, beautiful and important addition to Missouri's quality of life factors. And a rare opportunity for a great cross state connection. Thank you for your consideration.

Please agree to accept the Rock Island Trail Project. This will provide a great benefit to Missouri residents and tourism as well.

Please do the State of Missouri a great deal of good and accept the Rock Island Trail.

As an avid biker, i am 100% in favor of more off road biker venues in Missouri. Not only does it promote healthy living, but also generates money within our state. I have a bed and breakfast that gets several bikers from the Katy Trail each year. This trail would also give urban dwellers the opportunity to view up close the splendid natural beauty within our state!

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

People come from all across America to ride the Katy Trail. I have met families from California, Texas, Maine and other states that comment most favorably on the trail and the fact that it is a state park. Any opportunity that the state has to further enhance and grow the trail/state park should be looked at as another positive step in helping to provide outdoor opportunities for our citizens as well as the tourists who come to visit.

The Rock Islander trail would be fantastic for the state of Missouri. I have enjoyed the Katy trail many times even though it is a ways from my house. The Rock island would be much closer for my family. I know that many small towns are counting on your support for the Rock island trail to put them back on the map.

Thanks,

██████████

These trails draw users from all over the US and bring tourist dollars to Missouri, stimulate the cycling shops with demands for goods and services and improve the health of our rural communities - in desperate need of greater physical activity. They are also great for wheelchair users and younger cyclists providing them a place to travel away from the risks of traffic.

I live near the Katy Trail and it is a great shaded route to bike and walk in the hot summer months. Our communities need more reasons to get off the couch, stop texting and playing video games and watching TV. The epidemic of obesity in rural America is related to lack of physical activity and will result in a tsunami of diabetes, heart disease and cancer in younger individuals if drastic actions are not taken. Providing safe places to be more active is a major step toward dealing with this problem. Please approve and support any and all trail initiatives, there are really no downsides.

We need Rock Island trail!!!!

This project needs to go forward. The Missouri rails to trails effort is model to similar projects in other states. Please let it be completed.

Yes for more Missouri Rails to Trails. I have volunteered for the Katy Trail State Park since 1999 and have observed how all who use the trail enjoy the experience. In the past 6 months, I have had the opportunity to talk to trail users and hear their positive comments that there may possibly more trail by use of the Rock Island. Comments have included "how the addition of the Rock Island trail would show case Missouri".

I understand there would be growing pains. The number of people I have met on the Katy Trail from around the world makes me lean towards a resounding vote of YES for the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It would mean so much for the state!

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

What a wonderful gift! What a wonderful addition to our GREAT state's trails.
PLEASE ACCEPT THE GIFT FOR TRAIL EXPANSION!!

As a lifelong citizen of Missouri I am so proud of the progressive way in which we develop and maintain our recreational areas, especially through the DNR. Having traveled to many other states I can honestly say that we have a superior State Park system. My family and I use the Katy Trail and now the Rock Island trail on a regular basis. We have met people on both trails from across the state and also from out of state. People come here to use our rails to trails system, and they love it! This is benefitting the communities on the trail and in surrounding areas. I sincerely hope that we do not take a backwards leap and fail to complete this project! As an outdoor enthusiast, the idea that our state could move in a direction that does not value outdoor experiences for our citizens, quite frankly, has me considering a move to a state that does. Sincerely, [REDACTED], Warrensburg

I believe the Value in a state comes from the value of its citizens. If the governor thinks honestly about it's own values with having another cross state route for cyclists and weigh it against the economic benefit, pressure from important people and political repercussions then I trust him to make a good

sound decision. My vote would be have The Rock Island Trail project go forward. This is based on my values of what is important in a state and I give way to any politician's decision to disagree but do want to inform the politician that I do watch how he votes to see how many times he votes with my values.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will be a great tourism, economic development, and health boon for Missourians.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail, small town communities will benefit by the economy boost. The trail will draw cyclists locally, nationally, and from different parts of the world

Invest in health and rural renewal and vote yes on Rock Island Trail.

Please proceed with the agreement. It will mean more tourism and fewer chubby citizens.

Please start building this now. Would be a huge plus to all the people of Missouri!!

Please accept Rock Island Trail. I have ridden it and would do it many more times.

Please pursue the Rock Island Trail Project.

As an avid cyclist, touring this state has been a great experience. Being from Kansas City, it is excellent to see more people out on bicycles and improved bike paths and bike lanes in our city.

This trail will attract yet another demographic to vacation/visit our great state. This would boost our economy and possibly aid in someone making a decision to move to Missouri.

This trail will increase the number of citizens getting outdoors to explore and become more active. In the long run, this will increase the health of our state and reduce the medical expenses.

Please enter this Interim

This section of potential trail would create not only an alternative trail route across the state, but also a loop, attracting trail enthusiasts from all over the country. The tourist revenue would be a boon to local businesses enroute. I hope this opportunity is not allowed to pass without serious consideration for its potential.

In favor of the Rock Island Trail: Missouri needs to do all we can to promote the outdoors and physical activity among ourselves. MDC has done an excellent job on their end and has been continually funded by Missouri citizens. Missouri State Parks has completed the beautiful Echo Bluffs Park, much to their credit, and we should all be proud of this park. I tell everyone about it. But lots of families don't have time off to drive to a park very often -- coordinating family schedules is hard. And many do not consider themselves sport hobbyists - fishermen, hunters, trappers. We need to bring the recreation to the people and this Rock Island Trail will do it. More towns will be included and even Kansas City. Yeh! I understand that the towns along the proposed trail are fully in favor of this

rails to trails conversion. And the property is being donated! Missouri has the potential to draw millions of health-minded visitors to both our cities and towns with a new trail which will provide a continuous- loop riding/walking experience. The KATY Trail is already a high quality walking AND biking trail in the milder days of Winter, Spring and Autumn. Lets impact more people and fund the public part of this proposed public/private partnership.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail on behalf of the people of Missouri.

This would be a great addition to Missouri's trail system. Thank you!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I am a strong proponent of the Rock Island Trail project, and it is my sincere hope that you will accept this project, and allow it to come to fruition. Outdoor recreation such as this contributes to a good quality of life for Missourians, and is a boon to tourism, as well.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will make our state better!

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This will be an incredible asset for the people of Missouri. It will bring tourism dollars into our State and help develop our economy.

The impact on the health of the local people is worth the efforts. The opportunity for endurance races, and other events on this trail could generate revenues to take care of maintenance for years into the future.

These types of trails are good for beginners, because they're flat and usually go through the trees for shade. People need all of these types of trails they can get.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. My family has been using the Katy Trail since 2010 and would love to see the Rock Island Trail be accepted. Keep it coming Missouri.

In 2012, my daughter and I traversed the entirety of the Katy Trail as part of a Boston to San Francisco bike trip. We spent 4 days on the trail, and it was definitely one of the highlights of our trip. When the opportunity arises to create another such wonderful cross state trail, it should be taken. Although I am from outside of Missouri, I fully support pursuing an interim trail use agreement. [REDACTED], Medford, MA.

the youth in this state need this. & so do us older ones. it gets people out side with no investment cost.it will make people healthier. sure beats drugs.

Please do it!

Beaufort, MO, isn't on the map, but I'm in favor of extending the KATY network for biking. Thanks for your efforts to expand the system.

Wonderful idea. I biked the Katy in early June. It was awesome. Rest stops, water and toilets make this trail extremely user friendly. I would suggest a small user fee or permit to help fund your efforts. I live in Colorado and State parks require an access fee. Keep up the great work and I hope to bike tour Missouri again soon.

[REDACTED]

I rode all but the westernmost 35 miles of the Katy Trail in 2008 with Road Scholar (formerly Elderhostel) and loved it. I would love to ride another long rail trail in Missouri. Please pursue the Rock Island Rail Trail.

I think this is a once in a lifetime opportunity that should not be overlooked. Bike trails are a great way to get more people taking an interest in preserving the natural beauty of the State of Missouri. The more people are exposed to nature, the more they will do to help protect it, including agreeing to allocate sufficient tax dollars to support the DNR's mission.

Governor,
My neighbors left yesterday for a bike trip in Montana. My sister is leaving this Fall for either New England or Arkansas for a bike trip. Adding this new trail in Missouri should be a great boost for our tourist industry.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

We rode the KATY Trail several years ago over the course of a week, and it was one of the best vacations we've ever had! We stayed in motels and hotels along the way, and really enjoyed the many breweries and wineries that line the route along the beautiful Missouri River. We would come back in a heartbeat to do the RITP, so please consider this project and soon! My wife and I are 68 years old and would love to ride in your gorgeous state again.

I think this would be fantastic! As a runner and triathlete I use the Greenways and MKY and Katie Trail a lot for training purposes! I have lived all over the country and there are lots of cities and rural areas developing more and more of these trails and I believe it encourages people to get out and get moving. Can be recreational and more! Great idea and I would love to see this project happen!!!

hello - a friend and I came into your state for 4 days to ride the Katy trail. We'd love to come back and spend our cycling tourism dollars on a new trail in your great state.

Last October we rode the Katy Trail for the very first time. It quickly became one of our favorite trips. We ride 6000 miles a year on road and trails. The thought of having an extension to the Katy trail is very exciting. It would benefit riders, businesses and the state of MO. Please consider connecting and extending this great trail through the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

When we go on vacation, we seek out rail trails for our adventures. We have enjoyed riding the Katy Trail and other smaller trails in Missouri for the past several years and would ride this trail too. We hope for its completion soon. Gratefully,

[REDACTED]
Reno, Nevada

This would be a wonderful trail for bicycles, horses, and hiking. Developing this trail would bring an economical boost to the small towns along the way, people using the trail would stay at the local lodging businesses, eat at the local restaurants. Spend a lot of money along their trip. Personally, my husband and I just finished 190 miles along the Katy Trail and spent over a \$1000 on lodging, and meals, transportation and bicycle parts. We spent over \$400 on our bicycles getting ready for our trip, buying saddle bags for bikes, hydration drink mixes, and clothes in our local bicycle shop (small business). This is a yearly ride for my husband and I. We need these trails, they are safe family fun. People are outside getting good healthy exercise in hiking and bicycling. 35% of Missouri's budget is spent on social services for the underprivileged, this is a reward for the tax payers that provide that 35% in revenue. We are looking forward to riding the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. As an avid cyclist - I look forward to using the trail to explore more of Missouri!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!! We ride it regularly and have been impressed with the efforts the local communities are putting in. Please accept the Trail.

Fabulous idea.

Do it! Benefits far outweigh the costs.

Do it. Higher revenue for the state due to people coming through the trail and tourism. Plus it's free.

I think the Rock Island Trail Project is extremely important for the development of local communities adjacent to the proposed trail. This trail will draw visitors to the area, including me, and will promote the region as a sports destination. In addition, the local residents will benefit from the exercise they will get when they use the trail. There are multiple ways that exercise outdoors promotes physical and mental health, particularly for children. There is substantial evidence that children with autism and ADHD benefit from exercise in nature. Finally, the right-of-way adjacent to the trail will provide a corridor for native plants and wildlife to connect to larger refuges.

This project sounds like a great idea. I have did the Katy trail twice and would love to have access to another trail of that type. The sooner the better.

I believe this would be a great asset for our state, especially attracting many bikers, hikers, etc into our state. Please advise Gov. Greitens that this is an incredible time for our state to take this on. Thank you for all your help and support of the trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will be the best thing to happen to Missouri this decade.

Will connect to the Katy Trail, awesome

Missouri needs to expand the amount of biking trails within it's borders. Just look to Iowa as an example. There are trails all around the state and they attract a large amount of tourists. If my family decides to spend a weekend riding, we usually head north. Bike riders are encouraged to stop into towns along the trails. There are restaurants and businesses along the trails that welcome riders. I would prefer to spend my tourism money in my home state but at this time it really isn't an option.

I'm planning a bicycle trip to Missouri next summer and trying to build the trip around the Katy Trail. Adding bike trails attracts tourists that stay around for days and really experience the area around them - as opposed to passing through on an interstate highway as quickly as possible.

Adding a new long distance trail like the Rock Island line sounds like a great tourist attraction for the area.

I'm a business owner of Kokomo Massage Therapy, along the rock island trail in Eldon . Plus I'm looking forward to exercising on the trail . I'm a master gardener we need the forests and plants for pollinators for food which benefit our backyard gardens. Please endorse our trail.

Thankyou
[REDACTED]

Please accept the rock island trail. This will aid in making Missouri a more active state and lower obesity rates.

Having ridden the Katy Trail in 2004, I fully support the Rock Island Trail project. Along with the Katy, it would draw increased numbers of cyclists to Missouri, and I'm sure you realize that cyclists bring dollars with them. The economic impact would be significant for adjacent cities and towns, not to mention the positive health benefits.

Governor Greitens: Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

This is a DNR initiative that will pay dividends by stimulating the economy for numerous struggling rural communities. I am on the Katy Trail regularly and almost every time I am on the trail I meet folks from another state who have come to ride or hike the Katy Trail. When I mention the Rock Island Project, they are excited for the possibility of a loop trail across the state.

What I've observed is that if you build a trail, people will use it! Missouri already has a showpiece in the Katy Trail that attracts people from all over the country. Even more will come if you go ahead with the Rock Island Trail Project. Missouri will become the "go to" state for bicycle touring. I'm looking forward to ti.

Please Governor Grietens, accept FREE land for a new bicycle trail to be completed now or even later.

r,

Please accept the rock island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! It would attract more out of state visitors, create green jobs, provide more outdoor recreation for Missourians, and so, so much more. Thank you Governor Greitens!

I believe it would be a great trail and I think people would definitely use it.

Yes this trail would be SO important!! Please do it

I support the Rock Island Trail Project

I am in strong support for the Rock Island trail. Use the Katy and would use this trail.

Yes, please do that. My family bicycles the Katy Trail twice every month, and would like to find another trail. Louise Belt

I support this effort!

I drove from Montana this spring to ride on the Katy trail. I loved all the signs with the history of each section and I saw lots of wildlife and creatures along the way. I also spent money at hotels and visited various towns. Any extension or branch of the trail is a great asset to your state and will benefit local residents and the rest of the US.

Thanks [REDACTED]

YES! Let's expand our rails to trails in Missouri. Not only would I enjoy biking on this, and bringing along my biking pals, this project will add to the economic base of the area. Look no farther than the Katy Trail for solid proof of the economic impact of adding this tourist attraction. I am actually planning a several night bike trip for my biking girls and rail to trails opportunities are the most desirable destinations. We will spend money for lodging, food, drinks, as well as visit any area attractions. Let's keep more money here in Mo.

I strongly urge the DNR to do what it takes to make the Rock Island Railroad corridor a reality. This act will move Missouri on step closer making our state a leader in the healthy use and enjoyment of our great outdoors! I am 81 years, still very active! In the last 6 years I have crisscrossed the US on my bicycle, and before that I hiked the Appalachian trail end to end.. Good Luck and don't give up!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Extending your bikeable trails system will bring in tourist dollars. I'm from Texas and have come to ride the Katy Trail twice! I wouldn't have been in your state otherwise. Accept the Rock Island Trail! It will be a wonderful tourist destination for your state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail project. PLEASE!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! We use and enjoy the current Rock Island Trail from Pleasant Hill to Windsor, MO. The rest of the route would be a wonderful addition.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

DNR should proceed with the Rock Island Trail Project. Many of societies problems are caused by the degradation of the family unit. My family grew up outside, in Missouri State Parks. The parks provide families without the means to be large land owners, the opportunity to enjoy nature and learn many life lessons. The Katy Trail provides an unique opportunity for families to experience a wide array of nature in a minimal footprint. The only negative about the Katy trail is the distance many families in Southern Missouri have to travel to use it. While the Rock Island trail is not a perfect solution, being it is somewhat near the Katy, it does vastly improve on the current situation, being south of the Missouri River. While I, as a liberian and staunch supporter of being fiscally conservative, truly appreciate Governor Greitens's much needed efforts to reduce the cost and size of our state government, it is the role of the government to provide for common economic goods which the private market fails to do supply, such as security and transportation. Due to the size of such a project and the government erected barriers to the private market taking on such a project, specifically right-of-way rules and regulations and rail-banking regulations, private businesses fail to bring such opportunities to the market. Given the benefit to family values that this could yield, I feel this project is worth the State's resources. In conclusion, I would like to point out that I am not a citizen that is looking for a free handout to my pet project. I believe that you have to put your money where your mouth and values lie. My wife and I regularly donate to organizations that support getting families outside, including Ozark Greenways, which operates a similar but much smaller rails-to-trails near Springfield. We will be donating to the Missouri Rock Island Trail, Inc. to support further development of the trail should the State decides to accept the right-of-way.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project.

I think that the trail project would be a valuable asset, as well as a great economic development game changer. I am the Regional Planner for the RPC that contains the Katy Trail and Rock Island intersecting trail head, in Windsor Missouri. Since the opening of the Rock Island, the towns alone it are showing growth in tourism and businesses.

PLEASE ACCEPT THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL PROJECT.

The Rock Island Trail Project which connects to the Missouri famous Katy Trail needs to be completed as planned.

Trails are a huge asset for the state and will provide recreational activities for tourism and promote local small businesses who serve the tourist. For the health and welfare of this state please enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad, PLEASE.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

These bike trails inject Missouri's small towns with new revenues from bikers and teach bikers about the great history of these towns.

Accept the Rock Island trail but don't spend money on it without a vote.

I am highly in favor of the Rock Island Trail Project. It will be a huge asset to Missouri, just as the Katy Trail has been the catalyst for many businesses in MO. Good business = good revenues!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

We need more trails in Missouri, why does Illinois have so many?

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

The Rock Island Bike Trail would be a widely used corridor now that it would connect KC to an already highly used trail and bring businesses more activity. I for one have been hopefully waiting the day this becomes reality!

My friends and I have spent hundreds of dollars a year on fun, friendly bike rides across the KATY and can't wait to explore the new trail.

What a fantastic opportunity this is to get this corridor! It would add an asset to our state. We need as many assets as we can find in these days. We need special places to help promote our state. It may seem simple "bike" trail, but it is really a big draw to many in terms of leisure and outdoor recreation. The more our state can offer as said above the more attractive it looks to others. I'm not sure what people from out of state picture when they hear Missouri. For instance, if I hear Colorado, I think mountains, hiking, animals, trees, nature, snow-not bad. What do people think of Missouri? I'm afraid to ask as now my home city is murder capital! Friends from Europe hear Missouri and now they think Ferguson. Time to market out great state in a positive light. Put the "spin" in the right direction!!

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

This trail would help so many depressed small cities in central Missouri. Hope you can give this your support.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please save this project ! It will bring people into the state to spend money !

I think this trail would be a benefit to all communities around Missouri.

Allowing on going outside fun and fitness for children and adults.

This trail would be amazing! A wonderful economic tourism benefit as well!

Please ACCEPT the 144 miles of Rock Island Trail. It's simple....just accept it.

We need more recreational trails for walking and biking, and viewing nature.

Definitely save the land for the trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

In 2012 I came from New Mexico to ride the Katy Trail out and back. The proposed Rock Island trail would be a great addition to this existing system and provide a route across Missouri that would attract many out of state users and boost green tourism.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This will be a fantastic opportunity for our state!

Please add this to the wonderful trail system we now have. It will be a great companion to the KATY trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept this. It would benefits for many residents and non-residents of MO.

Get this done! Recently I traveled to Colorado on two separate occasions strictly to read de my bicycle. My wife and I have traveled out of state on numerous occasions just to ride our trail bikes. Of course we spend our money when we go out of state and add to their tax revenues. This should be happening here in Missouri. Believe me, more trails will bring more people to our state. People here will become more active. Enough said. You have heard all of the pro trail arguments. Add me to the number of people encouraging you all to get this done

What a wonderful opportunity this is! I'm recently retired and have been riding some of the nation's beautiful rail trails. I hadn't considered Missouri before, but I sure would come to ride a trail like this. And once in Missouri, it would be interesting to poke around the state for a bit before heading home.

I hope you'll be able to proceed with such an exciting project.

I believe this is a great idea! I would love to see this in Missouri.

Please support this project. I have personally traveled to states for their bike trail systems. So I have brought revenue to the local economy because of rail to trails.

It also is a way to expose more people to the outdoors!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! Thanks!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Cycling is an important part of my life and these types of trail projects are of great value to me. Many states use cycling tourism as a draw to attract people from other states to visit or even to relocate. The Rock Island Trail Project is the type of trail that will make Missouri a more attractive destination to visit and relocate.

I support it 100% Geat for our state

I have biked portions of the Katy Trail on numerous occasions, and the entire Trail once with my son. There is every reason to believe that the Rock Island Trail will be as well used. It is hard to think of any negative consequences of investing in this trail, but lots of positive ones. including health benefits, tourism, family and group recreation and a chance to help revive some of the small towns in Missouri. Please support the proposed trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept this Rock Island Trail project. Healthy outdoor activities bring families and friends together.!

NO!!NO!!No!!!!!!

This proposed trail is a MAJOR financial burden on landowners whom own the land and pay the property tax. Accepting this trail will COST TAXPAYERS from lawsuits and gives Ameren an INFLATED CHARITABLE TAX CREDIT based on the fraudulent "8 digit offer" to buy the from the lobbyists rails-to-trails conservancy! THEY OFFERED TO BUY IT--LET THEM AND SAVE THE TAX DOLLARS

I think this is a win win situation for communities along the trail as well as future users of the trail. Look at the success of the Katy trail and how wonderful would it be to have an additional trail of this magnitude.

To Whom It May Concern-

What a gift to Missouri. Trails not only contribute to our tourist efforts but also attract those who want to exercise on trails. Small towns along the trail have the opportunity to welcome travelers to stop, relax, shop, and stay. The trail also offers citizens an opportunity to focus on conservation and preservation.

Gov., this is your opportunity to support this grassroots effort.

It sounds like a wonderful opportunity to me, and a great way for the RR to preserve rights to taking the rail corridor back!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

This would be a fantastic addition to the KATY Trail and would certainly draw visitors/riders from across the country. My six friends and I - all non-Missourians - will be ridiing the Katy. If the Rock Island Trailed becomes a reality, we will be back.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Besides the physical benefits, there is tremendous economic potential as well.

Please support adding the Rock Island Trail to the Missouri National Parks.

As an organizer of walks for people in my church, I can tell you how much interest there is in the Rock Island Trail

Project. I have been organizing group outings to the Katy trail which have always been very popular. It would be wonderful to bring such a trail closer to Kansas City.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the rock island trail.

Economic growth for many communities who could benefit greatly!

Beautiful scenery and exercise for individuals, friends, and families!

The Katy Trail is absolutely wonderful!

Thanks!

Please allow us to use this land for a trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It would be a great addition to our State Parks.

Absolutely preserve this for both present and future trail enthusiasts.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!!!!

This would greatly boost tourism both the walking kind and the biking kind. And tourism brings in dollars for Missouri coffers.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I think the bike route will be very beneficial for the communities of Gasconade County and surrounding areas. To have this trail along with the Katy Trail will bring in additional revenue sources for many local small businesses.

Why are we accepting more park ground to maintain when we don't even take care of our existing DNR park ground, especially the pool at Cuivre River State Park?

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I would love to see ANY additions to the Missouri trail system. That said, I would rather see trails in entirely new territories, like spurs connecting Saint Joseph or Joplin or Hannibal or Rolla or Cape Girardeau to the already established Katy Trail, which is already present at Windsor, and runs mainly parallel to the proposed Rock Island Trail; the other trailhead at Beaufort is a mere 15 miles from the Katy Trail. It would surely be a nice one, but it seems redundant to me. PS, though I live in Saint Joseph, I think a spur to Joplin would be very nice. An additional spur may be considered in the future connecting my suggested one to Springfield, Branson, etc.

Please consider getting enough right-of-way to be sure the trail is wide enough for both bikes and hikers at the same time.

I look forward to using this trail!

Thank you.

Why is the DNR "considering" this? The DNR should be DOING this. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to have

these two interconnected trails. Do you not realize the amount of tourism dollars that are going to pour in to the state? This is a no-brainer. The ROI will be so much greater than the initial investment/maintenance that I can't believe that this is even an issue. Get it done now.

I am hopeful that the governor and legislators will consider the value of a new biking trail. The Katy Trail is the envy of almost every other state. I would remind them that every county supported the 1/10 sales tax which supports conservation, clean water, clean air and parks.

This agreement would be a great addition to the trails in MO.

A recreational trail of this length and caliber will boost national and international tourist to the state of Missouri. It will also improve the quality of life for the residents and visitors who use it. In the past, some nearby neighbors have opposed any new development. In today's world, informed participants know that a trails of this type improved property values and safety to the region. Trails are good neighbors to have for businesses, agriculture, residents, communication hubs, and transportation. Please support the Rock Island Trail.

Please move forward with the Rock Island trail.

Accept the gift from Ameren please.

Please accept the railway!

It needs to be turned into a Trail, it will help the small communities along the trail creating hundreds of jobs, and will really help the smaller communities bring many more jobs and business into the area. We have already seen some people planning to expand.

I live in Ohio. I rode the Katy trail last year with a couple of Ohio friends. It was absolutely wonderful! I totally support developing the Rock Island trail as a recreational addition to Missouri's amazing rail trail system. Look forward to coming back and riding it with friends! Rail trails are great for the economy and help keep people outside and healthy! Thank you!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

There is no question that the DNR should proceed with the Missouri Central Railroad in order to promote, develop, and establish the Rock Island Trail. Not only will it bring untold benefits to the thousands of users of the future trail, but it will greatly stimulate the local economy along the entire route. Consequently, this will bring renewed interest and increased investment to the communities and businesses spanning the length of the trail. It would be foolish to think anything except that the positives far outweigh the negatives concerning the Rock Island Trail Project. In summation, PLEASE ACCEPT THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL.

I think that would be GREAT. I live in another state but love to go on vacations to areas that have recreational trails.

Dear Governor,

My husband and I have recently joined the growing number of 100's of active retired. We especially enjoy traveling and finding rail trails in various states. During our time there we leave a great deal of our money behind in the local economy on food, lodging, souvenirs, clothing, and bicycle gear. This trail would definitely make your state more attractive. We urge you to use this incredible opportunity to facilitate the development of this trail and recognize its value to your state's economy.

Missouri has been a leader in the Rail to Trail movement in the nation. I have ridden on these trails and I frequently see a number of people using them. The Kati Trail is on the north side of the Missouri River the Rock Island Trail is on the south increasing the possibility of people to get out and enjoy our great state.

We believe that this would be a great for both the local Missouri families, and any one passing through MISSOURI to see our state at a slow relaxing pace.

My goodness this is one of Missouri's best ideas for the better of humankind and to regain a connection to nature. We often ride the Katy Trail and visit with awesome people from different parts of the country. this new trial will just be an extension of same. Everyone that I have spoken to about it are very anxious for it's completion. so much has been done already why are you even considering turning back now?

This would be an absolutely amazing project!

Our family's vacation and travel plans are determined by what biking trails are nearby and available when we travel. Completing this trail would mean that our next family vacation would be spent in the Show Me State. Please develop the Rock Island Trail Project!

Please let the Rock Island Trail Project happen! These trails provide a safe place for cyclists to ride, and also see new parts of the state. Where we will spend money, helping these smaller towns!

Great idea, would love to ride it before I get too old.

This is an absolutely fabulous development. I support this effort completely.

I have just read a story in the Warrensburg Daily-Star Journal about how the opening of the Rock Island trail is helping a small town in southern Johnson County. This will do the same for the town along this trail.

http://www.dailystarjournal.com/news/local/chilhowee-benefits-from-rock-island-trail/article_69f0e669-983d-5e33-ae79-efaf84479321.html

It would be appalling if this development is blocked.

I think this would be a tremendous opportunity. I admit, I have not yet ridden the Katy Trail but I intend to do so. A Rock Island Trail would be a tremendous addition to the state.

Please complete the trail!!! Also with restrooms and access to water. We spend a lot of time using rails to trails in Missouri. Please give us more Trail miles!!!

Make it happen, this would be magnificent, preserve it.

You would be crazy not to accept this donation, as it'll be a major draw for tourists like myself.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the trail donation and complete construction of the trail. The Katy Trail is truly one of Missouri's outstanding outdoor resources. This addition will extend the trail into the Kansas City urban area and will offer additional access to the trail for many Missourians.

Please consider the Rock Island Trail Project. This new trail will highlight the beauty of our state and bring walkers and bicyclists along with commerce near access points. I am a cyclist from west St. Louis county that often travels to the Katy Trail. The Katy Trail is a treasure. An addition of Rock Island Trail will be an asset to the state of Missouri.

Keep this rail line for future biking and hiking trails.

I live near Chicago, Illinois but I have ridden all or part of the Katy Trail on at least 6 different occasions. I would welcome another trail. My preference is a paved trail, but I do enjoy the Katy

Yes, please.

On cross country trip past Summer, I made it a point to drive through MO JUST to ride the Katy.
Planning on coming again to ride more.
More trails = more visits.

Missouri to become a top bicycle tourist destination. People already flocking to the Rock Island trail. Bike sales, small town business opportunities, fitness. Just can't go wrong.

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

Gov. Greitens and other officials, please allow the agreement with the Rock Island Trail Project to go through. This is a very great opportunity to enhance Missourians' opportunity to hike, walk, and bike out in nature and to improve their health. In addition, it's a great opportunity to show people the wonderful Missouri we all know and love. It will bring more tourism into our state.

I've used the Katy Trail and it has improved my health.
Thank you for the opportunity to give my opinion.

Please Accept the Rock Island Trail! It would be a great enhancement to the Katy Trail attracting out of state dollars and interest. [REDACTED] Columbia, SC

Please accept the bike trail

This great opportunity may never be offered again in Missouri's future. The Katy Trail is extremely unique and beautiful and this addition can only add to the opportunity to attract many visitors from other states, and be a great source of outside exercise for Missourians.

I use the Katy trail 3 times a week and am looking forward to the Rock Island Trail section opening.
Small towns would greatly benefit from this new trail. Ask Defiance if they are happy that the Katy Trail was opened next to them !!!!

This is a great idea that will build on the many benefits realized in the creation of the Katy Trail: better health, greater connection to the natural beauty of our state, increased tourism revenue, and a positive image of our state that is much needed in the face of Greitens' retrograde policies.

Please do so! We need more trails to combat the obesity epidemic in this country.

Please accept the trail.

Acquiring this property and using it as a trail would be great for the citizens of MO and is a "natural" in terms of Missouri Tourism. Please do it!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!!! It will be a fantastic addition to cycling tourists in the region.

A loop with the Katy trail and the Rock Island Trail is an exciting venture. Users would be able to take a loop around to get to the starting point. This would be good for the public and businesses alike. I hope it happens sooner than later. I would like to plan my trip.

The Katy Trail has been a real economic engine for rural Missouri. There the Rock Island Trail Project will also be serve this function for the rural communities along its route as well as the state as a whole. We should not turn down this great opportunity. Hopefully we can find a private sector partner or partners to help fund this project. Edward "Ted" Jones stepped up to make the Katy Trail a reality. Given your administrations collaborative relationship with the business community I urge your administration to look into possibilities non governmental support.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

What a terrific gift! My husband and I are from Michigan. We have traveled to WV, VA, FL, MS, LA just to ride bike trails. When we visit the small towns along the trails, we spend money on meals, lodging, local art and products, souvenirs, gasoline and snacks, etc. Both my husband and I have been hit by vehicles which required a night in the hospital. Fortunately we were not seriously injured. As a consequence, we have been an advocate for the improvement of the Pere Marquette State rail trail (Michigan Department of Natural Resources, contact person: Todd Neiss) which begins in our downtown (Baldwin, MI) and ends on the eastern side of the state. As a business person downtown Baldwin, I have witnessed more bicycle tourism since the trailhead and trail was improved for bicycle usage. Our town is dependent on tourism and this rail trail offers another reason to visit our county. For inspiration please visit our FB page.
<http://www.facebook.com/railstotrailslakecountymichigan>
Please consider this an opportunity to help struggling small towns and another reason to visit your state.

I support the Rock Island Trail Project as a way to increase recreational opportunities for the people of Missouri and as a way to increase tourism, including economic benefits, to the communities along the trail.

Please support the trail. I think that this is a colossal idea! Our little town (Gerald) and our business could really benefit economically. We have so many abandoned stores that could be converted to businesses to cater to the bikers. We also have several restaurants that would benefit greatly. Moreover, my wife and I are bicyclers desperately in need of a safe place to pedal. The roads around here have no shoulders. There's not much room for bikes and cars. So it's quite dangerous.

Why wouldn't you want free land from UE for the purpose of a bike trail.. This would be a great compliment to the Katy trail. Great for visitors and MO residents. Biking is a great activity for family and individuals. Please add this to the current bike trails of MO.

Biking is a great activity that keeps people healthy. Governor, you would be a fool to let this opportunity slip by. This deal could provide a safe avenue for bikers and hikers to get out. The savings in health care and tourism is more than enough to offset the cost of maintaining the trail.

As my 75 year old father and I prepare to leave Omaha tomorrow to drive to Pittsburgh to meet my cousin and his niece to spend 10 to 14 days to ride the GAP Trail and C&O Towpath to Washington, DC, I see that the Rock Island Trail Project in Missouri may not happen. Three generations of my family have travelled to Missouri twice to spend a week each time on our bicycles exploring the Katy Trail and the towns alongside the trail. The proposed Rock Island Trail would create another opportunity for us to spend 4-7 days exploring that area of Missouri as a family.

As we travel around the country, we hear from many others like us who have ridden or want to ride the trails of Missouri. I encourage leaders in Missouri to continue to demonstrate that Missouri welcomes its own citizens and out-of-state tourists to explore Missouri by bicycle by continuing plans to develop the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail agreement. Bicycle tourism can be a boon to small towns along the trail. This trail will be good for Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island trail!

Missouri is going to be a go-to place for bike recreationists. I plan on spending next summer in your state, spending my money and I support the DNR's commitment to making outdoor recreation accessible to many of us.

I believe it is quite evident by the number of bikers, walkers, short and long distance runners on our streets and parks that a good part of our population is concentrating on keeping in good shape both physically and mentally. The Katy Trail is

very a very popular trail that many take their families to for outings or long distance rides. To have the Rock Island Trail as another option for individuals, families, and organizations to enjoy and improve their health could only be a plus.

Please accept these private resources back into the public domain.

they can become walking trails with little or no development expense.

Please support the Rock Island Trail expansion !

What a great project!!! A win win for the state and communities. A huge tourism attraction for the hiking / biking world. Missouri "Show-Me" your brilliance and make this trail happen.

Thank you. [REDACTED]

Please accept the agreement. This will be a great addition to the state's rail-to-trail parks and make Missouri more attractive as a tourist destination.

Bicyclists bring much needed tourism revenue to areas that have a desperate need for it. The investment will pay off, as it has proven with other trails that are heavily visited by bicycle tourists. Please enter into the Interim Trail Use with Missouri Central Railroad for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project. It's a win-win situation that will benefit Missourians!

I use the Katy trail several times a year and support expanding the addition of another recreational trail to the system. There are several bike trails in Iowa that are having a real economic impact on the surrounding towns. People come from out of state to ride the trails. I have personally seen restaurants and bars opened to specifically cater to the biking crowds.

I realize money is always tight for projects like this, but providing paved trails would be a great improvement over the surface used on the Katy Trail. Most people I know won't ride their skinny tire road bikes on the Katy Trail. If you want to see a great example of a paved trail, see the Raccoon River Trail in Iowa. They have unmanned money collection stations so people support the trail as they use it.

Jump on this chance immediately. This trail will be a tourist attraction as well known and used as the KATY Trail. Please, Missouri, please step up to save a beautiful corridor we all can be proud ofno politics involved!

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail Project,

Would be a good improvement for our area and Eldon

I think this is a terrific idea. I've ridden portions of the Rock Island in Windsor. My only hope is that the large gravel be replaced with smaller, more bike friendly gravel. Chat or pavement would be better but the large gravel really detracts from its allure and accessibility.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Thanks for your support.

I completely support the acceptance of this donation and development of the Rock Island Trail. To do otherwise would be a crime.

The property should go back to the landowners and not turn into a trail. Construction and trail maintenance will be more than any economic benefits. DNR needs to use the money take care of parks we have already, I don't know where they will get the money anyway.

Please accept the donation of the rail bed for trail development. It will provide such a large economic impact for all the communities along the trail. Along with a boost in tourism to the state and health benefits to the users of the trail.

There could not be a more perfect venue for the people of Missouri to use for their recreational activities. Please consider and accept this opportunity. It will prove a lasting legacy! There are users from our home state, surrounding states and international visitors that will benefit from the trail.

We love to bike ride and come to Missouri for weekends, etc. Bringing in our tourism money!

Whomever It May Concern,
Please consider accepting the Rock Island Trail. It would be a wonderful addition to continue making Missouri unique. Revenue is already created by the existing Katy Trail. Why not add another? Several Missourian families would have the opportunity to enjoy more nature and physical activity with this additional trail.

Thank you

I enjoy Rails to Trails and often travel to them for a good ride. I have seen the impact first hand and it's almost always positive. Develop the trail.

Please build it. The riders will come. After visiting towns and states with good bicycle trails I can't wait for Missouri to improve ours. I travel out of state to ride safe trails.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Promoting health and outdoor recreation shouldn't be looked at from the perspective of what it costs us but what we gain. Please accept the donation and set up the trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I grew up using the Katy Trail as it goes through my hometown. Another such trail in Missouri would be an invaluable resource as it provides a safe, free activity for thousands.

I cannot imagine a better idea. Not only will it connect Kansas City with the Katy Trail, it will give folks south of the river a trail to enjoy.

Do it! A great recreational resource for Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Yes! Should be free use for bikers & hikers.

Please accept the Rock Island. Work has been done for many years to get to this juncture. Accept the trail as mutually agreed upon by all partners. Thank you.

Trail will be an immediate economic boom because the trail is being embraced by towns along the route. It took the Katy towns longer to realize the economic boost that it now enjoys. Accept and support the Rock Island Trail.

Thank you!

We need more areas like this to safely bike and walk

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

I believe the trail would be a boost to the local communities and to tourism in Missouri.

Having traveled on the Katy trail numerous times and will continue to ride the Katy I would love to see even more trail opened up and I am sure it will attract riders to MO to ride the Katy.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

We need to be able to tour the small town along the corridor on a bicycle and stay for as well.

I have walked a great deal of this route. This will make a fantastic recreational trail opportunity for not only thousands of locals along this former Rock Island RR right-of-way, but potentially thousands of visitors to our state.

My wife and I are avid bicyclers and utilize the Katy trail and Madison County, IL trails. You don't have to be a biker to enjoy these trails. We encounter hundreds of walkers on our bike rides.

Being knowledgeable about this route, I believe it will be even more popular than the Katy Trail. It offers several substantial bridges and at least two tunnels. Originally built as the St Louis Kansas City & Colorado, this line passes through farmlands, plains and woodlands. The numerous small towns along the trail are sure to spawn trail related business. Most of this rail line last saw a train pass through over 35 years ago. This trail could breathe some economic life into small towns that have seen little since the Rock shut down.

I believe it would be a big mistake to pass up the opportunity to develop this trail route for future generations. Ex-RR rights of way given their lack of extreme grades, offer a great venue for every level of walker and biker. Please don't fail to accept this opportunity to bring a great trail to fruition.

Yes. We need this trail. So good to bring life to the small towns.

Please listen to the people of MO and accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please complete the trail. It is a one of a kind opportunity to put MO. on the map with the longest trail in the US.

The revenue it would provide would be priceless. I bike the Katy twice a year from start to finish.

Just rode the Katy Trail and would find the opportunity to ride a loop and longer ride great and would be back to do the longer ride. Came from Maryland.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

The Katy Trail is the diamond among the Rails to Trails, and adding the Rock Island Trail would bring money and people to Missouri. I have met people from over 30 countries on the Katy Trail, and 48 states. These people are like me, they bring revenue and leave no trace. It would be a real shame not to see the Rock Island turned into a state park trail.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my 100% support of the DNR entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad to develop the Rock Island Railroad corridor as a recreational trail. Thank you for your consideration.

I'd like to see the trail go in! It would be a great asset to Missouri.

Please ACCEPT the Rock Island Trail

I feel the trail is very important to the people of rural central mo as well as to this state. When a company wants to donate so much trail for use of all people of a state it's important to accept such a gift.

Bike trails are needed today to aid in keeping Americans healthy. Also great for tourism. Might be a reason to retire to the area.

This would be a great project for Missouri and would definitely put us on the map for cyclists all over the world.

The segment looks like a really interesting route. The mid west needs more bicycling draws. I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

I have ridden the Katy Trail many times and I particularly love the section between St. Charles and Herman. To have another beautiful trail to use would be just awesome! I hope you do for those of us who love nature and the outdoors. In today's political environment any land we can save and purpose without houses, pipelines and roads is good for Missouri, the United States and our planet. Let's do it!!

I am for this trail and I want it to be PAVED - not made of crushed gravel!

The Rock Island Trail can be another gem. It should be accepted and become part of our wonderful trail system.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I have ridden the Katy cross-state four times in the last 12 years, sometimes solo, sometimes with friends. The Katy has proven to be an excellent resource for recreation, known across the country. I have met cyclists from England and Australia on the Katy.

When I first heard about the proposed Rock Island Trail, I was very excited, and am looking forward to riding it when it is finished. I am confident that it will be a great addition to Missouri's trail network.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Conversion to a Rec trail would be huge! Please do it! Thanks.

This would be a great addition to go along with the Katy Trail.

Please save our trail! It will provide a safer alternative to riding/walking on highways and streets. It will encourage more people to get outside and exercise and enjoy the outside. It will also help rural areas. Please continue with the expansion of the trail! Thank you in advance!

Please accept the Rock Island trail!

So excited to hear about this new trail connecting to the Katy Trail. We live about an hour from the Katy Trail, this new Trail would be 30 minutes closer and we would bike on it often. There are no trails at the Lake of the Ozarks.

Please accept the rock island trail. Definitely Ameren should be expected to be held accountable for the Taum Sauk incident and this is a fair repayment.

PLEASE ACCEPT THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL.

I think this is really good idea to continue the trail.

It will be used for generations to come

This is very important for us senior citizens to have a place to get exercise and have a bit of vacation at a reasonable price. Pleas help us move the Rock Island Trail forward.

This is a complete no-brainer. Finish the trail!

please agree to it trails are wonderful way to explore areas great for local tourism safe way to spend the day with family

I support the creation of the Rock Island Trail. This recreational corridor will bring long-needed economic development to towns such as Beaufort and Gerald, et al, along its path and will bring many years of enjoyment to the citizens of Missouri. Thanks for your consideration. Kati Guerra

Dr Governor,

Please accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

Bike trails bring in so much economic activity to small towns that are near it. Every time we go on the Katy Trail, we always stop at the shops and restaurants along the way. Even if the land wasn't getting donated, this trail would be such a boon to the state, and I hope the governor approves it.

I have met people from all over the world who came to Missouri for the KATY trail. This would only enhance that exposure and revenue stream...to the benefit of all of the towns along the trail. Look how many towns the KATY has helped revitalize. It's a no brainer to support it, develop it and then get the word out to the world.

I've met people in Colorado (the place I consider cycling Mecca for the US) who come to Missouri to ride the KATY. Yes, the Rock Island project is nothing but a positive enhancement to Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The completion of the trail will bring in millions of dollars to the local economies with bikers from all over the US and even foreign countries as witnessed by the Katy trail. It would be a shame for Missouri (the show-me state) to drop the ball and not show what our state does for recreation.

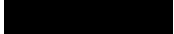
Please do this--It will be great for the State and great to encourage healthy opportunities for citizens. It will also spur tourism. What a wonderful opportunity, please move this forward

Yes yes yes to the Rock Island Trail!!! Why would the Governor refuse such an amazing asset for the state?

Having ridden the Katy Trail and heard about the Rock Island extension, I was very excited.

Not sure what the issues are, but would LOVE, LOVE, LOVE the addition.

Former Edward (Ted) Jones partner and Duke Graduate,



This sounds like a wonderful opportunity for the people of Missouri. Please don't let it pass us by. I ask you to please please please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please complete the connection to Lee's Summit quickly, the active biking community here would use it to it's full extent.

This is an incredible opportunity that would bring many tourists, athletes, bike riders, hikers and others to MO!

PLEASE ACCEPT THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL

These longer trails are wonderful for population health and for conservation corridors.

We want to encourage people to get out and be active, but roads are not the place.

Please develop the Rock Island trail. We have traveled to Missouri for the Katy Trail and would love to ride the Rock Island!

As a weekly cyclist on the Katy Trail I encourage you to enter into an interim trail use agreement for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

I celebrated a big birthday a few years ago with a trip to Missouri and a bike ride on the Katy Trail (with side trip to Mizzou for one of the first times since graduating too long ago). You already have one gem for both locals and as a tourism draw. The Rock Island Trail would make Missouri an even more awesome bike destination! And even better, so much goes through rural areas that otherwise are overlooked by tourists.

How can you not do it??

This would be a fantastic addition to an already wonderful trail system. Bicyclists from across the United States talk about the Katy Trail. The addition of the Rock Island Trail Project will be a big incentive for more cyclists to come to Missouri, spend their vacation dollars in the State. The benefits would extend to many areas where those dollars may seldom reach. This could be a big bonus to local, small business owners along the trail.

If the Governor wants to project an image of a healthy active lifestyle for Missouri, this would go a long way to supporting this idea.

Please support the Rock Island Trail.

People come from all over to walk or bike ride the KATY trail. I am sure the addition of the Rock Island Trail would only increase the number of people coming to MO. Last year I rode the length of the KATY trail. While on the ride I met a couple from Alaska, two young men riding across the country. And several riders from MO and surrounding states.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. We need many more trails throughout the state.

My question is, what has DNR ever done right. They usually have so much red tape tied to anything that they get involved in.

please accept rock island trail

Just say YES!

This will be a very welcome trail. I met a man from the United Kingdom who came to the U.S. two years to bike throughout our states. His favorite by far was the Katy Trail. That speaks volume for our state. The Rock Island Trail will be used by many people not only for Missourians but tourists who come to bike and visit our state. The trail will provide recreation for people of all ages and levels. It is healthy way for families to bond and hang out together enjoying an activity. Please move forward with this project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! We need more efforts like this in our state.

Please preserve this for the people of Missouri and our country.

This trail and other cycling, walking trails throughout the state will help to attract the young, highly educated people Missouri needs to staff and build businesses that will shape the state's economic future.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please provide safe recreational opportunities for Missourians and visitors to the Show Me State and enter into an agreement for the Rock Island Trail Project. Thank you.

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

I think the development of the Rock Island Trail would be a wonderful addition to the DNR trail system that Missouri currently has. I use the Katy trail system quite a bit, and enjoy it's connections to other trails in the St. Louis metro area. There are no other rail to trail systems in the Rock Island area that I know about, so I think the RIT would provide much recreational value to this part of Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! Outdoor tourism is vital to Missouri's economy, and promoting healthy lifestyles is a value that should be shared by all Missourians. Thank you!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Trail riding is great for individuals, as well as the communities along the route. Please show leadership in accepting and developing the trail.

PLEASE, please make this a reality. I have been riding my bicycle for a few decades and hope to keep doing so for a while to come; It is pretty scary anymore riding on the roads, why you never know when a college president or some other official may do a hit and run on you! Seriously, this 70 y/o practicing nurse still rides a couple times a week; I'd rather ride on the road, but I don't feel safe anymore unless I carefully pick my when and where. I find myself more and more back on the Katy because of no dogs and no cars.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. The trail will sure be an asset to Missouri

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project, this would be utilized by so many in our area!

I am a current user of the stock Iskand Line portion of the Katy Trail State Park. I highly endorse the continuation of the project to Beaufort. I see the increased business and tourists in Pleasant Hill MO and know a longer better trail can help communities all along its length. Make Missouri the Show Me State, show the country the best Rails to Trails State.

This would be great! Getting outdoors & riding my bike on a trail has been such a wonderful way to experience

nature. Missouri would be so fortunate to have this trail especially so close to the Katy Trail!

This new trail would be Awesome!

I know several people who would come to Missouri to ride the trail.

The trail can be a part of "Across America" bike rides.

Please, please, let's do this trail. It will provide engineering and construction jobs as well as provide another reason for people to visit Missouri. Think of all the small towns and hotels providing services to visiting bikers.

It's a good thing.

I am an avid cyclist who uses Katy Trail State Park on a regular basis. I live in Columbia and ride my bike on the local MKT Trail to catch the Katy. I usually ride between 25 and 60 miles at a time. The Katy Trail is a great resource. I'm nearly 59 years old, and I look forward to spending much of my retirement riding on the trail. I would like to see my options increase by the addition of the Rock Island Trail Project. I understand that our rails to trails projects here in Missouri are great for local economies. When I ride I always stop at local businesses along the way. It's a great way to meet people and get to know the local communities. In some communities along the Katy, the trail is the driving force of the local economy. I believe that the Rock Island can do this for many of the communities that it touches.

Please accept the gift of the trail.

I am thrilled to hear that Missouri is considering a recreation trail from Windsor to Beaufort. My family and friends have enjoyed riding and walking the Katy trail for many years and we would welcome this new trail to allow us to continue to explore and enjoy Missouri. Please join the agreement!

Sounds like it would make a great trail.

We enjoy the Katy Trail almost every year for the past 14 years. Would love to have another trail or extend out vacation for the Rock Island Trail

I think the Rock Island Trail Project is a great thing for our state and our local areas. Great to add things like this that gets people away from our technology world we live in today. The Katy Trail seems to be very popular so I'm sure this would be the same in the future. Please support this great project.

Please do this wonderful thing for our state.

I strongly encourage the DNR to enter into this agreement. If there any reservations as to the potential of this project, one only needs to look at success of the the KATY trail....if only Ted Jones were here to champion this rail to trail.

The people of Missouri will benefit both directly and indirectly from the Rock Island Trail. It is a great opportunity to create a recreational amenity that will be used by locals and visitors.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Governor Greitens,
Please accept the Rock Island trail (144 mile section) from Windsor to Beaufort.
This trail will be a great benefit to the citizens of Missouri.
Thanks.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Yes, please!

I support the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. My family and I consider bike trail riding as safe and fun way to explore Missouri. We are unable to take longer bike rides in Lebanon because of unsafe road conditions. Please consider developing the Rock Island Trail Project.

would love to see another trail added to the cross state system. Since the professional bicycle race across Missouri it would be nice to see something positive done for the bicyclists.
Thank you for your consideration.

I believe creating the recreational trail is a wonderful idea. More trails, in my eyes, means more healthy people. Anytime we can invest in nature, we should do it.

Please accept the Rock Island GIFT!!!!

Dear Governor Greitens,
I strongly support the Rock Island Trail, it is an amazing public-private partnership.
Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail donation. Having ridden the Katy Trail from Clinton to St. Louis twice, and riding individual parts on a weekly basis during good weather, this donation should be viewed as a huge opportunity that will not be available in the future.

I support he Department of Natural Resources (DNR) consideration of an Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project.

The Honorable Governor Eric Greitens, Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I spend approximately \$2,000 a year to ride the Katy Trail. This money spent, was prior to State, Local, Lodging and fuel taxes. If 10,000 users spent this amount in Missouri, it would equate to \$1.5 million in taxes to the state of Missouri alone. Thank You, Brad Calder

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the rock island trail!

Please do it. I will ride the whole length with my family and spend money at the towns along the way. Great for promoting health and economic development. I'm sure thousands of out of state people will do the same! It will be a national destination and a Missouri treasure. Imagine the legacy!

I believe the addition to this trail could mean big things for the little towns along it. A lot of these towns suffered greatly

when the trains stopped coming through and never recovered and this gives these towns a glimmer of hope to bring people back into their towns and provide them goods and services. This will be an economic jolt to each of these towns and its citizens.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Not only would it be a boon for tourism, but many Missourians love and use our beautiful trail system. Rock Island Trail would enhance this.

I wholeheartedly support this plan for interim trail use. I look forward to enjoying the trail and supporting businesses in communities nearby the trail.

As a user of the Katy Trail I support the Rock Island Trail Project. I'm 75 but look forward to an opportunity the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island offer. This will be important for the future of the state.

I think this is a great use for this corridor. Missourians love having a wide variety of parks to go to. They keep us healthy and happy by the exercise, beauty, relaxation, connection, inspiration, etc.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a lasting legacy.

My wife and I spent 5 days in MO when we came to ride the KATY trail. We would come back to ride another long Rail Trail.

Thank you.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The continued development of this trail will be a huge assets to the state of Missouri for its residents, businesses and tourism impact.

Please accept the rock island trail.

I absolutely support the idea of converting old rail corridors into safe, accessible and healthy trails for multi use recreation. This proposal will open up a great opportunity to connect across an already bike trail-friendly state. The encouragement of government to get people out and on trails results in healthier populations, healthier communities, and healthier economies. PLEASE develop this trail, for today and future generations!

Please accept the trail!

I am very excited for the Rock Island Trail and how many benefits it will bring to so many communities and the entire state of MO. The obvious it the physical activity that it encourages while showcasing the beautiful state along the way. However, it will also bring financial opportunity for these communities as well. This is a positive and imperative project for DNR to be a part of. It is an extension of the

positive and amazing work DNR does for the state. This project is not only being anxiously awaited across the state of MO, but other states as well. It will bring many tourists to our amazing state! What a great partnership!

Please move forward with developing the Rock Island Trail. I ma planning to spend a week in Missouri next month to ride the Katy Trail, and certainly anticipate an enjoyable time. Having additional trail options will certainly bring me back to Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please move forward with the Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island trail project. There are many benefits to this.

My husband and I bicycled the KATY trail a few years ago. The Rock Island Trail would be a natural extension of their wonderful outdoor corridor. Bicyclists, as a general rule, are considerate of nature, neighbors, and can create an economic engine to the trail corridor. Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

My wife and I have enjoyed riding the bike trails of Missouri and we add to the economic stability of the areas we visit by staying and eating in those areas. More biking trails would definitely be a benefit to the communities and nearby businesses.

We need this trail ! Economic growth, look at the dollars the Katy brings to the communities it passes thru. Exercise the number one RX for health.

Please support the Rock Island Trail Project.

please accept the Rock Island Trail Project

It would be shameful to not at this point. Here we have gotten hundred's of thousand folks excited for this only to pull the plug would be a slap in the face. I know people from other states that said they are excited to come ride the new trail and isn't that what we want to do, bring people to Missouri? To spend money in Missouri??

Please accept the Rock Island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This will be a great complement to the Katy Trail, and be a great asset to the state of Missouri. What a great way to encourage outdoor activities and our citizen's general fitness, all while benefiting tourism in the state and these local communities along the trail. One needs to look no further than the towns along the Katy Trail to see the benefits of such a trail.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Makes a lot more sense than letting it go to seed. The Katie Trail is very popular.

Please support the Rock Island trail. It good for the health of Missourians as well as an economic opportunity.

My family has traveled to Missouri numerous times to ride the Katy Trail. We usually spend a night in one of Missouri's smaller towns, eating at local restaurants. Trails like this help the smaller businesses as well as show off the beautiful scenery of the state.

Trails - draw tourism

Trails - support small business along the route

Trails - provide a safe way for individuals and families to be active [active people = more productive people who need less health care]

Trails - say we value people

Trails - say we want you to have a positive experience in MO

Please compleat the RI Trail project as soon as possible. It will be an asset to the citizens of MO and a draw for cyclist from around the world.

I love this idea! A family friendly idea that gets people outside and together... away from their screens, lol!

Missouri can become a far more attractive place for a vibrant tourist economy and families and folks from all walks of life with this project.

We are looking forward to using the Rock Island Trail. My property is juxtaposed to the trail and it would be beneficial for the community of Gerald and Missouri.

I strongly suggest Governor Eric Greiten & DNR accept the transfer from Ameren Missouri and or the Missouri Central Railroad for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the rock island park

I live in KC, please accept the Rock Island Trail

horse trails, and driving horse trails. the old railroad tracks are very good for this. and as an older person I would still be able to use and enjoy the outdoors.

Please support the rock island trail. Thank you.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Trails are good for MO economy. They increase tourism and provide work for residents. As well as providing safe places for people to exercise which improves peoples health and reduces health care cost in our state.

Please support the Rock Island Trail Project.

Missouri ranks 51st (including DC) in lowest tobacco taxes. (<https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0097.pdf>)

This states' elected officials are not creating a future for healthy Missourians and building a future of incredible outdoor recreation for visitors worldwide. Build it and they (\$\$) will come.
A retired healthcare professional.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail gift. Many small communities along the trail corridor are suffering economically and this may help them. It will also provide jobs during construction and maintenance and contribute to a healthy lifestyle for those using the trail.

This trail is a good thing! Please allow this to go through!

Safe outdoor venues like the trails are more than welcome. Having a trail like this can only be a positive project not only for the citizens of Missouri but to our visitors also.

please accept the rock island trail project

Do it. Don't waste this wonderful opportunity. More trails for Missouri, please.

Trails are good for tourism and our state in general. It also helps lure millenials to the midwest. KEEP THE TRAIL!

This project would provide great beneficial reuse of the area and provide recreational benefit for humans. It would also be beneficial to landscape the exterior area of the trails with native grasses to provide habitat for native animals.

1.) Preservation of the former Rock Island rail corridor for a future high speed passenger service between St. Louis and Kansas City is vital. It is the most direct rail route.
2.) So, in the interim between now and when we become more enlightened to rail passenger service in general in our Nation and State (it's happening - look at California & Florida), let's preserve the former Rock Island rail corridor for use as an interim recreational trail. Thank you.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I bike for pleasure and for the healthy exercise. Since hip replacement my doctor doesn't want me to run or jog so biking and walking are my two choices. I think the more off road trails we have the better it will be for Missourians. I am for this trail 100 percent.

I hope that the rock island trail project moves forward. I have ridden the Katy trail numerous times and have thouroughly enjoyed it and would love to see a second trail added to make a loop. I have spent a lot of money in towns along the trail, for meals and lodging and would also support the rock island trail project and tourism in Missouri. Please don't let this opportunity for a beautiful recreational trail be passed up. It's an important asset to Missouri. Last year when I rode the Katy trail, I met people using the trail from numerous states and even 2 other countries. It's an amazing jewel of Missouri! I wouldn't visit Missouri unless the trails were there!

Why say no? This is nothing but a positive for the health of our state!!

Please accept this trail. It will be a great asset for the people of Missouri and our neighbors who visit us because of it.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island trail as it will be a great addition to many communities.

Developing this trail for multi-outdoor use would be a great use of an old unused resource. I've done several converted rail trails - they are a joy to traverse.

Living in the small community of Eldon, the trail would bring opportunities for growth to our town. We are actively preparing for the trail to come through and looking forward to all it would bring. Please approve the trail!

This is a good idea. These trails get used by the public as evidenced by the popularity of the Katy Trail. They are a great way to enjoy nature and get exercise.

Please, please come to an agreement so this project can be completed. I am so looking forward to the use of the trail that will run through Eldon. This will also be a GREAT economic boost for our little town.

Wonderful! We use the trail close to Pleasant Hill as much as possible. We are both in our 70's and love to bike!

The Rock Island trail would be used by locals (my family), Missourians, and out of state travelers. All will benefit from the growth and development of Missouri trails. Do not be penny wise and pound foolish. Any investment in this trail will surely be repaid by the many years of trail use. The economic development generated from the creation of this trial is desperately needed in these rural communities. The trail is needed, wanted, and feasible. You need to do this and not waste this awesome opportunity.

This would bring small business opportunities to the many small towns this trail would run through or near to service a growing number of hiking/ biking tourists. It would also offer a safe alternative for walking/jogging/biking in rural communities. Too often rural residents are left without sidewalks or even road shoulders when they share road surfaces with drivers.

Please do accept the rock island trail! Thank you for your time.

I absolutely love the rails to trails program and have visited several in Missouri. The trails not only make an obsolete tract of land purposeful again, but promote tourism amongst hiking and cycling enthusiasts. Please consider this new extension and the positive impact it will have on this beautiful state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Last year I planned to travel from NC to Mo to meet 4 MT friends to ride the Katy Trail. We had a wonderful trip and spent a lot of money on B&Bs, food, wine, shuttle, bike gear,

and gifts. We loved riding the trail and were so impressed with MO's support of rail trails and bike touring. YES, add the Rock Island Corridor as another option. Now if only NC and MT would copy MO! Maybe they would keep some of our tourist dollars! Thanks!

Yes! Please continue to build the Rock Island Trail project. Living in KC, the Katy Trail feels "close, but not close enough."

My wife and I ride the entire Katy Trail every year. We have been really looking forward to this new trail. We and many of our friends use the rails to trails system many times per year. I really hope this still happens. Missouri is falling way behind other states with respect to outdoor activities.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

All my fun and spendy out of state bicycling friends want to come check it out and spend money here.

Trials are good for everyone. They help the economy of communities that service them. They provide wonderful vacation opportunities. They highlight our state. People come from around the world to ride the KATY Trail. I strongly advocate for entering into the Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

I am not a Missouri resident but such a project would be attractive to me visit your state as a tourist

Please accept the rock island trail

It would be wonderful to expand the trail. We travel to Missouri to utilize the Katy trail repeatedly. The trail is well maintained and the scenery is exquisite. We frequent the B&B's along with the local restaurants.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! How can you be undecided on this? Great project for the health and quality of life for many Missourians.

I support this development!

Please move forward with accepting the gift of the Rock Island Trail right of way.

The economic and quality of life benefits far outweigh any negatives.

I am a supporter of Governor Greitens and a cyclist as well. I strongly encourage the state to enter into the interim use agreement.

We live in the Versailles area and would love to see the trail become a reality. Versailles and other towns in this area that are along the MORIT are currently working very hard to revitalize our towns. We are currently working with the Missouri Downtown Mainstreet Organization to restore our town and renew our economic development. The trail and all it would bring would be a great help in this. We need to bring more younger families to the area and the trail would provide

a much needed amenity. We are also hoping to develop a Missouri Tour bike race that would go across the state and become a national event. Please make this happen!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project!

Love the idea. Pls move forward with making MO a destination for recreational hiking and biking enthusiasts.

This would be great!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please complete this trail!!

The Katy put us on the map - This would only enhance our standing with 'local' users as well as national and international recognition. It is recreation for all ages, all levels of social status -

I have lived here my whole life and so many people are looking forward to this trail extending through this area. I have raised 4 daughters and now having grandchildren. My husband has had an insurance business here for 35 years. The benefits of its completion are endless. Most importantly the financial increase to help so many who have been struggling in their businesses. The decline of local success saddens me. I care deeply about this area and would love to see any sort of upturn so desperately needed. I believe the completion of this trail would get the pendulum to swing in that direction. Also the physical fitness benefits of any that would turn to this form of activity would wave out in many areas. Please support the trail.

I am strongly in support of developing the Rock Island Trail and want it to receive appropriate financial support. We have seen what a vital project the Katy Trail has been and financially lucrative for many towns situated along its length. Rock Island has the same potential and can be a real feather in Missouri's cap and a point of pride for us all.

Please continue to support the new Trail because tourists will bring money when they come to ride the Rock Island Trail.

All will benefit. ???♀□???????????

As a young family it was great to take the kids out and ride. They got to use up a lot of energy in a safe place and we got to make some great family stories to remember. A good and safe bike path pays for itself in a lot of ways and for many years. Please build as many and as long of a bike trail as you can.

Great idea! I would love to see this happen.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

There is little doubt that trails that are cycling-friendly promote visitors to the state. I know quite a number of people from Kansas and Iowa that have made trips to the state to enjoy the Katy trail. There are even commercial outfits that create and promote guided tours of the trails. The one from which I get email solicitations is "Bubba's" -- see <http://www.bubbaspamperedpedalers.com/katy-trail>. I am a

Kansan (but with a degree from Mizzou), and I spend time in the state for cycling adventures like that that would be created by the Rock Island Trail. The facility would, of course, provide major health / recreation opportunities for Missouri citizens as well as out-of-state visitors. I encourage the Governor to accept the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please turn this former rail line over to the DNR for trail development. We need all the trails we can get

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Bicycling is an important part of my life. I live on the border of KS and MO and Johnson County, Kansas has amazing trails for its citizens. Missouri needs more amazing trails!

YES!!!!

The Rock Island Trail Project would be an asset to our MO towns including family activities of walking and bicycling ??And improve the scenery and history of our depleted railroads not in use anymore.

Please sign the agreement for the trail ??

Thank You

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Dear Gov. Greitens,

Please approve the rock island trail park extension. Missouri has many valuable natural resources and this would be an invaluable addition to these resources. The Katy trail brings many visitors to Missouri and additional miles complementing this park will draw more visitors who would love to trek the length of the state, without concern of motor vehicles.

This is an amazing opportunity to give Missouri families more access to healthy activities in under served counties.

Thank you for your consideration, I have confidence you will hear the requests of your constituents and pass this effort.

[REDACTED]

One of the main reasons we love to visit Missouri, it's because of their rivers, Blueways, Greenways, trails let us enjoy your gorgeous outdoors. The state has been a leader in rails converted to trails.

Do if you can afford it, looks great fun.

Please Accept the Rock Island Trail

I believe this will be a positive move forward and the trail will see a lot of use.

I am for the Governor entering into an interim trail use agreement.

By all means, yes. Governor, you look like a fit fellow. As a former Navy SEAL, you understand the benefits and importance of a healthy lifestyle. If you are undecided, I

suggest you take a spin on the section of the Katy Trail nearest Jefferson City. You will see the benefit of physical activity while communing with nature. You will see how well the trail is used. You will see that an abandoned rail can find a new life while benefitting thousands of Missourians.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

The Rock Island trail is going to be very important to the state Missouri. It will bring in tourists from all over to bicycle and hike to RIT (Rock Island Trail) and the KATY. On a personal note as an retired Missourian I hope to be ride the RIT.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

The trail system is a crown jewel of Missouri, not only in terms of leisure time human activity but in terms of very real economical benefit to the surrounding communities.

WE MUST DO IT! In fact, we should put in more trails and bike / run paths. This is for the viability of St. Louis and to keep us healthy and active.

Just do it. It enhances the economy of towns along the trail with the influx of bike riders needing services, lodging, food. Kids in those communities can safely ride, play, gather along the trail. Connecting people to the environment is good for the planet. The more knowledge we have about the natural world, the better the chances for survival as the unnatural world destroys it.

Please allow the Rock Island Trail to proceed - please approve it. These trails have a tremendous impact on the States wellness!

I would like the rock island trail to be built. Missouri roads are very dangerous to ride compared to the surrounding state and will give more options for riders to stay safe

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! I see this as a benefit to Missourians and an improvement to our state. This trail will strengthen the MO State park System and will increase Missouri's ability to compete with other states that appeal to active, outdoor-minded residents.

Thank you!!

Love to have another trail for multi use. It would be great to have this as a paved asphalt trail that would provide a safe corridor for cyclist across the state. I am an avid cyclist and safety is the 1st thing on my mind when I hit the streets. I am a very cautious cyclist but distracted driving frightens me and the thought of children, husbands, wives, etc. grow up without loved ones is terrible. Another trail that allows safe multi use is a wonderful idea... please accept this wonderful gift.

I fully support trails in Missouri as they are good for our state's economy, communities, people, and families. We are a healthier state with trails!

Please accept the Tock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

It would be wonderful to have another rails to trails addition to the state. These trails are among my favorites to ride.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This trail helps provide a great way to explore our beautiful state. It also is a great way for little towns along the trail to "come alive" again. It is a way to provide some tourism dollars to little towns. This will also provide jobs in a small town as small businesses will open up to meet tourism needs.

This is such an amazing opportunity, so I hope the state leaders and Governor Greitens will make this happen. As my grandpa used to say, "They aren't making any more land," so let's not miss the chance to preserve a valuable section of land and recreation for Missouri. This, along with the KATY trail, can put Missouri on the map for long-range bike trails. Let's be at the top of the list of states for something very positive!

We need more trails to be able to safely ride bikes, walk, run, etc. It's good for the environment and for the health of our community.

I completely support converting the corridor into a recreational trail that all Missourians can enjoy as they teach future generations (and themselves) to use and enjoy nature.

Firstly the Katy trail is the single best offering in the state of Missouri... Yet its full potential isn't realized. I firmly suggest that the rock island trail is kept in our plans for the future of the state.. There are tremendous growth opportunities ahead for economically struggling towns on the path

I highly support this endeavor. Thank you!

I'm all for accepting the donated land. However, even though it's worth "millions of dollars", how much more is it going to cost to develop then maintain it? If this is going to become yet another public land project that continues to suck revenues dry to the point of not being able to keep it up then we should think twice about it. It's my understanding that bicycle enthusiasts and hikers are pushing for accepting this deal. Are they as equally enthused about developing and following through with working on it and keeping it maintained? How many thousands of acres are already owned by the state or Conservation Association that is growing up to weeds and/or falling into disrepair due to lack of funds to maintain them?

First of all, I am not a Missouri resident. That said, I am a trail proponent and user that travels to visit exceptional trails. You have an amazing opportunity to preserve an incredible corridor and create a trail that would be a major boon to the areas it traverses, the citizens of your state, and your state's economy (as a result of increased tourism, enhanced property values, and other well established and documented economic benefits of trails). Even if current economic conditions do not allow for trail construction in the foreseeable future, it is essential to secure the former railway's corridor to ensure that it does not become forever fragmented, in which case prospects for a future trail would be grim.

I live in Maryland, and am eternally thankful that the Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources had the vision and

courage to preserve much of the former Northern Central RR corridor and convert it to a trail after Baltimore County (in which it is situated) declined to do so because of some negative local input. That 19-mile trail, now named the Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail

(<http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/central/tcb.aspx>), is a major success story, receiving perpetual heavy use and now being so popular that just about every real estate listing anywhere near the trail mentions its close proximity!

Please "do good" for the citizens you serve, as well as trail lovers nationwide, by pursuing this rare and exceptional opportunity. Thank you!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

I hope to ride the Katy a Rock Island loop in my lifetime. I'm almost 67, so don't take too long.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This former railway/trail was given to Missouri by Ameren for reparation for the severe damage that Ameren did to Johnson Shut-Ins State Park and surrounding areas in 2005. Trails are an economic boom for Missouri, and a major tourist attraction, making Missouri a travel destination which greatly helps our economy.

I love this idea! I will definite explore this trail when it is completed.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It is a wonderful thing for those who like to walk and bike and it adds to local economies. It is a win win situation for everyone.

Please support developing the Rock Island RR Corridor into recreational trail. Missouri is already a good state for cycling, but there is a real opportunity here to make MO into a top bicycle destination. Trails enhance the quality of life and infuse economic vitality into small communities. They're important as alternative transportation corridors. I urge you to support the trail project.

As a life-long Missourian who has ridden the entire length of the Katy trail TWICE, the value of the Rock Island trail is incalculable. To accept one trail and not the other is nonsensical. Local businesses have profited from an abandoned rail line for many years.

Private land owners along the trail have mostly silly arguments against the trail to muster a selfish land grab. No living land owner has ever used the right-of-way nor ever owned any of it. Their complaints about bikers are foolish, as well. We are quiet, do not scare cattle, do not litter and are better stewards of the land than canoeists and backpackers. These are but a few points to consider when moving forward with the trail. Or we can regress with the logic of the uneducated and uniformed.

this is something that everyone can use id like to see it completed so my husband and i can use it with our grandkids we are very excited to see it come about so please accept it even my sons will be using it thats 3 generations we also have great grandkids that well also use it so that well be 4 generations so please get it going

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Dear Governor Greitens,

You have been doing so well as Governor of this "great" state of Missouri. I implore you to continue by accepting Ameren's donation of the 144 miles of the Rock Island Trail. This trail will benefit many small communities along the trail, including our beautiful town of Owensville. Accepting this gift will be another step in the right direction.

Sincerely,
Owensville resident

██████████

Please say yes to this Interim Trail Use Agreement with the MO Central Railroad to develop the Rock Island Trail Project!

Dear Governor Greitens, please accept the Rock Island Trail donation from Ameren.

The right of way was granted to provide a passage way for the railroad which benefited all residents. The land should be returned to the owners of record to do with as they desire. No public funds should be used to benefit a few people. If the project proceeds, charges to the users of the grounds is the only way it should be funded.

I biked the Katy Trail in the fall and loved every mile of it, even the wet ones! I plan to return and I know I would enjoy biking on an expanded trail connecting to other towns in Missouri. The Rock Island Trail Project sounds like a perfect connector to the Katy.

Yes!!!!!!!

Please accept this donation!

I am a regular cyclist, and I welcome the opportunity to create more trails in Missouri and encourage others to get outside and play.

These rail to trails just make so much sense! It promotes locals to start riding or gives them a safe spot to do so. Increasing overall health and happiness, as well as bringing in people from out of town to ride such great amenities as an uninterrupted 100+ miles of trail. The Katy Trail is world renowned, the more trails like that we build, the better Missouri's tourism is, as well as our health and wellness for the state. I'm all for it and will definitely use and promote such a great spot! Please move forward with the project.

Please enter into an interim use agreement for the Rock Island Trail a Project. The KATY trail has proven to an economic boon to rural Missouri, and the Rock Island will be, too.

Thank you.

Governor please accept the Rock Island Trail! It is a great opportunity for the state and its citizens to enjoy these trails.!!!

The Rock Island Trail will clean up the unslightly unused railway and bring tourism and revenue to Missouri. It's a no brainer!

It would be outstanding to have another trail here in Missouri for bikers and runners. This trail could be ideal for ultra marathons.

We need the trail -- I see people are putting money into trying to build up small towns for visitors. Small towns are drying up and this will help with the economy.

The KATY trail has proven to be a major tourist attraction and revenue source for some small towns that would otherwise cease to exist. Please do the right thing for all outdoor enthusiasts and preserve and develop the Rock Island trail.

Dear Gov. Greitens:

I have had many fun times biking on the Katy Trail, so I urge you to approve an extension so that we can continue to take advantage of a unique Missourian resource!

Sincerely,

██████████

The RI Trail will be used, just as the Katy trail is very popular. These types of trails provide level, easy-pedaling routes for cyclist and walkers who live in hilly states(in Missouri). Otherwise, people wont get out to walk or cycle if there is not a 'doable' trail available. The trails promote cycling , recreation, improved health, family fun. Missouri needs to become more bike-friendly and improve on the network of trails. Missouri Bicycle and Pedestrian Association and Trailnet org are amazing, hardworking groups that know how to promote and make the trails successful.

Please accept their donation and create this trail which will boost the economy of our town. And all he other good things that go with having the trail across Missouri.

I am a 54 year old man who doesnt go to the gym, but my wife and I hop on the Katy Trail every other weekend and go back to being a kid! When I was a little boy, I remember the controversy surrounding the MKT. My dad was opposed to it. I am glad they were successful in making it a reality, and I think he would have been happy to see the joy it brings to us. A fear back then was landowners being "overrun with hippies!" People all have flaws, but trail riders that I encounter take care of the land and respect the landowners' privacy.

We bought bikes specifically because of our ability to access the trail. We travel a minimum of an hour to get to the trail, but we have ridden it all twice (at least) over a couple of years. It has been great enjoyable exercise. Even after THOUSANDS of miles! (hard to believe). The opportunity to increase the size of our rail-trail system would be wonderful. We have met some interesting people at the trailheads who appreciate our long park. I support the Rock Island Trail Project.

I support Missouri accepting Amerin's offer to give over the Rock Island right away for use as a hiking, biking trail.

This is a great way to help save some of our small towns. One such town on the Katy trail was having an annual festival which drew a few hundred local people. When the trail went through people would stop in the town for lunch or a break (which brought new business) and took notice of the festival

posters. Now that town has several thousands of people come to their festival. That could be enough to save a town. Lots of people from where you, our Governor, grew up hike and ride bicycles and will not look kindly to losing this promised trail.

Please accept Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please build this project for cycling and other rec activities.

Governor Greitens,

I hope you strongly consider accepting Ameren's gift of the Rock Island corridor for conversion into a multi-purpose trail. As someone who grew up in Eldon and enjoys cycling, I think this project would greatly help not only that community, but many other small communities along that corridor. It would also promote physical fitness in cities that don't have the funds to provide bike-friendly infrastructure, which leads to decreased healthcare costs for everybody. Thank you.

As an lifelong farmer in Owensville whose property is close to the trail I approve it and look forward to it's completion. My family and I will use it often

It's wonderful! Everyone needs a way to ride bikes safely. This will help with the populations obesity rates!! It would be a disgrace not to use what is donated to us to help people become healthier!!

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail Project. I think it is clear that the Katy Trail has been a wonderful investment as a state park. This opportunity to extend it with the new Rock Island Trail would truly make Missouri a biking destination and an amazing recreational opportunity for Missourians. I also believe it will be a great economic opportunity to the towns that are a gateway to the Lake of the Ozarks: Eldon, Versailles, Henley, etc. BTW I write this as a conservative (both fiscally and socially) Republican. Grew up in Central Missouri, now live in St. Louis county.

I think this would be an excellent recreational trail project . It brings people out of their homes and provides a healthy outdoor experience as well as business to small towns and businesses in the areas of the trail(s) .

Introduces the expansion of Missouri to becoming a healthier state and to get outdoors.

I visit this area periodically, and this would be a recreational resource I would want to plan trips to and explore. It is in a great scenic area and reachable from two major urban areas. I predict it would be very popular and be an economic boon to the area as well. It is my experience that lodging, restaurants, and other supporting businesses would grow up along the corridor as has happened in other locations. It also would provide a great exercise and recreation option for local

communities. I would think study would show that any investment of funding to create the trail would provide great returns. Also, a tangential benefit would be to preserve a transportation corridor that otherwise may be lost, in the event it would ever be required for another mode. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I am already an avid user of the Katy Trail for pleasure, fitness, and events such as the KT82 relay and other races. I feel the Rock Island Trail would provide the same tourism benefits to the communities along it as the Katy as well as increase interest among travelers to what would become the state's hundreds of miles of connected trail corridor. This is a positive investment that should be pursued to completion. Thank you.

The land should be returned to the owners of the farmland that was taken from them for railroad use. This land was never intended for any other use. This whole Trail Project is government over reach and theft.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The old Rock Island Line goes through very pretty scenery. It also goes through areas that could use some tourist spending. Look at what the Katy Trail has done to help St. Charles county wine country. Wow! Little towns like Rocheport on the Katy Trail are financially better off because of small locally owned businesses that are there simply because of the trail. I can picture little towns like Argyle, Meta, Freeburg and Eldon getting new life from visitors using the Rock Island Trail.

Please approve this trail.

Best regards,

This will be a wonderful addition to Missouri's Parks and Recreation. We look forward to spending many afternoons biking the trail with the family.

Please accept the Rock Island Railroad corridor for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail project. Over the years, I have seen the wonderful, positive effect of the Katy Trail for bikers, hikers and all citizens of Missouri. It is a terrific tourist attraction as will be the new trail.

Please accept Aneren's donation for the 144 miles for recreational trail.

I believe that the addition of the Rock Island Trail to the KATY will make us a world class destination for bike enthusiasts. As I travel I find that many outside the area are not aware of what we have now. When they find out, they all express interest in traveling to Missouri to experience the longest bike trail in the US. But it's a one way or out and back trip. Being able to promote a loop of the size and beauty created by the two trails would give Missouri something that does not exist anywhere else.

We have a unique opportunity to create something of incredible value that can be enjoyed by our residents and visitors for generations. The economic value to the towns

along the route may start small, but will continue to grow over time as cycling becomes more popular as in Europe.

If money is the crux of the current issue, suggest alternate funding models including crowd funding, "selling" pieces of the trail, corporate sponsorships from local companies and national sponsorships from bike companies

This is a fine idea. The Gov. should accept for future generations.

Please go ahead and accept the Roack Island Trail Project. It will add valuable green space for all forms of life. It will be another reason for people to vacation in Missouri and the economic plus that generates.

This is beneficial to all Missourians and visitors alike. Please keep this project going!

The state of Missouri is known for its trails. They bring tourists & revenue to the state along with wonderful venues for our own citizens to enjoy for pleasure or exercise. Keeping the trails connected across the state is important. This would be a much needed & beautiful addition to our fabulous trail system.

I've bicycled across the country on roads for many years. I strongly support trails in all parts of the country, and this looks like an ideal place

Please accept the Rock Island Trail because this would put more bikes on a trail as opposed to the streets. Lately a lot of riders have been hit by cars. People don't pay attention while they are driving these days. Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!!!!!! Thank you!

Dear Governor, I am asking that you support and promote the continued development of the Rock Island Trail. This network of trails makes Missouri stand out and is a great benefit to all!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

how will it be paid for??? where does all the money come from for all these bike paths How about a tax on bikes. and insurance when on roads.

Missouri is such a beautiful and unique state, why should we let our bike / walk / jog pathways embarrass us? We are Show Me State proud Missourians. We should showcase our uniqueness, and one of the ways to do that is to invest in our recreational infrastructure. When we host friends / visitors from other states they are surprised at our lack of trails. How can we let states like Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin be more advanced and more health conscious than us? It's a travesty!!! Let's invest in OUR state, our pride, and our healthy Missourians!!!!

I ride the trails most days and I enjoy the time spent doing it ,and I am not fighting traffic and the hazards of riding on the roads. There are quite a few people driving that are hostile

towards bike riders. I get nervous out on the road with speeding cars. That is why I think trails are very important. Please consider taking on this much needed task.

use the old line to make money not cost money how about the hyperloop ???
are give land back

As a regular rider on rail to trail bike routes I would encourage you to move forward with this agreement to increase the trails in Missouri. We regularly make it a point to travel to Missouri to use your trails and would certainly use this one as well. needless to say we also bring revenue to businesses in the state while we spend time there.

I think that's it's a waste of money and will have a negative impact on landowners and neighborhoods. Trails of this nature seem to induce or breed crime and unwanted activity which the state will be liable for.

Please complete the Rock Island Trail Project. I would utilize it. I am in favor of its completion. It would be an attraction for other cyclist that enjoy trail riding, especially with the ability to ride across and entire state.

It would provide a venue for activity thereby improving the health of Missourians.

My family supports the idea of the Rock Island Trail State Park and encourage DNR to enter into agreements with the railroad and the many small towns along the trail to make this happen. After seeing the economic boom and start up businesses along the Katy Trail, I can only believe this will be a positive step for the small towns along the trail and encourage small business growth. It will be a place that will pull in visitors and their money from larger cities. Please support this endeavor.

Dear Sir;
I am a mother of five and I drive a school bus and my husband is a St. Louis firefighter, thank you for your time in this matter. This trail would be such a blessing in our area for there is nothing for kids to do except outdoor activities and I think a trail like this would help encourage our young people to get up and get moving !! I myself had a stroke just over a year ago and have to drive over 30 minutes to find a trail to use and would love to have one closer. I know there are so many other things pulling at you but this would be a life changing gift for so many missouri families, including mine !!! Thanks and God bless !

The Rock Island Trail will provide significant economic benefits to Missouri. I live in Illinois. Last year I made two trips to ride the KATY Trail. The first trip was with two friends. We spent five days and four nights staying in hotels, B and B's, and eating three meals a day in Missouri restaurants. I also spent about \$200 in Missouri bike shops. I estimate I spent about \$1200 in Missouri that I would not have otherwise spent. My two friends did likewise. We also took the Amtrak train from St. Louis to Sedalia. The second trip was a day trip on the KATY Trail with one friend. We purchased two meals each, bought gasoline and snacks and spent approximately

\$200 total in Missouri that would not have been spent there if not for the KATY Trail If the Rock Island Trail is completed I will be spending like amounts with friends while riding it. If it is not built that economic activity will not come to Missouri. The small towns along the KATY Trail were dying they are not active and vital.

As a lifelong Missouri resident, by far the best adventure I ever took in Missouri was to ride end-to-end on the Katy Trail - the "back trails" highlight the beauty of Missouri. I believe creating more options for cross-state adventures could increase tourism from outside of Missouri, and the investment would be relatively small if the right-of-way is donated to the state. Please consider expanding Missouri parks and trails to generate more tourism and to provide more recreation options for Missouri taxpayers.

The Katy Trail system is great for Missouri and its residents. The Rock Island corridor will be a great addition to the existing trail. Please accept the additional 144.3 mile corridor.

From a father, athlete, an outdoorsman---please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Trails provide so much to a community: recreation, revenue, and wildlife habitat! Please support another great trail for Mo.

This would make Katy Trail even more inviting since you could ride one trail to your destination and the other back. Would add commerce to more areas, and draw more people to Missouri

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This would be a great addition to the state.

Why would the Governor of MO turn down an offer worth millions of dollars and not accept Ameren's offer of the former Rock Island Railroad corridor? Gov. Greithens this time do what the people want and accept the offer. I hate to say it but this isn't the time to "look a gift horse in the mouth".

Please approve the Rock Island Trail Project.

Encouraging nature, exercise, being outdoors as oppose to closing opportunities.

Subject: Cycling Ordinance

9/20/2010 email

█

I attended the New Melle meeting and also the meeting tonight on the Bike Ban. I feel I must comment on the lack of leadership skills of the council during the meeting, tonight. Although, I am not in agreement w/ you, at least you held a fair and respectful meeting in New Melle. Tonight's meeting was clearly lead one way and individuals were allowed to blurt out any comment at any time with no consideration to the speaker. I must admit I am not a frequent visitor to these events. This maybe normal etiquette at these meetings; however I feel this type of behavior is unacceptable and the meeting should have been run more neutral by the leaders.

Now to the point at hand. I am a soccer guy; however I ride and encourage exercise for all, in any way they can get it in. Per the note below, I too ride this route for years and have never felt unsafe, until now. Yes, I have been yelled at, obscene jesters have come my way and have had items thrown at me. However, I would ignore and ride-on. I follow the rules and do my best to assist automobiles to pass me by waving them on, slowing down, pulling over etc.... Now, I feel, we have a battle on our hands with some very mad individuals with very large trucks. I am curious if our accident statistic rises?

Speaking of Statistic, one way to help the Healthcare Crisis/Cost in St. Charles County is to encourage exercise.

- In 2008, Missouri was Ranked 38th in Healthiest State Ranking.
- Missouri - Attempts to Quit Smoking 45th State
- St. Louis is Ranked 101st in cities, out of 184.
- 28.7% Missouri High-School Students are over weight
- Etc...Etc...Etc.....

I have spoken to █ of MoDot and understand the county does not have authority on State Roads. This topic will become a legal battle and St. Charles County does not have the funds for the litigation.

This area is no longer remote like it was 15 years ago and it will continue to grow, exponentially. You know, as well as anyone, this is a growing community and reduced cycling is not the answer, no matter what the law says. The cyclist are going to go somewhere else and the issue will just move to another location.

I believe the current approach or process is backwards. We should looking for ways to encourage exercise and the outdoors. This area south of 40 and north of 70 is a treasure we should promote and enjoy, not just the minority that live there. They should take pride that the area is being utilized w/o any pollution. We should use all the time and energy bickering to develop a multi-stage plan (temporary lower speed limit, temporary interconnection, temporary bike group rules etc....) and work w/ MoDot until all roads have adequate shoulders, this should be the #1 priority/focus. Lake St. Louis Boulevard was recently redone and the amount pedestrian activity (Running, Walking, Dog Walking, Roller Blade and yes Cycling) has grown substantially, which is fantastic. This past weekend was the Dog Prairie Century Metric Bike Ride utilizing LSL Blvd. to get from St. Paul to New Melle.

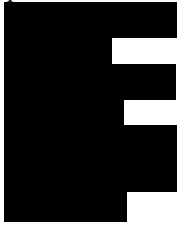
I encourage you look for a solution that increase exercise and persuade your other council members (below) to Vote on Monday 9/27/10 to improve Missouri health. Your District (Lake St. Louis) is weeks away from becoming one of the 1st areas to be Smoke Free. Would it not be constructive for Joe Brazil to be recognized for turning St. Charles County into one of the healthiest area's in the Midwest. Joe, you could lead a campaign to expand cycling on beautiful rural roads taking advantage of one of MO hidden treasures. The Tour of Missouri came through this area, for good reason and received high praise by professional cyclist. Let's embrace the challenge and fix the issue for our youth which may not be the 1st or easiest answer.

Thank you for reading this note and let me know how I can assist.

█

Lake St. Louis

Those copied, please share your thoughts w/ your council person.



Please fund the Rock Island Trail Project

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

Please accept and complete the trail - it would be a terrible loss to not take advantage of this opportunity.

I believe in preserving nature. I believe in having state park where it's people can appreciate the beauty of our state in its natural habitat.

Please Accept the Rock island trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Would really love to see this trail become a reality. It's a much better use of the old railroad space than just leaving it abandoned. There really is no other walking/biking trail within 25 miles of where I live, and I would love to be able to have this opportunity closer to home.

That would be SO great! the more trails we have the safer it will be for cyclists and motorists!

The Rock Island trail would be a great addition to Missouri! Missouri will be a part of a great conservation effort by including this project in our state! Please consider supporting this endeavor to preserve our land and support the healthy activities that it will allow for our Missouri citizens.

I have seen first hand how the Katy trail has helped boost local economies. I am all for another trail and can only see this as an opportunity.

I am hopeful you will enter into this agreement. I'm planning future cycling vacations for areas that offer such a trail. Please do!

I cycle the roads but my husband, children and grandchildren would like to plan a cycling vacation in a safe area such as this.

Hopefully bed and breakfast, pubs, restaurants and bike shops will open along the trail.

Please accept the rock island trail donation.

Governor: what an opportunity! Please accept this! I moved to St Charles from out of state, voted for you, and live along the Katy Trail. It is a blessing everyday. Expanding the system would be wonderful for the state and increase awareness and opportunity to enjoy this great State of Missouri, nature, and keep middle aged people like me (and my kids) healthy and grateful for our resources. PLEASE ACCEPT THIS.!

This needs to be approved. We need more things like this in Missouri!

I support the trail

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This would be an amazing gift to our state. I hope Gov. Greitens will accept this generous gift.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Yes we should have this trail.

Please accept the trail

Please accept the rock island trail.

100% DISAGREE with this idea. No more trails that just support a select group. I am an avid motorcycle trail rider and have to go either 2 hours out of my way or ride on someone's private property to enjoy my passion. There has never been a trail system in Missouri that caters to all.

The trail would be an incredible addition to not only local cities and counties that it runs through, but I believe wholeheartedly, that the Rock Island Trail Project would be a tremendous asset to this wonderful state of Missouri. I can understand the cause for concern from a political point of view, but I hope that this specific survey reaches the right people when I say this: I am not doing the work behind the trail project for me. I am doing all of this work so that my children who live here and their children can enjoy its beauty and use. I love this state and want to do anything I can to help make this the base state in our wonderful country.

I am in favor of it. I vote yes.

I think that the state of Missouri should NOT have any part in another trail at this time. Our road system needs extensive repairs, improvements and expansions in order to meet the transportation NEEDS of ALL the citizens of Missouri. The trail system is a system that caters to the WANTS of a FEW of Missouri citizens. Do not let the WANTS of a FEW get in the way of the NEEDS of ALL!! The trail dollars would be more wisely spent of the road system.

Please accept this agreement. I support it.

I am a Missouri tax payer and have ridden 3 times (5 days total) on the Katy trail in 2015 and 2016. And I enjoyed it greatly! Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Yes! Missouri is already well known for the fantastic kate trail. But to have another great trail and one that connects all the (almost) to Kansas City? Totally wonderful. Bicyclists, walkers, and runners will rejoice!!

We value bike trails, especially with packed fine surface or pavement. The long trails over 100 miles mean I would plan a

family or friends summer vacation specifically to that area and stay in hotels and use restaurants. Please continue the plan!

I have rode the Katy Trail in Mo many times. I'm from Lincoln,NE and I hope someday before I'm too old to ride and enjoy it that a completed trail from Marysville, KS to St. Louis, MO. is completed. I spend the largest part of my vacation money each year in MO because of the wonderful trail system you have. If you add more.....more fun for me and more income from NE. for you. I always bring friends and have promoted your trails 100%. Adding more will bring in more tourism dollars and you know it based on the many years the Katy Trail has been open. I love the small towns along the route. By adding the new one you are opening up a new area for me to explore and spend dollars. The new over pass into Jefferson City was a major improvement and we have used it many times to explore your capital. Good job !

PLEASE ACCEPT THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL!!

Please do! This is an awesome trail and this would be such a benefit to it and the communities it would be linking. My husband and I have ridden this trail two years in a row now, as part of the organized ride sponsored by Missouri Parks, and this has become our 'happy place'! We don't have such nice trails as this in Northwest Arkansas & its such a nice vacation to be able to ride in such a beautiful & peaceful place! Please add on to your Katy Trail so we can ride more of it in years to come!

I am completely in favor of the trail and hope to use it often. I also think it will give a much needed boost to our small business owners. Please agree to make this happen.

Please accept the trail from Ameren. It would be a widely used asset for the state and enhance the fitness level of our residents.

The already existing KATY Trail is an example of government & citizens working together for the common good.

Please extend the trail system

Please except the rock island trail

Riding my bike on rail trails is one of my favorite activities! Our country should be encouraging people to be physically active for health reasons. Cycling and walking on rail trails are excellent cardio activities and low cost.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

The Rock Island Trail will be a gigantic boost for the mid Missouri economy. I frequent the Katy Trail, and have on multiple occasions met people from far and wide who travel through several states just to ride. I own a small cemetery along the Rock Island and am interested in creating a future business along the trail. It is imperative that the trail go through, and it will also help to preserve need to plant species that were spared along the railroad corridor . Another advantage to the state park is to keep the future option open to

a state wide light rail that may occur in the coming hundreds of years.

This is a fantastic idea and a rare opportunity to connect the existing Katy trail to other destinations via a safe cycling route. Missouri is not well known for its recreational opportunities, but this could help change that reality. Rural areas would benefit from the tourism dollars now accessible to them. A chance like this to solidify for a long chunk of land for public use does not come along often.

July 17, 2017

Governor Greitens,

I hope you support the Rock Island Trail & accept Ameren's offer. It is difficult to use bicycles for transportation in the country. The roads are not very wide, very few roads have decent shoulders, & people love to go over the speed limit because the roads are seldom heavily travelled. Americans are not in the best of shape. Out here we have to drive cars almost anywhere we wish to go. Riding bicycles helps the environment & the adipose tissues. We have an opportunity to make Missouri a better place. Thank you.

What an opportunity for economic development and tourism! Please accept the Rock Island for Missourians.

As a citizen of Missouri, our communities and state governments would be making a mistake if they refuse to enter into this agreement.

The Katie, MKT, and other trails bring tens of millions of dollars to our state and communities. Fitness and recreation access contribute to the health of our communities.

I encourage Gov Greitens and the DNR to sign the use agreement.

I believe this is a win/win for the people of Missouri. There are so many opportunities for small businesses. Please accept the land from Ameren.

I believe that the Missouri Department of Natural Resources should accept the Rock Island Railroad corridor because of the benefits of recreation, economic development, and tourism that it will bring to the state in the future. This is an opportunity that should not be lost!

I support the development of Rock Island Line. I particularly enjoy rail trails for the tranquility, beauty and safety found away from traffic. I once rode my bike from St Joseph to St Louis and was thrilled to use the Katy Trail.

Health and happiness obtained through regular exercise will directly impact Missouri's economy through a strong workforce. The more dedicated bike/hike paths offered in the state will increase the chances that people will exercise more and require less medical care or time off from work due to injuries.

I think it's a great idea. Anything we can do to continue to extend the trail for use is really great.

Great idea! Now, years down the road, there aren't many people saying "Gosh, that Katy Trail was a terrible idea, why did they do that?" Everyone is grateful that someone back then

had the foresight to build it. I am sure the Rock Island trail will be the same. My kids will be so glad we did it.

It would be the crime of the century not to except and deleoep this trail that will be used by generations after generations. It would also put Missouri on the map having more cross state trails than any other.

Please accept the rock island trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I think the rock island trail project would add tourism dollars to the economy. It would make Missouri a destination point for bicycle riders across the country.

Please build the trail! What a wonderful gift for generations to come!!

I think it would be a wonderful addition to the State's bicycle infrastructure. Bicycle tourism is growing nationwide and Missouri needs to keep pace if not be a leader in this regard.

Fund the trail!!! This state needs something positive.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Interested in finding out more.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Expanding the trail opens access to those who may not be able to use the current location. I especially ensure and support to allow equine usage as well.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I am in favor of the Rock Island Trail Project and hope that Gov. Grietens will see the huge benefits to it and be in favor of it also. I live in Owensville, a town once dependent on the railway, that could have the potential to see a resergeance in economic growth due to this stretch of Trail. Not only could this help my community, and other small communities like it, with jobs but there are other advantages as well. How about something just as simple as giving people a place to get out and simply ride their bikes with family after dinner. That's hard to do when most of your roads are either 2 lane highways or dirt roads. This could help people live a healthier life and in the long run may even bring down those healthcare costs. Sounds like a win win situation to me, Governor.

I believe the rock island trail will help grow the economy in small town america where it seems business has started to fade. Obviously home grown family businesses have created this community and country so we as Americans need more of that to continue the success of not only our families but also our country as well. Mom and pop shops have had a difficult time to grow and succeed so ideally this will help them to grow or takes at help new ones take start.

As the wife of a small business owner in a small town in mid-Missouri, I see this as one of the best ways to increase revenue

and tourism in our community. Please, enter into the agreement and keep this trail moving in the right direction!

Please make this happen! Roads are no longer bike friendly, which is sad since most cyclists pay for them to, but that aside, trails are safe and fun for great family, fiends, etc. to spend time together. To share the passion of riding together is a great way to create memories forever!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail project to continue Missouri's emphasis on linear park development to encourage residents' participation and exercise and the uptick in tourism as demonstrated with the Katy Trail.

These parks are a great addition to the public resources available to residents of the state. They help encourage healthy outdoor activities and can create additional activity even the possibility of new jobs along their route. This would be a benefit to those residing in the state (and visitors).

This is a great idea, please accept the trail offer

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I think it is a fabulous idea! My husband and so have ridden then Katy Trail for over 20 years. We started our kids riding the Katy. We are approaching the decafe of our 60s anfmd still ride, only more frequently ride the Little Blue Trace as its practically in our back yard. We dream of riding longer stretches one day, and would live to see a system of trails connected in such fashion. Bot only do we live the exercise, but love the access to nature along our rides. We very much appreciate the beauty of our state! We enjoy keeping in shape AND the ability to be so close to a natural setting - it is so beneficial in so many levels! We plan to be involved in any way possible to see this come to fruition - for the sake of our grandchildren with whom we will be introducing to biking very soon!!

I think it would benefit the areas in the state near the trail. I think it would be foolish not to accept it.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the rock island trail

I believe the easements along the line should be returned to the rightful property owners. The state doesn't need to be throwing money away for another trail. We paid for the Katy Trail and I see more bikes obstructing hiway traffic than using the provided trail

We need more trail, and ideally paved, to help reduce impact of bicycle and vehicle traffic. The more trails that exist the less frustrated drivers will be!

Please build this trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please build the Rock Island Trail. This would be a wonderful addition to the state of Missouri and help to increase physical activity for young & old alike.

As a native Missourian, I love visiting from my home in Colorado, especially by bike. Love the Katy Trail and how it's been done. Do the same for the Rock Island!!

I am a great fan of rails to trails conversions. I have biked and walked on them in Michigan, Georgia and Missouri. My husband and his brother biked the entire Katy Trail in 2010. I've read many stories of the advantages that trails bring to communities and individuals. It brings friendships, better health, better communities and green spaces. Although I love the Katy, I'd really encourage you to consider making the Rock Island Trail paved. Paved trails allow more people to use them for more health benefits. People can use them for inline skating and it makes them more accessible for wheelchair use. The bike riders stay a lot cleaner, too. I live near the connector from Creve Coeur Park into the Katy. I really prefer the pavement. Bringing another 144.3 miles to Missouri will make us a premier destination.

This would be incredible and would certainly advance Missouri into leadership in trail recreation and tourism.

I am a frequent tourist to the great state of MO and have visited the Katy trail. The addition of this unique trail to the system is a singular opportunity to advance Missouri's reputation as the nations rail trail leader. It would certainly be an inducement for repeated visits from active tourists.

I support the development of a recreational trail from Windsor to Beaufort. Biking and hiking are both healthy activities for individuals and families to enjoy. The bike trail will provide a safe route for families wanting to take long rides with their kids. It will also bring economic development for the small towns along the trail. I have ridden the Katy Trail from Windsor to Maches. I look forward to riding the trail from Windsor through my home town of Belle to Beaufort.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

This is a great addition to our trail system. Please go forward with it.

Another great use of former railroads. The people of Missouri need to continue to develop recreation opportunities for all citizens. This is a great way to continue the trail that will allow us to eventually bike or walk the state.

Please complete the rock Island trail
its our Missouri lets make it better and complete the mission

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

This would be a GREAT thing for Missouri! Please move forward with this project and get it finished as soon as possible! I cannot wait to ride it and visit the shops, restaurants, and hotels that will be on/near the trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

The opportunity to do rails to trail are few and far in between. This project is well worth it. I believe it will bring income to small towns along the way and outdoor activities to millions. Let's do it !!

We need more trails!

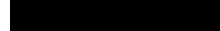
This is a great idea to add to our trail system. Please continue work to make it a reality.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

If this trail development is added to MO trails system it would greatly enhance our standing as a state willing to encourage outdoor activities and cooperation amongst those trail users. The additional length would make the trails and small trail towns more accessible to more people thus encouraging use and knowledge of historical development of our state.. These additional miles could also help alleviate the overuse of some of the other areas currently being used. Thank you for allowing the input.

Please go forward with the Rock Island Trail Project. I am an avid cyclist and believe this to be a truly worthy investment for the state of Missouri. It is another venue for MO outdoor tourism to go along with our lakes and waterways. The flat grades and no motor vehicle traffic makes riding and hiking a joy for all ages. As a physician, I believe we need more of this, not less, as the effects can be far reaching, improving the health and well-being of the citizens of Missouri and surrounding states.

Sincerely,



Hope to use the Rock Island Trail. Thank you.

I believe that public parks are very important to the people of Missouri. A trail like this allows recreation and enjoyment for many people. This is apparently a limited opportunity and should be taken advantage of.

Sincerely

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I am strongly in favor of the Rock Island Trail, it will be a great addition to our state.

I live in western Colorado, but my vacations have been centered on rail-trails in the midwest. While Wisconsin and Michigan have been my go-to places, Missouri is next on the

list. I'd very much like to be able to add the Rock Island trail to my wish list.

I am all for adding additional trails to the Missouri trail system in an amazing way to provide people and families with the ability to get outside and exercise and improve their health

Please keep the Rock Island bike trail. It will increase tourism and opportunities to see our beautiful state while encouraging fitness.

Fantastic!-- we need more all purpose trails-- it would be wonderful if this had a concrete or asphalt surface rather than chat--this would become a national travel site for cyclist!!

Dear Governor Greitens,

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I am a 22-year-old college graduate from Owensville, MO.

My newlywed husband and I have decided to move back here after college because we love the community of Owensville.

We both have been active members of the Ultimate M.O.B. (Making Owensville Better), a group of young people working to improve our own community through service projects, volunteering, hosting a musical festival, and organizing ultimate frisbee events.

The Rock Island Trail runs directly through our town for close to 3 miles. It is an overgrown eyesore that runs directly parallel to highway 28 at several points. It is adjacent to Luster Park, the Owensville Police Department, City Hall, the Gasconade County Historic Museum, and the plot of ground on which all three of our public schools sit. There has been talk since we were children about it turning into a walking trail, but I never felt it was possible until recent events.

Accepting the Rock Island Trail would provide our community with unmeasurable benefits beyond simply removing an eyesore. A major benefit is it would provide our kids with a safe way to walk to school. Our schools are all located on the outskirts of town along highway 19, and there are no safe walking routes to any of them. I myself ran cross country and track field for Owensville High School, and know from experience that a running route accessible from the high school would save both teams money and time usually spent busing runners to safer routes for practice. Along with that, walking to school and the trail's other recreational uses would improve the health of many individuals. In addition, the tourism generated by the trail would promote commerce within the town Owensville. The list of overreaching benefits goes on and on.

This trail will have lasting impact on not only the Community of Owensville, but the State of Missouri as a whole. The Rock Island Trail paired with the Katy Trail will give Missouri one of the longest continually bike trails in the world. I myself biked the Katy Trail last summer and met a man who had traveled all the way from South Africa just to bike the Katy. Imagine how many more visitors like him would travel from all over the world to visit our state of Missouri if we had a circular route.

The Rock Island Trail has been a dream of many people for a long time. As I conclude, I have copied below an editorial I wrote for the Gasconade County Republican in January of 2015 after attending a Public Forum in Westphalia, MO. I

hope you will read it, and choose to accept the Rock Island Trail.

Thank You,

██████████

"I am a 20-year-old young lady from rural Owensville who feels a great pride and civic responsibility for the community I owe my raising to. By writing this, I hope to inspire some people to reconsider some stances they may have taken on a recent topic arising in our community.

Last Thursday night, I was taken by my father to the rails-to-trails public forum about turning the abandoned Rock Island railroad into a trail. My father brought me to this meeting to receive a valuable life lesson, of what kind we were not exactly sure, but a life lesson none the less.

I was instructed to sit down, not speak, and just listen, and listen I did.

I sat and listened to a group of people organized by ██████████ with strong vested interest and knowledge on the process of turning the old Rock Island into a recreational trail. All of these people were revered in their fields of work and gave lots of specific in-depth information, but the biggest lesson I learned was not from them.

No, the biggest lesson I learned came from many of the citizens with questions toward the board of experts. The room was made up of mostly middle-aged rural Missourians, some of which showed support for the trail through their questions, while others showed great concern and posed many pointed and attacking questions.

The biggest lesson I learned from these outspoken citizens is that not everyone hopes and dreams for the future.

The groundwork for this trail is being built on dreams for the future. Dreams made by countless rural Missouri individuals. Dreams nurtured by the people involved in MORIT (Missouri Rock Island Trail).

Dreams that could become a reality with the railroad bed belonging to Ameren. Dreams to provide future generations with a place to exercise and enjoy nature. Dreams to take something old, overgrown, and forgotten and turn it into something new and resourceful.

Dreams to bring new life and opportunities to towns forgotten by the railroad. Dreams to preserve a history that spans across our state. Dreams to connect people from different walks of life and to share a rural experience with some who may otherwise never care about or understand it.

All of these are selfless dreams for the greater good, to expand upon lives of experience for generations to come.

These dreams could be a reality, all due to the people who cared enough to have a dream.

As 20-year-old me sat and listened to the angered voices contending about taxes and privacy, I had the realization that by the time an idea like this would actually be completed many of these angry people will have left us, or grown too old for these things to bother them anymore.

And then there will be me, and my children, and our generation looking back on this golden opportunity that could be greatly tainted with the opposition of those thinking too small to dream about the future.

Of course, the happenings of this trail will not be a flawless endeavor, but to look a dream such as this in the face and reject it simply because there may be a few obstacles to overcome, or a few sacrifices to be made, is cowardly and selfish.

All great things come with a bit of sacrifice.
If we all could just step outside of ourselves and our concerns and see the possibilities, together we can take this dream as far as it will go with creative problem solving and cooperation. Opportunities like this do not happen every day, and what better way to make a lasting positive impression of rural Missouri for future generations than to be in support of a dream such as this.

I may be just a wide-eyed youngster, but I hope to inspire you to dream with me, and enjoy the possibilities it will bring.”

Please accept the rock island trail project

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I would love to see this! More trails provide places for all to enjoy the outdoors and access exercise. There is not enough trail and too many cars on roads to be safe for hiking and biking.

I urge you to consider this project as it gives Missourians another opportunity to get outside and be healthy. There are numerous studies that show the physical and mental health benefits to being outside. Not to mention how physical activity can help with health care costs.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

Missouri becomes a cycling destination as we add and maintain trails.

Please accept the Rock Island trail! This would be an excellent resource for Missourians as well as visitors to MO like myself. (I was born and raised in MO, still consider it my home state, and am a frequent visitor for various reasons, including the Katy Trail.) This new trail would promote healthy exercise and other assets in the MO park system.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This is a gift that will have a positive health, economic, and quality of life impact on the residents of Missouri. This will give children and families a low cost opportunity to see and experience the beautiful state of Missouri and encourage civic pride. This could lower medical costs for the state because it will make recreation trail available to more people, which encourages exercise. Additionally, this could become a destination for tourists, which would make a positive economic impact on small, local businesses. Our neighbor Arkansas has in recent years put money into their trail system and have become a biking destination. As their neighbor if we work together we can make the midwest an attractive biking destination and generate a significant amount of revenue for the state while enriching the lives of its citizens. I think it would be short-sighted of the DNR and the government of Missouri to reject a gift that would aide in the prosperity of the state as a whole. Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Governor,

As one of your supporters I applaud your efforts to critically look at every endeavor the states takes on to evaluate whether or not it makes good fiscal sense. However, I do believe that this is the kind of thing that makes our state great for visitors. I

recently spent time in California, and Wisconsin and can tell you that there is a surge in the country right now when it comes to taking advantage of trails for hiking, biking, exploring, etc. This is a way for our great state to maximize our natural resources and showcase the great Show-Me state. Thank you for your consideration!!!!

Please see that this becomes our next great rail trail... great for tourism.. great for our state! Give us resident and non resident cyclists another safe venue to ride our bikes and enjoy the states beautiful country side. This is an important issue for me as a taxpayer!!!

I think it is a great idea.

The trails in Missouri are such a great asset. What an amazing way to explore the beauty of our state and connect with nature. The trails have a positive economic impact on our state. The ability to enjoy bike riding, walking, jogging on a trail verses the side of a road is so much safer and can be used by all ages. What a great way for families of many generations to bike or walk together in the glorious state we have.

Mr. Governor,

Thank you for opening this to a public forum. I respectfully request that you add this project to Missouri's system. I respect a conservative financial approach and I know that with additional lands comes additional staffing needs and costs, but I truly believe that Missouri is, beyond a shadow of a doubt, the most beautiful state in the Union - and to see even more of that exposed to public use could not be a better use of tax dollars.

I am not oblivious to the fact that I probably sound like a "hippie" when I say that (I am not, I promise) I just think that the natural beauty of our home is something that must be seen to properly appreciate.

I personally remember riding my bike with my best buddy down the trail to see how far we could make it, sharing our "hike" with my young children, and enjoying the Katy with my friends in high school in downtown St. Charles, and I remember feeling immensely lucky to be in those places in those moments. I am sure you have similar memories. If we now have an opportunity in some form to provide similar experiences to someone else (our fellow Missourians in Windsor and Beaufort) I believe it is our responsibility to do so.

Best Regards,

Missouri has long been among the nation's leaders in rails-to-trails conversions. As has been demonstrated over and over again, prosperity typically follows for the towns and communities surrounding the multi-use trails. Meanwhile, multi-use rails-to-trails conversions have an equally positive impact on its users, bestowing healthy benefits from walking, running and bicycling upon those who choose to make use of the trails. Besides also providing recreational opportunities, rails-to-trails conversions also help preserve a priceless history from when railroads were the king of transportation and commerce. I urge you to approve the Rock Island Trail Project, and permit the Dept. of Natural Resources to enter into an interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central

railroad for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project. The addition of another 144.3 miles of recreational use trails from Windsor, MO to Beaufort, MO will help not only these communities, but help preserve Missouri as a leader in rails-to-trails conversions. As a Missouri resident, I would be pleased to see the Rock Island Trail join the Katy Trail and the other recreational/multi-use trails in Missouri.

Do it!!!

The Rock Island Trail will be a valuable asset to Missouri for citizens and for tourism. As a bike rider, I have often met people from other states riding through Missouri on the MKT. The Rock Island Trail will further enhance our beautiful state.

The rural area this trail will go through certainly needs something to help improve the local economy. All we have are cows and our young people are leaving and our towns are turning into streets of closed and boarded up buildings. We need this to bring new money--city money--to our rural communities.

I hope the Governor can see this and help the people who live in this part of the state.

Thanks for allowing me to voice my opinion. LS

Please, please, please consider Greenwood. There are a lot of runners and cyclists who would be overjoyed to have their own path instead of having to share the road.

Please! Allow this project to come to fruition! It's a big deal, and the right thing to do!!!

Please approve the Rock Island Trail. Help make Missouri a biking destination.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

It allows the rail line to be reserved for future bike/trail development, providing recreational access, investment and development in scenic rural Missouri communities. I live in Rolla would use this trail as would many Missouri S&T, Ft Leonard Wood students, military and local residents.

A lot of small towns along the trail are hoping this goes through. They don't have the resources that the larger cities do and need this to go through hoping for the extra revenues from people passing through on the trail. Many have already made plans to help attract people to their town. You say you want to bring a positive economics to Missouri. This is economics to these small towns that no one wants to invest in for manufacturing, etc.

I believe that using this land through the DNR would be a good idea to make it usable by the people of MO

As we have seen countless times, developing recreational trails not only help with the health of our people, it helps with the financial health of our communities. Small town that are constantly losing services and industry are bolstered by the money that recreational trail bring. Having a well constructed trail system bring citizens of Missouri to different parts of their state and also draws people from the outside. Not

spending the money on this trail is in the long run taking opportunities away from small town Missouri.

Great idea!

Please accept the Rock Island trail!!

This trail and the Katy Trail are used by everyone I know. It's an inexpensive way to get outdoors, to get exercise, to see this beautiful state, to vacation with family and friends. It costs the state nothing to maintain or develop and brings in tourist dollars to every community along the way. Missouri is famous around the country for our outdoor tourism opportunities. There is no reason under the sun not to accept the donation of this land from Ameren.

I think this is an awesome idea! Long-distance trails bring business to the local economy from cyclists who are now traveling to destination trails. This trail has the potential to be such a trail.

So many people USE and ENJOY the Katy Trail I think it would be a wonderful investment.

Bringing more people to the areas along the proposed trail. Bringing business to the surrounding towns would so great.

Adding these trails will improve quality of life as well as having a positive economic impact on our state.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

I would like to see this be approved. It will give more safe riding access to bikers and hikers . There are so many cars and not many riding trails for bikes, this would be a great thing to add to our area.

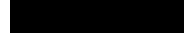
Katy Trail opposition soon quelled when towns along the trail started profiting from tourism along the trail. I happened to be one of those tourists. We met people from across the country plus a couple from the UK.

Rock Island will become a tourist destination as well.

The connection between Katy and Rock Island will complete a attractive round-trip aspect that many cyclists will take advantage of.

May the wind be at your back.

Regards,



Pretty cool

Please let this trail go through. It will be good for the communities along it not only monetary wise but health wise and safety wise

I would use the trail to commute to Owens like high school it would allow me to ride my bike to school and it would be a plus cause kids could also walk to school and wouldn't have to get up so early for the bus

Yes! This is so important for Missouri Tourism as well as promoting a healthy lifestyle. Thanks!

"What this conveyance does is it gives us the opportunity to work with the city, to work with the county and help us revitalize this property and I hope to continue some real, tremendous progress," Greitens said. "This is a fantastic example of what can happen when the city, county and state come together and start working together."

Greitens said redeveloping this area will attract more tourists to not only the city but also the state.

The Jefferson City News Tribune, July 12, 2017

What this conveyance (Rock Island) would do is, give DNR the opportunity to work with the cities, counties, businesses and entrepreneurs and help us revitalize this property and we hope to continue some real, tremendous progress. This is a fantastic example of what can happen when the cities, counties, entrepreneurs, existing businesses and state come together and start working together. I concur with what happened in Jefferson City at the prison site and look forward to the same opportunity and seeing you at a similar ceremony involving Ameren and DNR.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

I love trails! With that being said, why is DNR taking on 144.3 miles more of trail when the Katy Trail needs more than \$20 million in repairs? Take care of what you have first.

Please accept this trail gift on behalf of all active Missourians and our families!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I think it would be great for recreation and for the school kids to come to and from school. As well as the cross country kids using the trail.

Please accept the donation intended for use as an extension of the Rock Island Trail. It will receive much use, and businesses along the route will benefit as a result of increased exposure as riders visit these communities. Thank you.

As a teacher and coach at Owensville Middle School, I would love to see the development of this trail for educational and exercise opportunities. Anything that increases the potential to get our youth outdoors is a positive for Missouri as a whole!

I am in favor of the Trail Use Agreement. Trails provide recreational opportunities for Missourians of all ages and abilities, and frequent recreation enhances Missourians' mental and physical health. The Rock Island Trail will benefit many Missourians who are currently underserved in terms of inexpensive recreational opportunities.

Great plan! It should promote tourism and fitness. We have been users and supporters of Missouri Parks and trails. We consider the Rock Island trail to be an outstanding addition to the Missouri economy.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! It will be a wonderful addition to cycling, recreation, and tourism for the State of Missouri!

It's a great idea and would add a unique feature to state from tourism perspective and also creating more jobs by businesses around this trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Good for Missouri citizens!

The Katy trail is an exemplary use of rails to trails and is known throughout the country as one of the finest trails. I have spent many days on the Katy trail enjoying the sites and people I meet and patronizing the many small businesses along the way. It would be extraordinary for Missouri to convert the Rock Island rail to a trail of similar caliber. This would promote tourism and benefit many small towns along the way, it would also promote a healthy lifestyle. I strongly encourage the DNR to take advantage of this opportunity.

Even though the KATY trail caused controversy at its beginning it has become known the world over for people wishing to come bike on it. I believe the Rock Island line trail could be big boost as well. It goes through a different area than the KATY so that would bring people in. It also is as apt to be flooded out as the KATY trail is so that is a plus for it. It goes near the lake of the Ozarks which is already popular so I believe the Rock Island Trail will be a plus to Missouri's economy.

Small business seem to spring up along trails like these. It another tourist attraction and another avenue to encourage more Missourians to be more active. I'm not aware of the costs of this venture, so I can't weigh in on how it fits into the budget, but it is the type of project that I'd like to see more of in Missouri.

Build this trail

I am in favor of the development of Rock Island Trail!

I think the walking trail is a great idea for hiking and riding bikes. We need to encourage people to get outside and exercise instead of staying indoors playing video games.

this needs to happen

Bike trails are vital to the state's economy and enjoyed by all ages. Great for the environment and great exercise. They bring folks from other states into the economy.

Sounds exciting, hope to here more!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This is another project to keep Missouri in step with or above her neighboring states. A good plan for Missouri.

Please enter into this Trail Use Agreement for the Rock Island Trail.

I think it would be great to have another cross state bike trail.

Anything we can do to increase the access to these types of trails for the public is a good thing. Physical exercise, families spending time together, and the preservation of wildlife and the land.

I left be in Gerald mo and the trail would bring much needed consumer traffic through our town.
Plus..I love riding my bike, but the Katy trail is almost an hour away..so it would be greatly appreciated and enjoyed!
Thank you, Cheri Riley

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It seems to me that the positives far out weight any negatives.

I fully endorse the creation of the Rock Island trail. It will be good for Missouri.

My husband and I live in the southwest part of the state. We urge you to accept the 144-miles of corridor.

The Trail is an amazing public-private partnership, with Ameren donating property worth millions of dollars and private and local donors lined up to contribute millions of dollars to the success of the project. But we need Missouri State Parks to take the necessary steps to make all of this private investment possible.

The Katy Trail is an amazing national example of how successful and important trails can be to the economies of rural communities

History shows that the Katy Trail has been good neighbor and the Rock Island Trail will be as well. Some of the current problems (ie fencing, unauthorized access during railroad salvage) will be solved immediately once State Parks takes possession of the property but won't ever be solved as long as the corridor remains in private hands.

Rock Island communities really want the trail.

Trails have huge bipartisan support in Missouri that cuts across political and geographical lines

Rock Island Trail supporting signatures

The Rock Island Trail has h-u-g-e support from citizens from across the state and country. In this photo, representatives of MoBikeFed and MoRIT meet with Ameren to deliver petition signatures in support of the Rock Island Trail. The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy played a key role in promoting the trail, helping build nationwide support, and in submitting a competitive bid to purchase the corridor.

The trail corridor is an incredibly valuable and important gift to the people of Missouri, that we have been working for decades to obtain. If the opportunity to accept the trail is lost later this year, that opportunity will be lost forever.

The larger the trail system, the further people will travel to visit it and the longer they will stay.

This internationally significant trail system, benefiting communities across the heart of Missouri, will be a major part of Governor Greitens' legacy.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Having done the Katy last year I would strongly support the Rock Island Trail, then I can do a big oval ride through Missouri and be off the roads. Please, more trails !

I think the trail is a great idea and will be a huge benifit to all in the community's it runs through.

New trails bring more people spending money. I am in hospitality and meet people from all over the country who love our parks and trails and come back for more.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Great connection between small towns in this area. Could bike to many grandkids activities instead of drive. Now have to drive a distance to get to a safe bike trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail donation from Ameren. In the Gerald / Rosebud / Owensville area there are many people anxiously waiting for the trail to get put in. We have a Cross Country team hoping to use the trail in our area to run on instead of running busy roadways. It would be a shame to crush their hopes. I have been planning some good walks and even bike rides on the trail when it is finally finished.

Grate asset to Mo.. Mo is number one with these type of trails.. Will help

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. The Governor is always talking about jobs for Missouri citizens and the Rock Island will provide an economic impact for the towns along the route. The Rock Island Trail will also have an impact because the people coming to use the trail, often from outside Missouri, will be spending money on many things.

The Rock Island Trail is an amazing opportunity for Missouri. Missouri is known for its beautiful trails and attracts many outdoor enthusiasts to our great state. In my community, there are 2 new businesses being planned/constructed hoping to capitalize from the tourism this could bring to our small town.

I support entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I have friends who come from out of state to ride the trail we have now. They'd love to come down and spend more time and money in this state if this extension were developed.

DO IT!

This is crazy, I thought it was a done deal already spent several man hours and money on it! Why not it's only for the BETTER. What a better way to stay fit and healthy. City's have gotten grants and voted to spend money on it out of city costs. This should and needs to happen or give the people the VOTE not for him to decide.

As a small business owner in Belle MO. We are counting on the trail to improve the desperately needed revenue in our small Missouri town. The trail would give people a reason to eat, shop, and stay over night.

PLEASE accept the Rock Island Trail!

Fund this trail!

We have family that comes in from out of state to ride bikes on the Katy Trail. They fly into Kansas City-how great would it be to have a trail that supports that side of the state! Restaurants and bed and breakfasts along the way will benefit and the small towns along the trail will see an increase in tourism!

Please accept the Rock Island trail corridor.

Wonderful idea. 144 miles of recreational trail! I'm all for it!

Please support the Rock Island Trail Project.

As an avid bicyclist I urge the Governor of Missouri to please accept the gift of the Rock Island Trail from Ameren.

when finished sounds like it will be a beautiful and attractive place to visit, Biking and camping in new places and scenery are needed,

More Malls and Condos are not needed. People buy on Line, More and More Stores are closing because of this.

Vote For the Project

Say YES to Rock Island Trail Project!

The Rock Island Trail needs to continue to move forward. It would be short sighted to discontinue development of the trail, which will be an economic boon to the small communities flanking it. Building the trail is also a positive step toward encouraging a healthy lifestyle among residents and visitors of our state. Many of us who use rail to trail paths choose to do so for the scenery, the peace found in nature, and the safety that comes with not having to ride, walk, or run on congested or poorly kept streets. I hope that those making the decisions will actually pay attention to the citizens of the state. This trail is important in both scope and value.

Great idea. Preserve the trail options.

Please accept the rock island trail project

Please accept the Rock Island trail! This would be an amazing asset for the state's tourism and environment.

The Kady trail is an amazing amenity for recreation and a huge boon to small town tourism. A second trail would offer a similar boost to Missouri's economy and residents. Please accept the right of way and build the rock island trail.

As popular as the Katy Trail is it would be a sin not to do this With all the money that the trail would bring in to the state in the local economies

This trail will bring people from all over the world

Just like the Katy Trail

What a shame it would be to lose this opportunity

So many families enjoy these types of activities

Thanks

A trail with continuous pavement for at least 15 miles would be nice. I guess what I'm trying to say is I would like to take my road bike on it without having to deal with gravel. This sounds awesome! The Midwest needs some more biking trails and stuff since we don't have much terrain to hike. Much appreciated!

I am totally in favor of this project. I think it will add so much to our trail system and our state. Plus it will be a boon for the communities on the route. This is such an exciting project and will reflect so well on our area. What a great use of our resources and the DNR!! Go for it....please!!!!

Please please please, let's get the Rock Island Trail completed! I travel anywhere from 45 minutes to 1 hr 45 minutes to get to the Katy Trail, it's the greatest thing ever and the Rock Island Trail would be less than 5 minutes away and would be a boon for our Small Rural MO towns! This is a great thing!

I want you to accept the Rock Island Trail.

I think it is a great idea but not sure we should be spending the money unless we can really afford it.

Please accept the Rock Island trail

I think this would be a great thing. If I'm not mistaken the trail will go right past our house.

I'm all for additional walking, running and cycling opportunities in Missouri. Long trails increase cycling tourism and bring dollars to the small towns and businesses along the trail.

I think additional tourism would be gained by paving the KATY and/or the MORIT.

Missouri should accept the Rock Island Rail right of way. This can be a gift to future generations in many ways. Missouri is already famous for the Katy Trail State Park, which began as a similar gift to the people of Missouri, being a former Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad. There is no doubt that Missouri has one of the finest State Park systems and one of the finest Departments of Conservation in the entire nation. To argue that the State cannot afford to accept this land is an unsupportable argument. Tourists visiting this proposed trail would add, through sales taxes and the money spent while using the trail, to the State Treasury and to many small businesses. This is my second comment on the Rock Island Trail Project and I am strongly in favor of it.

We love to stay within the state of Missouri to trail ride with our horses. This is an economical way for our family to have a fun activity away from home. We are members of the Kearney Saddle Club in Smithville, MO and understand the need for groups like ours to volunteer to accomplish trail maintenance along the way. Please keep our existing trails equine friendly and consider opening up even more.

Thank you!


Kansas City, MO

This would be a beautiful addition to the trail system

This will provide outdoor parks and enjoyment to tens of thousands of your constituents citizens of the most beautiful state in the country

The Rock Island Trail will be so great for Missouri, please accept it!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Governor,

PLEASE ACCEPT THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL.

It's FREE!

It's located in a beautiful area.

It will bring bikers to this area which will bring more revenue to our state.

This is a WIN WIN situation.

Thank you,

An avid biker

██████████
St. Louis, MO

I strongly support this action by the MO DNR.

Bike riding on trails! good medicine for the soul! I have found it much more sustaining than Prozac! Social medicine without the pharmaceutical company! I love these trails!

Sounds like a good idea. I could see it being put to good use.

It is a great way to give the people of Missouri a place to enjoy and have children learn about the outdoors in a safe environment. Let's support Eric!!!!

Yes, please get this project going...it will be a premier bike trail in the United States. Bikers from all over the world would come to Missouri to use it.

Encourages physical fitness, getting out in the community, introducing people to rural areas of MO they have not seen before. towns and communities next to the trail can perhaps benefit by opening up/improving their existing businesses to the travelers on the trail. Continue the "adopt a trail" program to help with its maintenance. I believe overall benefits to the state and local communities far outweigh any costs.

This is an opportunity we can't let pass us by. Developing this corridor would create a beautiful trail but itself and rejuvenate manhunt small towns along its route. However the possibilities of several cross - river connector trails between it and the Katy trail provide us with a chance to create an unbelievable trail system with numerous different loop routes.

There are many towns along this old train route that are eager to jump in with volunteers to complete the work needed as soon as they get the "green light".

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail."

Build the trail!

Gov. Greitens, Please accept the trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will save my home town and provide thousands of jobs and new business opportunities. MO needs this trail. We are lacking in bicycle transportation and this will help encourage more.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please except this opportunity for Missouri to expand its trails

I support the Rock Island Trail Project and ask you to support the project. As a cyclist, I have traveled across the country riding trails in multiple states. Cyclists know of and are interested in riding our KATY Trail. If we had additional trails of significant length we could draw in more visiting cyclists to our state. This could bring tourist dollars to more communities across the state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It is an opportunity to improve Missouri Trail network and will have a positive impact on the communities near it

Please accept the Rock Island Trail donation. This is nothing but GOOD for the state of Missouri.

The rails to trails projects in MO in general and the Rock Island line section would add to our state's rural economy and help promote great recreation for residents and draw tourists from outside the state.

Seems like a no-brainer to me.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I fully support the DNR entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement. The Rock Island Trail benefits small Missouri towns and increases Missouri tourist appeal. Please do not halt this project.

The trail would open a new recreational option for cyclists, runners, walkers and roller skaters. Such a great resource would be well used and cherished.

Trails attract tourists and provide healthy activities for our citizens.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please make this happen. We love the Katy

I would love it! The Katy Trail is one of Missouri's treasures - not only for Missourians but national - and international - tourists come to enjoy it. It helps the economy of the small towns along the trail - providing jobs to many. And it encourages to Missourians to enjoy their state and get some healthy exercise - something for everyone from kids to seniors, runners, bikers and walkers. Please, please accept this agreement. It is important for Missouri!

I think the trail would be a great asset to the State of Missouri. Accept the Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project.

Great idea! Please do it. I may live in Buffalo, NY, but I have ridden trails in Missouri many times and look forward to riding this new trail.

I am definitely in favor of acquiring additional recreational trail miles by converting the former Rock Island RR corridor to a multi-use trail. A growing population requires additional space to recreate in a healthy manner that is affordable to outdoor enthusiasts. I would encourage the trail to be non-motorized, and open to equestrians (includes me), hikers, and bicycle riders. Obviously, this will bring visitors to the towns on the trail, thus providing opportunities for entrepreneurs in those towns to expand existing, or open new businesses to accommodate the trail users. It seems to me this would be a winning situation for many: increased recreational trail opportunities, increased jobs in the trail towns, increased revenue for Missouri.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I appreciate the opinions of the public being considered.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The more trails we have to ride, the safer we will be. That isn't just bikers but more trails where cyclist can ride also makes the roads safer for everyone.

The Rock Island Trail Project would be a great addition to Missouri's rails to trails success. Please support this program.

What a wonderful opportunity this could be! We traveled from Utah in 2014 to ride the length of the Katy Trail, staying in Bed and Breakfasts along the way. It was a fantastic trip and we hope you will develop the Rock Island Trail Project. Preserving open spaces and creating recreational opportunities for citizens of your state and revenue from tourist like us!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. Help more people to get and stay active - and healthy.

This is a Win-Win situation. Some of the towns along the route are already gearing up to serve the travelers -- these are mostly very small towns that have only limited opportunities to become more prosperous. If a long loop is completed this would be an international draw for cyclists who would require lodging, and meals and services all along the circuit. Of course there will be maintenance and some start-up but it will be a substantial attraction for the state that will not only provide revenue but serve the more traditional role of DNR to open the natural resources to the citizens of the state in an altogether unique way.

Governor,

Please approve the proposed Rock Island trail. It is very important that Missouri has trails like this to offer its residents, while also attracting outdoor enthusiasts from out of state. I personally am looking forward to using the trail.



Go for it. Wrote my Master's thesis on converting abandoned railroads to trails some 32 years ago and am still a strong supporter of that process wherever possible

Please accept the rock Island Trail

I strongly support the State's acceptance of the Rock Island Trail because I believe it will be a real asset to the State. I have enjoyed many hours of riding on the Katy Trail, and I have been surprised by the number of people who use it. In addition to local residents, many groups and individuals come to Missouri for the express purpose of riding all or part of the Katy Trail. Those folks spend a considerable amount of money while they are here. They support local businesses and increase our tax revenues.

Knowing cyclists, as I do, I believe they will be enthusiastic about visiting the new trail. I therefore encourage Governor Greitens to accept the Rock Island Trail.

Love the idea!

Please accept the rock island trail for the benefit of our Missouri residents.

Thank you.

do it by all means. it would link the katy trail to almost kansas city. if possible develop the whole rock island right of way to I44 in the east. this would create a great bike trail that had more of the ozark "flavor". woods rather than so much farm country as there is on the katy. great idea!!! good job!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail it is great for protection of the environment and creation of a family friendly activity.

Please make this important connection!

A wonderful trail would bring revenue as people from all over the world ecotourism minded will be attracted to spend time with like minded folks. Rock Island trail has potential to make nights out lodging and restaurant spending.

Hi, I am in favor of this project. It is a great way for families to utilize the already provided trail. There are so many things in this day and age that don't allow families to spend time together without a cell phone, computer, and all the other tech savvy items available. Plus, it is free.

There are so many families that are not able to spend a lot of money to enjoy spending time with their kids, especially in the rural areas. Walking the trail and riding bicycles are a marvelous way to spend time together and exercise.

There are many towns along the rock island trail that could really use the business by people passing by. It could be a real boost to the economy of those towns. Please enter into this interim for the good of the small towns along the rock island trail. Thank you.

We love the Katy Trail so much and brag about it everywhere. It brings visitors to our state which means monies into our towns. Please add this trail!

Please increase the outdoor green space for Missouri residents.

I have been cycling for the past five years and there is definitely a shortage of interconnected trails systems.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project.

I think the Rock Island Trail Project would benefit all the little towns that it would go through. There would be potential for a lot of small businesses to open. Bike repair shops, eating places, and possibly B & B's. It would bring people from all over to ride the trail.

This Would be a great asset for Missouri and it's citizens.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please support the Rock Island Trail!

I would love to have the trail from Windsor MO to Beaufort, MO. I live in Montana, but we come every year to Missouri to see my Mom & Sister. We ride the trail every year. I think it's the best trail that I have ever been home. Sure hope to ride it in Belle Mo, my hometown. Thanks so much.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I don't think we need to use tax payer's dollars for a trail. We need too use that money for our roads and bridges. Like Dad always said" work comes before playing". We have roads and streets that need replace or repaired. People use these roads for going to work and make a living driving trucks and delivering things. If people want to walk or ride bikes on trails, for fun, let them pay for it.

Please approve the Rock Island Trail!

The bicycle trail phenomenon is an important economic driver for our state. Many cyclists prefer trails to the roads for recreational travel. The wide acceptance and use of the KATY trail is a good example. This is an excellent example of the economic benefits accrued to rural areas with trail development.

The DNR should strongly advocate for the Rock Island Trail project.

I love bicycling. I love this beautiful State called Missouri. What a grand, inspiring, free experience it is to ride across this awesome State while on a bike. It is liberation, zen and recharging for the soul and mind and body. Please accept and support the Rock island Trail without any further adue. Thank you so very much :)

It would be a great asset to mid Missouri

It is with excitement that I implore the DNR to strongly consider entering an Interim Trail Use Agreement with the Missouri Central Railroad to develop the Rock Island Trail. Not only do trails provide individuals a physical and mental outlet, but they help communities boost their local economies through tourism. We've witnessed the popularity of Missouri's Katy Trail and are anticipating the same success with the Rock Island Trail. Thank you so much for your time and effort.

Very much in favor of this trail, there are many small communities along this route that could be if it from it through tourism, and would help boost the economy in most.

I support the Rock Island Bike Trail project. It is great for Missouri and will bring revenue to the towns and cities along the trail. It will place Mo on the map for the sport and give us national attention. Please Gov Grietens, support this project.

I think this trail is a great thing. It will help build opportunities for the small towns it will go through to increase revenue. It will help support the business already there and give opportunity for more to come to open up.

I like the idea of of another long distance Bike Trail. The Katy Trail has helped out central Missouri. I think this 144.3 mile Trail corridor will be great for the for the towns a long its path.

Please don't take this away from Missouri and the surrounding states that would travel here. I have been waiting for this this my self to completed to make this trip.

Now I don't have a 2000.00 bike but do a lot of biking, and look forward to opening in time. Thank You Fred.

Fred Ackley

Springfield Mo.

This trail is vital for the future of bicycling it must be completed!!

The KATY Trail has been a boon to tourism. Why wouldn't the Rock Island Trail do the same.

I am definitely in favor of converting the Rock Island railbed into a trail.

This this would be a very good project considering that we all need the exercise. To have Trails interconnect would be very practical from an exercise point of view. From a economical point of view having the Department of Natural Resources work with abandoned Railroad tracks is economically sound for Missouri.

It's close to me: Can't wait to be able to ride!!!! Sooner is better.

The Katy Trail has provided a big boost to MO'S economy. I have ridden entire trail and would love to see this next section happen!

This is a fantastic idea that hopefully leads to more connectedness with other trails and will provide more reason to get out and explore Missouri. The communities along such trails benefit by the increased non motorist travel both monetarily and health wise. Please include an educational component to help non supportive people to fully understand the cost structures, benefits and other reasons we should all embrace opportunities for safe physical activity.

Every decision we make should not be how we grow profits for share holders, de-reg. an industry, or push the agenda of any special interest group for their self gain. We and I mean you Mr. Governor must do something that brings families

together, slows down the busy day to day grind and will take individuals and families outside to enjoy nature's beauty and each other's. There will be expense even if the land is free but people, families and time together must be a higher priority.

Please accept the Rock Island trail project.

It would be a great addition to our state for bikers and walkers. What is the objection?

I support the trail development, but don't want to take away from the Katy Trail or the towns along it. I have heard from friends who have been on the newly opened section of Rock Island that it isn't done well...the rock isn't smooth and there's not enough water along the way. If there's money being spent for developing it, then it needs to be done properly and marketed in conjunction with the Katy.

More trails is a good thing for everyone, good health, good PR, good people.

I think this is an awesome opportunity for the state of Missouri and the towns that this trail will go through. I totally support the Rock Island Trail project, and would like to see it come to fruition!!! I hope that a few opponents of it will not ruin it for the rest of us who support it. This is a positive project with positive outcomes. Our Governor needs to get behind this and show his support!!!

Awesome idea!

I don't know much about the interim trail use agreement details. However, as someone who previously lived in Columbia, Missouri I can attest to the enjoyability and frequent use The Katy Trail and the MKT trail in the area. I myself and many others have used both for running and biking and having such a crushed gravel trail is something I missed now that I live in Kansas City. These sorts of trails are amazing parks and encourage fitness. I think it is a great way to utilize a former railroad bed.

I fully support the development of this trail. The Katy Trail has been a major asset to the state bringing people from other states and countries.

Looking forward to traveling safely around Missouri on my bike!

Yes!

I strongly encourage you to accept the Rock Island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

It is amazing how many people are on the existing trails. Local communities use the trail for bicycling and walking. This is good for health and fitness.

I ride the Katy trail. Which means that I drive to sections of the trail and then use services such as hotels and restaurants in the area.

Adding the Rock Island section would add to the trail. I think it would become even more of a destination for bicycle riders from across the state and the country, and add to the local

economies of communities that where this little addition could be very helpful

Before we get to wrapped up in the hoopla an arcarological investigation should be done about historic and prehistoric sites along and in the right of way.

Please accept this project. We have biked the Katy Trail numerous times. This was not only good for our health and well being, but it was also good for the economy because we spent money in the hotels and many food establishments eating those lost calories. We all need more places to enjoy nature and your state would benefit from it ten fold. Our state sucks, OK, so we always look for other states to bike safely in. In OK, we are constantly being abused verbally and with objects being thrown at us to get off the road. We appreciate the beauty of Missouri in ways you just can't understand. Please do this for all of mankind....and the animals. :)

I am very supportive of Missouri entering into this agreement. I feel the economic benefits to Missouri will be great. Also, you should consider the health benefits to Missouri's citizens. I ride the 43 mile Rock Island trail several times a week and have seen considerable traffic on it. Part of the people I have talked to, have come from out of state, bringing an impact on our state. Towns such as Chilhowee along this existing trail have seen economic development, as cited by the article in Warrensburg's Daily Star Journal on July 11. With both the Katy and Rock Island going across the state, tourism is bound to grow.

This would be great addition to our "Trails State" providing recreational use for horses, hikers and cycling much like the Katy Trail. Possibilities of increased businesses and jobs along the trail area to support these recreational activities would also benefit the state.

I'd sure like to see you accept the Rock Island Trail. The Katy Trail has been a boon, both economically and as a source of local community pride. The Rock Island Trail will be the same. Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This can only enhance Missouri's attraction to tourists and locals alike. Connecting towns, interconnecting Missourians in another way. I believe this project will pay for itself in economic benefits.

Rail/trails are a wonderful use of otherwise unused land....providing safe transportation and recreation for bicyclists.

I have rode all of Katy Trail twice with a girlfriend. I have rode short rides a few time. This will be great for small communities. Thanks

It would be a great gift to the community and a highly utilized trail, increase local business, developing missouri as a top quality state to live and play. Without it I will look to move to more bike friendly cities when I look for a new job.

We are for this trail, people are encouraged to be more active which will save \$ on healthcare costs.

I think this would be a great addition to the Missouri trails available, especially to non- motorized trail users, as in equestrian and hikers. This would add tourism revenue for the cities along this route.

The Katy trail is one of our favorite rail-trails. We have traveled to Missouri several times to ride parts of it. We are very interested in the Rock Island Trail that would make Missouri an even more exciting biking destination. Missouri has a great location (central US) and climate for biking.

This would be a great plan for multi use trails, non motorized, such as bikes, hiking and equestrian. The expansion of this trail would help with jobs and tourism.

Having the addition of the Rock Island trail will make Missouri a world class cycling destination! Please move forward with development and make our state a leader in outdoor recreation.

I believe the Rock Island Trail Project will bring additional recreation activities (and ultimately tourism dollars to the Missouri area). The KATY Trail has already shown the value of such a project.

Please accept the rock island trail!

I would like to see this project go forward.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This addition would be wonderful. Please accept it.

Banking rail lines for common use has a proven track record of almost 30 plus years. It Spurs development , investment and the revitalization of communities along its path. It promotes health and wellness ; along with civic pride. And it saves rights of way that otherwise could never be recovered if it were to transfer to private ownership. It is a trust for future generations and an immediate benefit for the current ones. There is no downside to banking as many unused rail lines as possible. Banking them in this manner is a long term investment for the State and all its citizens.

Great idea!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The Rock Island Trail project is definitely a keeper for the state of Missouri. I can't tell you how many people have commented on the Katy Trail and how excited they are for the completion of the Rock Island Trail. Not just people in Missouri the people in Kentucky and Arkansas and Florida the places that I visit. You'll be a boost to the state's economy it's good for the small towns along the course. It will bring people in from out of the state just to do that trail. And it shows off so much of Missouri's beautiful countryside. Governor, please accept this donation of the Rock Island Trail for the state of Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island trail donation.

We thoroughly enjoyed the Katy trail. We spent 10 days there and took our time. We have talked recently of doing it again. I would love another trail in Missouri. There are not enough safe trails in the US, too many people are not paying attention to the road. Rail trails are safe and encourage businesses in the local towns. We supported our share. Thank you for considering Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

more trails the better!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This would be so awesome for Missouri and all its visitors

The use of trails is central to the activities of my family. We spend considerable time and money at Missouri's wonderful natural parks. Whether it is kayaking the waterways, hiking or camping; we choose local mini trips rather than a big vacation away. Having ridden the Katy at least a dozen times in the last few years we are anticipating the completion of MORIT to bike and camp the entire trail combination.

Frederick Trawick

I strongly support the DNR entering this agreement to develop the Rock Island Trail Project.

I rode the Katy Trail from Clinton east to St. Charles almost 20 years ago as my first multiple-day ride. That trip helped me prepare for a later cross-country bike ride on my own. The Katy is a great trail which my siblings (who live in St. Charles) and families use a lot for daily exercise.

The addition of the Rock Island Trail would be a great addition to the bike trail system in Missouri.

Please accept the rock island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island TRails Project.

Hello:

I strongly support the effort to convert the RIR into a recreational trail. These opportunities are so rare and once gone are gone forever. By converting this rail easement to a trail system, we open up the beauty of our wonderful state in an immersive fashion that could never be duplicated from a car. Much like the many stunning rivers which have long been destination resources.

Cyclists tend to have more disposable income than many and will stay in-state or travel from out of state to experience these routes creating economic opportunity in regions that may be suffering. Additionally, the societal health benefits of engaging with nature, exercise, and lowering stress are many.

Thank you!

██████████

Benefits of trail would provide a great experience for everyone, not to mention economic opportunities for cities and towns along the trail. Think this is a great opportunity for

citizens to enjoy outdoor activities and a boost for businesses along and near trail.

This could be a valuable tie-in to the Katy trail and other trails in Missouri. This should be considered.

Great idea. We need lots of this kind of trails not only for cyclist but to improve the state and its quality of life.

Think it would be great idea! Set Missouri apart from other states as well.

This would be a great idea for Missouri and the economic development of the state. We are already getting a great reputation as a great state to go biking, and with that comes tourists, and visitor dollars. When we visit the trail we always see people from around the country and even the world, enjoying the trail and other business near it. The Rock Island trail is very scenic and interesting, and would be a great draw for tourists and further enhance our state's reputation for scenery and outdoor activity. On top of that, the health benefits to Missourians are many, and encouraging more Missourians to use and enjoy the trail would help keep health and insurance costs down. Since I have started using the MKT and the Katy for biking and walking in 2008, I have lost weight and lowered my cholesterol and generally improved my health, and I believe this has kept my insurance claims down. Having the trails close by to use and enjoy has improved the quality of my life in measurable ways.

This is a no brainer. The state has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create something that will produce benefits for decades to come. Please develop this trail!

During 2012, my wife and I walked the entire KATY trail. It was one of the highlights of our lives. The scenery, the people we met and the sense of accomplishment were overwhelming. As we passed through Windsor, we saw the junction of the planned Rock Island Trail project.

We think it would be a great coup to the state of Missouri to expand its trail system from Windsor to Beaufort, and it would draw visitors and provide great recreation.

As taxpayers, we believe the benefit to cost ratio would be extremely favorable.

I feel the development of the new section of trail would be an incredible opportunity to expand Missouri's current Katy trail. I am from southeast Missouri, but travel North quite often to bike along the Katy, most recently this past weekend when my husband and I rode 55 miles. On my biking excursions, I have met people from all over the country, even one man from Europe, who travel to Missouri just to experience Katy trail. What an amazing opportunity we have to add another corridor and boost Missouri tourism!

This is a project that needs to be done. As a regular user of the Katy trail, this great new rails to trail conversion would be outstanding.

What a asset for state tourism.

Please accept the trail

I support the DNR entering into an agreement, interim or long term, with MCR to develop the Rock Island Trail Project.

The addition of the Rock Island Trail corridor will be an amazing recreational asset for Missouri, passing through areas of Missouri that could use some economic and cultural stimulation--I'm specifically thinking of Meta, MO, where I've visited, and which has always struggled. The tourism/economic aspect and adding this trail to the existing KATY Trail (since they cross) would stimulate visitors and interest from not only within Missouri, but around the country, and add to Missouri's marketable reputation as a top trail state. Please accept the Rock Island Trail into our system.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Mr Grieten, I am an avid supporter and also an avid cyclist and want you to know how important the old Rock Island Rail is to us in our hopes to convert it. It is so dangerous to cycle on highways and so pleasurable to cycle on converted rail lines. Please move forward on this issue. We need your help.

██████████

I am a relatively new resident of Missouri, having moved here from Minneapolis last year. The trail system in Minnesota is huge and supports so many positive things, community, transportation, health, tourism. I would love to see Missouri develop the Rock Island Trail. It would help connect Lee's Summit to the Katy trail which is now remote from the Kansas City area. These trails in general bring a wealth of benefits to the state and the citizens as well as increasing tourism. Please, please allow Missouri to move forward in developing this trail. It is a forward-looking part of making Missouri a great place to live and visit.

This is a great idea. Another "Rail to Trail" is a good use of resources.

I definitely support the Rock Island Trail Project. Its use by Missourians and others will provide many hours of healthy recreation to them and a real economic benefit to those individuals and businesses that serve it.

Rail trails are such a great resource for people of all ages. Biking, hiking, bird watching, just taking a walk. The trails are generally very gentle grades which make it usable for even mobility impaired folks. Rail trails bring in visitors from around the country. I have biked on rail trails in Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Florida and Missouri. I have met folks from across the country and around the world. This means more income to local businesses and attracting new residents (like myself) to the state. Please seriously consider developing the extension of the Rock Island Trail.

I strongly encourage the state to accept the Rock Island Line trail. My wife and I, along with friends, regularly travel to Northwest Arkansas to ride on the trail system in that booming corridor. I know we are not the only ones who make that trip just to ride on the trails and the economy of NWA is growing. We also ride on the Katy Trail and see how businesses support that trail as well. Trails are the new amenity in communities,

and states and regions that wish to grow are wise to invest in those recreational sites that draw people. Best of all, the donation of this land makes it a low capital investment for the state with a potentially large payoff! This would make an additional draw for recreational tourists to come to Missouri.

What a great use for an old railed. KATY Trail has been such a great success, and is used quite often, drawing people from all over the nation to ride. The Rock Island trail would be an added benefit. Governor Grieten, speaking as a fellow veteran, you and I both know that being outdoors is something we veteran's enjoy, whether it's hunting, fishing, hiking, bicycling, etc... This would be a valuable asset to us veteran's that are still able to get out and enjoy nature.

Missouri is such a beautiful state, and certainly smaller, rural communities like those along the proposed new trail are exactly the communities in such need of a boost today. I strongly support going forward with this project. It seems to be a complete win-win for our state.

As a user of the Katy trail for many years, this proposed addition to our rail park would be a real asset to the State of Missouri. If it is anything like the Katy trail it will also become a very popular spot to ride.

Please accept this gift to the people of Missouri. The economic tourism impact will be significant. Small towns along the trail will especially benefit. Chilhowee is already benefiting from increased visits to their small businesses (see recent Warrensburg Daily Star Journal article). People will come from out of state to visit our trails systems which are already well known. The Rock Island trail connects the KC metro area directly to the Katy Trail State Park and allows people to journey all the way across the state on a trail system. The state of Iowa is heavily promoting bike tourism, featuring it on their DOT maps that are given out at welcome centers. Please accept this amazing resource as a gift to the Missouri people!

This would be a great recreation property for Missourians. And improve our health!

The Rock Island bike trail will be a great asset for Missourians living in nearby communities as well as an attraction to people all over the state.

I'm 63 years old. I live south of Washington, about 10 miles from the KATY. Even though I've ridden the entire length only once in 25 years, I ride segments for recreation and exercise about 3 dozen times a year.

Many people in this area own bikes for only one reason, our proximity to the trail. We ride only on "The Trail". In fact, I don't know very many adults in this area who don't own a bike.

I think a study of the cost benefits of the new trail is a fine thing to do, but the real value to Missourians is related to health and quality of life. Can you measure that also?

Two years ago, I rode the Katy Trail with four other riders. One was a Missourian, two from Indiana, one from California, and one from France. We spent a week on the trail, staying overnight in Bed and Breakfasts and small hotels along the

trail, and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. I hope you continue to move forward on this trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Really surprised this administration would do anything for the average person except give him more guns. I'm all for this.

Anytime we can open up more space for people to exercise the better. I really don't see it passing in this State unless you add Jesus and guns to it

This is totally awesome!!

This is a marvelous opportunity that should not be missed. It would add much value to the state of Missouri. I pray that the trail is established so it can be a benefit to all.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Can only help Missouri continue to be the great state it is! Another plus for Missouri. Please convert the Rock Island Railroad corridor into 144.3 mile long recreational trail and accept the Rock Island Trail Project to continue to improve outdoor recreation in Missouri!

Why shouldn't we reclaim some of the land the RR appropriated when it was being built and is now not using. Seems to be a wise use

I think it would be an economic boost to the towns along the Rock Island line and add tourism dollars in to Missouri

As a political scientist at St. Louis University teaching public policy, I often scrutinize the pros and cons of various public policy proposals. I must say that I strongly support the State of Missouri going forth with the development of the Rock Island Trail project. Sure, there would be construction and maintenance costs for the trail, but these costs would be low compared to the benefits to the residents of Missouri, as well as vacationers coming to Missouri to ride the trail, spending money in our state.

Construction costs would also be quite low since the trail is essentially already there, but would have to be groomed or converted for walking and bike use. Such trails also promote the health of its users, which lower medical costs in the long run.

Having such a trail would be a big plus for the image of Missouri, conveying to observers that Missouri cares about recreation as much as so many other states.

I believe the Rock Island Trail project would be a tremendous asset to our communities. I have been very excited about the prospect of this trail coming through the Eldon area. I think it would help bring tourism and would be a great place for our kids and families to spend time together. I would strongly recommend entering into this agreement with the railroad.

Missouri has a unique opportunity to develop another trail that will nearly span the state. It goes through some off the most beautiful scenery any where in the country.

We ride our bikes all over the country, almost exclusively on rails to trail. The trails are safe and generally go thru the rural areas of the state. We stay at hotels, eat at local restaurants and

take in other sites. Needless to say we add to the economic activity of the area.

I believe the Rock Island Trail would also add to the local economy. The more important point is the physical activity of the riders. The local residents along the trail would benefit the most from having a great trail close to home.

Also that trail would have a long tunnel which would be a great draw for everyone.

I strongly support completing the trail.

Definitely a good idea!!! All for this new proposed trail! Would love this and am positive many, many people would benefit from this trail.

I am writing in support of the Rock Island Trail for use by health conscious Missourians. A rail-trail on the Rock Island Line corridor is a wise investment that can boost local economies;

Missouri has an opportunity to grow as a national tourism destination for trails;

The Rock Island Line trail and Katy Trail can be the backbone of a 450-mile connected, cross-state trail system.

I think more multiuse trails would be fantastic for Missouri. Numerous small towns (as well as larger ones) have benefited from the tourist traffic brought in by the Katy Trail. In addition to the increase of revenue biking trails also encourage healthy citizens by providing free outdoor exercise for a variety of ages and ability levels.

Thank you for considering this project. My family uses multi-use trails for horses & bikes. Our yearly vacation is to the Ozarks. Lets keep our money in Missouri & continue to develop these hike, bike & equestrian trails. Thank you.

The KATY trail running across Missouri is a great asset to the state. As a cyclist, I know that this trail brings in out-of-state cyclists to the state and expanding that trail system to include the Rock Island Trail will only increase that benefit as well. Additionally, we know that encouraging our citizens, young and old, to get outdoors more, to exercise more, and be more active, are all important public health issues. Anything we can do to expand our State Parks system furthers that goal. Please consider expanding this system and including the Rock Island Trail.

Go for it! Great investment for the state of MO and for the communities along the route.

Please accept the rock island trail gift from Windsor to Beaufort.

One in a lifetime opportunity to expand economic development assets of the State. With proven benefit of the Katy Trail, this could prove to be even a larger economic impact. This would have minimum impact to the DNR budget, as I believe private interests are awaiting the opportunity to support the redevelopment of this unique trail.

Sirs & Madame's,

This donation provides Missouri with the opportunity to grow as a national tourism destination for trails, and it's a Golden

opportunity for the state. The Rock Island Line trail together with the Katy Trail can be the backbone of a 450-mile connected, cross-state trail system.

The proposed rail-trail on the Rock Island Line corridor is a wise investment that can boost local economies.

Thank you for your consideration.

I fully support this proposal. Thanks!

This would make a great bicycle trail. Many person within the state and visitors will utilize a biking trail from Windsor to Beaufort. This will bring tax dollars to our state with minimal cost to maintain the trail. Thank you

These kind of projects when completed offer a lot of recreational choices for people. The Katy Trail regularly draws bikers from around the country to MO to bike in our beautiful state.

Failure to take advantage of this opportunity to develop more recreational facilities in the state would be a loss for all.

Please accept the Rock Island Railroad corridor. It would be a big asset to the great state of Missouri.

Please add my endorsement to the list of all others interested in this tremendous opportunity to add to our hiking and biking trails. Missouri has such wonderful natural beauty to behold, and this is one of the ways my family and I get off the highways and roadways and take a closer look at all the State has to offer.

We Need it! Do it!

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

I am very much in favor of this and already use the Katy Trail and brag about it to non-Missourians all the time.

This trail will be historic and benefit many, this is an excellent long term idea!

Rock Island Trail would seamlessly integrate with the Katy Trail and provide a round-trip option that explores a variety of Missouri's scenery. The economic benefits and tourism boost will provide much needed revenue to our state at a very low cost.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This will be a boost to tourism in Missouri and bring in additional revenue, like the Katy Trail. It will help spur economic development in communities along the trail as well. I, for one, would definitely use the trail, even though I live in Joplin, MO

As a biker, I support the DNR project, what a perfect compliment to the KATY trail.

I think that Missouri should enter the Interim Trail Use Agreement and move forward with the Rock Island Trail Project. The Katy was a good start at showing that Missouri is conscious of our natural resources and reusing the foundation

of the rail system for public enjoyment and recreation. The Rock Island Trail will add a significant amount of trail for people to travel and get much needed exercise in a safe environment. The trail will also connect communities in a fashion that is safe for pedestrian/bike traffic. These communities will also see additional revenue from tourists wanting to transit the vast trail system. The State of Missouri can show the cities of Missouri that foot and bike traffic is important and that it should be prioritized. I enjoy cycling and I would do more if there were safe places to do so; take the step and make a statement that investing in the walking/bicycling trail system is something worth investing in. Not only is the trail system worth investing in, so is the health of Missouri citizens and those that will make the trip to enjoy it.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I think this is a great opportunity for Missouri and towns to pursue. I live 1 block from a trail (Heart of Iowa Nature Trail) in central Iowa. The west end of this trail ties into a very popular trail (High Trestle Trail). I utilize both trails frequently. There are always lots of people on these trails, bikers, foot traffic, skate boards, horses, etc. In the winter snow mobiles use the HOINT. Small communities along these trails are benefiting from the increase in people that use the trail and stop at local businesses. People are moving to these small communities because of the trails. High Trestle also has close access to several other trails.

I am writing in support of the development of the Rock Island Project in MO. I am an avid Rail-to-Trail user and advocate. It is a safe and enjoyable way to bike and, if developed, can serve as a local economic driver. In the past two years I have traveled with friends to South Dakota (Mickleson Trail), Wisconsin (Elroy-Sparta Trail), and Iowa (Wabash Trace Trail). And, of course, travelled several sections of the Katy. In all cases we stayed in hotels, visited restaurants and local museums, and spent resources that provide private and public economic support. The development of the Rock Island Trail Project would provide such opportunities in my home state.

I ride trails daily here in STLMO.
Please approve this project.
You all are welcome to ride with me.
Thank you.

I am an avid bike rider and I vote! The KATY Trail is my favorite and such an asset to Missouri. I am all in favor of converting more abandoned railroad space into bike trails.

In the last year, I have taken multiple trips to the Katy Trail in MO and Prairie Spirit Trail in KS. These are destination trails that bring money to the local communities (lodging, restaurants, gas, etc.) and provide health benefits for those using the trails. Please consider this investment into Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The trail is something I have been looking forward too for a very long time. I have biked the entire Katy Trail and it is one of my fondest memories and most memorable trips. I travel often to ride segments of the Katy trail, and the Rock Island

Trail would go through my home town and my college town, therefore I could utilize it with ease at any point of the year without having to travel.

The Rock Island Trail would be a wonderful edition to Missouri.

Go for it! The more trails that we have, the better. Not only is this good for us(Missourians), but it is good for those that want to travel here and spend money in our state.

Yes to the Rock Island Trail Project

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I think it would be a great asset to the State and the smaller communities for tourism. Gerald, Rosebud and Owensville have always been a close community with many activities overlapping in to each town. This would just add to the value. I think it would also be a safety tool as many ride and walk in the area along the highway which this would give another alternative. .

Please accept the Rock Island Trail project.

What a wonderful economic gift to the state of MO! Travelers spend money! Please accept the gift.

The Rock Island Trail Project is an exciting adventure in bringing more people out to see the beauty of our rural areas. It will benefit the local communities financially also.

I am FOR "The Department of Natural Resources entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project, a conversion of the former Rock Island Railroad corridor into a 144.3 mile long recreational trail from Windsor, MO, to Beaufort, MO. "

I would love to see these miles added to the existing miles and make it a linear State Park.

Sincerely,


I rode the RIT from Pleasant Hill to Windsor a few weeks ago. A great experience! The trail was in good shape. At our stop in Chilhowee at the Corner store the "guest book" had names from several states and a few foreign countries! We spent money at the towns along the way, and I'm sure these people did too. Sure hope the trail can be completed from Windsor to Beaufort. It would be a great asset for our state!!!

I am a very frequent user (bike, hike, run), mostly run, of the KATY Trail and would like to voice my strong support for the Rock Island Trail Project. It will be quite a treasure for all future users. And given the current federal administration's disdain for safeguarding our beautiful natural resources, it is incumbent upon us to do so. Please proceed with this valuable Missouri project.

I live in owensville and would love to see this happen!

As a Missouri resident I have written the Katy Trail from end to end as well as in various segments. I have met many visitors

from across the country also enjoying the trail. An addition to our already excellent system would greatly benefit the state.

This would be a great opportunity for the small communities that do not have the activities that larger communities have. It could bring in revenue for the areas businesses. This project has had a lot of people putting hard work voluntarily. This is a good thing and we are looking forward to its completion.

This project has been in the planning stages for years and I, among many other Missourians and trail enthusiasts, eagerly look forward to its completion. In fact, my group of Missouri Master Naturalists are hoping to do a beautification project along a portion of the trail. The trail will create a resource that will pay for itself over and over as, along with the Katy, it attracts visitors from across the state and other states to experience the longest loop trail in the nation.

Any extension of the Missouri trail system is a benefit to all of its citizens. Missouri is such a beautiful state, this would give everyone a unique opportunity to view it.

What a fantastic opportunity for the state, and more significantly, the small towns who lost the rail road business and now need something to center their community around.

The trail would promote local and international tourism which would be a big big blessing to the state and local economies, raise the tax base, and encourage personal fitness. The trail area between Cole Camp, Stover, Versailles, and Eldon is becoming an equine person's destination spot for trail riding because of the conservation property that is already opened for trail riding. The conservation areas I am referring to is the Big Buffalo area, Huston property and the Saline Valley area. The rails to trails partnership that Missouri is entering into is a demonstration of good stewardship of tax money that would benefit many people in different ways.

Please support the Interim Trail Use! Love the idea of more ways to offer citizens exercising and outdoor activities.

Anyone that would prohibit the acceptance, maintenance, and use of this trail, will in turn prohibit many wonderful things for Missouri. The very idea that this project is in jeopardy is ridiculous. One must only look to a state like Arkansas to realize that cycling infrastructure draws tourism in the Ozarks like nothing else can. Those that slow the progress of this trail slow the progress of culture and prosperity in Missouri.

The rock island trail could provide much needed tourism for small rural towns in Missouri that may not have access to other options. It is certainly something that should be continued as some areas are already prepped and prepared for the trail.

I would use this trail frequently and contribute to all the communities along this trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will run right by my home and will be an asset to our small community! A community that needs the foot traffic, that offers so much to

so many, we just need the opportunity to show what we have to offer!

I think it's both important to help spur the economy of Missouri and provide a place to safely run/bike/walk in our state. Living close to Arkansas, I have friends (admittedly affluent) who drive to Arkansas multiple times for recreational trail activities. You bet your hiney they stimulate the economy of Arkansas via retail, gas, and food establishments. We need that in MO, so I fully support it.

it's a WONDERFUL idea!!!

I'm all for having a trail coming in Owensville

This trail would be a great move for MO. Safe and beautiful trails for my two boys to experience is something I will always support.

I am in full support of the Rock Island Trail. I know first hand the benefits that the Katy Trail brings to Missouri, as one of its finest tourist attractions. Talk of expanding the trail system throughout Missouri has circulated the cycling community for a couple years and I can tell you we couldn't be more excited at the prospect of furthering these trails and connecting even more cities. It would be a sad mistake if Missouri were to deny such an awesome opportunity to make our state even better!

I would like to express my interest and approval of the project

Continued development of the Rock Island Trail Project will be an economic and publicity boost to the state of Missouri's tourism much like the Katy Trail has been.

Looking very forward to the trail!!! I hope it continues to prosper.

I ride the Rock Island 2-3 times each week. I would like to see it completed.

I think this trail would be a huge addition to the state of Missouri. Living in Gerald, MO where the last Rock Island depot in existence sits makes me especially partial to the construction of the trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I think this is a great value add proposition for the citizens of Missouri. This is a state that values its natural resources and a trail like this is another way to introduce families to the outdoors and continue to build the strong conservation ethic Missourians have.

This is an opportunity just too good to pass up. The addition of this trail would be used by many people immediately when pen.

I would love to see another great rail trail on the Rock Island Trail!

Accept the land from Ameren with the stipulation that the trail would be completed when funds are available and then get a

some more companies to donate money and also some private fund raising.

What a marvelous addition this would be to our great state. My husband and I use many of the Missouri trails for bike riding and would be so pleased to have yet another one. We prefer long rides (15-30 miles at a time) and other than the Katy trail we don't have much in Missouri where we can take that kind of ride. We travel each summer/fall to other states to ride, but would gladly do our riding (and eating/lodging, etc.) right here in our home state with this addition.

Has a bike rider I feel that the rails to trails system has an awesome way to enhance the state of Missouri. I support the new trail acquisition of the rock island railroad.

This is a great project, please approve this for MO.

I would love this trail so I could walk with my wife and 3 boys in a safe place without all the cars everywhere

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It will be a great asset for Missourians and tourists.

We want this trail to happen. Missouri needs more trails and this would be a great addition to the already popular Katy Trail and would provide a true link from KC to STL on the trails.

I totally support this project. I have hiked or biked around 200 miles of the rails to trails in Missouri.

The rails to trails program in Missouri is known throughout the nation. At this time I am the national vice president of the National Parks Travelers Club. We have over 2000 members from all over the nation and the Katy Trail is quite well-known and respected by our members.

I have personally met people on the trail from a majority of the states and from several countries.

Last month I stayed at a B&B in Hartzburg (pop. less than 200) and it had visitors from over 40 states and several countries in the last 2 years of operation. A person does not stay in Hartzburg for any other reason than the Katy Trail!

Approve the rock island trail!

I have watched the changes near Highway 50 from Union to Jefferson City, including the removal of ties and rails in Gerald and west. There is beautiful countryside and great little towns through central Missouri to enjoy.

Please continue the work on the Rock Island Trail. This is going to help many rural communities as well as big communities. This is a great thing for kids and adults

This would be such a benefit to all the small towns along the way.

Please approve the Rock Island Trail Project. Recreational trails and parks attract people to the area and make it more attractive.

Thank you



I am very much in favor of completing the Rock island Trail Project. I also feel that it should be open to horses and horses and buggies. It should not be open to Motorized vehicles.

W are excited in Owensville for the trail to become reality!

Please make this happen. ..Owensville is excited and ready!

I support the Rock Island Trail.

I think it is a great idea.

Please keep this going, our community needs this and it would also help bring attractions to our town for our small business. This was a great plan and needs to continue as one.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Any opportunity to increase rail trails should absolutely be taken. Not only do they provide opportunity for outdoor activity and health for residents, they also provide an ability to safely limit bicycle street travel for commuters.

As a resident of southwest Ohio, where rail trails have been highly successful, I encourage you to take this opportunity to increase your rail trails. You will not be disappointed, and your state will benefit.

This sounds like a wonderful addition to our trail system in MO. It's so hard to get people outside, these trails are a great things for families to enjoy the beauty of our state without endangering themselves riding on roads.

what is an interim trail use?

what is the projected cost for development of the trail and the projected yearly maintenance costs?

where do the funds for this project come from?

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept this gift to the state. The addition to the State will add thousands of visitors to our great state each year. Improving networks like this adds to the appeal of Missouri's claim to the best parks and trails in the Midwest.

Just look at the economic impact of the Katy trail over the years. Also, would make Missouri one of the premiere destinations for trail fans.

Rail – trail on Rock Island Line would be a wise investment which would boost the local economies and expand Missouri as a tourist destination.

My family has personally enjoyed and benefited from the Katy Trail and we greatly anticipate the possibility of this new addition.

The Rock Island Trail has the potential to become an internationally significant source of Missouri tourism. In addition, it will have the following benefits:

-Economic development and improved quality of life

-The Katy/Rock Island Trail system will be an internationally recognized loop

-Promote transportation safety and efficiency
-A wholesome resource for families and youth groups
-Become a safe route to school
-Fight childhood obesity and promote rural health
Please help make all of these positive things happen!
Sincerely,

Lee's Summit

I am very supportive of the additional 144 miles. I live north of Eldon and would use the trail frequently.

Please accept and support the Rock Island Trail!!

I'm in favor of a trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I'm all for the development of the Rock Island Trail.

Lots of small towns (including my hometown of Owensville and the town I currently live in, Gerald) would economically benefit from the trail. Our restaurants and stores would receive a boost from people biking and walking through. The trail would also be much more aesthetically pleasing than the abandoned railroad. An additional benefit is the good physical activity it would provide for our community. I am personally looking forward to having the option of riding my bike to work- which will save gas, give me a good workout, and will be better for the environment. Our small towns NEED this trail. Please continue the work!

The Morit would be a huge asset to small towns along the trail, great for the small community's

I am only for this if we can ride horses on this

I support the development of the Rock Island Trail. My husband and I enjoy hiking and riding our bikes on the various trails in Missouri. These types of trails encourage healthier living, recreational travel in our state, and economic growth in the towns nearby as they provide goods and services to trail users. For example, when we traveled to Rocheport to use the Katy Trail, we stayed in a local B and B for two nights, ate at the restaurants, and shopped in the local stores as well as enjoying the trail. Please provide more opportunities like these in Missouri.

PLEASE quit halting this work so it can get completed already!!! Our family is impatiently waiting to use it!!!!

I support it.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail donation from Ameren!

Please continue making the Rock Island Trail. It'll be a great place to enjoy with the family or go on morning runs to keep in shape.

Gov. Greitens: The Rock Island Trail is a gem in the making. I hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

My spouse and I have ridden dozens of Rails-to-Trails trails all over the country, and Missouri's trails are top-notch. In June 2017, we spent 10 wonderful days pedaling the entire KATY Trail from Machens to Clinton ... and back. We also rode on the 48 completed miles of Rock Island Trail from Windsor to Pleasant Hill and then back to Windsor. In all, we covered 560 miles ... and spent lots of money on lodging, food and bike tires.

Hats off to the entrepreneurs along Rock Island Trail who have turned old banks into a store (Leeten) and a restaurant and opened a bicycle shop in Pleasant Hill. WE LOVE TO SUPPORT LOCAL small businesses and this trail can be a gold mine for your state. The KATY/Rock Island trails are a huge draw for thousands of bicyclists with lots of disposable income.

For what it's worth, I'm a University of Missouri-Columbia graduate and it was fun to visit friends in my old stomping grounds.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to expand recreation/economic development in the heart of your state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! Our community in Owensville is very excited for the trail! It has even sparked so much interest as to make several more restaurants announce that they would be opening doors. This would create jobs in our community and help our community to grow. Aside from that, it's a great thing for the youth to be doing and a positive impact on individual health. I run a community organization for the youth in my hometown called 'The Ultimate MOB' that gets together on Sundays and does an hour long community service project and then plays frisbee until dark. Countless young people have expressed their excitement to me about the potential of the trail. Additionally, if you look at the positive benefits of the Katy Trail throughout towns along the Katy Trail in Missouri I think expanding upon something that is already good would further progress Missouri as well. I sincerely hope that the tracks that are no longer useful are used in a useful purpose for the common good of all of those in the area.

Thank you for your consideration.

I love the idea of the Rock Island Trail. Not only will it help promote a healthy and active lifestyle, it will allow more people to see the beauty of small town Missouri that typically goes unnoticed. I'm all for it!

Please accept Rock island trail.

I would LOVE to have access to a bike trail in our area. I live in Owensville, MO, one of the towns the trail would pass through. It would be great for local businesses and help add jobs to the area. I am all for this project!

Strongly support the Rock Island Trail project. Benefits are numerous, key are the financial benefits to the state, which Missouri so badly needs. Accepting the donated corridor comes at almost no cost to Missouri.

A rail-trail on this corridor would be a huge tourist boon to the economies of many of the towns along the way. Visitors would come from far and wide to see and experience the Missouri countryside. It provides an opportunity for Missouri and many towns to promote family-friendly activities,

communities, tourism, economic development, health and wellness, or conservation.

Economic development is a major benefit. The Katy Trail has annual economic impact of more than \$18 million. Rock Island trail can have the same or even greater usage and economic impact per mile.

Please build the Rock Island Walkway. It would be amazing to have another trail.

Please continue with plans for the wonderful Rock Island Trail. I know what a huge positive impact it will have for us in the Eldon and surrounding area, and not only economically. Having a safe place to bike or run or walk, alone or with family or friends, would be such a blessing I couldn't possibly begin to explain. I have a teenage daughter that is a competitive runner and also likes to bicycle to train for races, and every time she runs or bicycles in the streets, I fear for her safety, especially since a friend's sister was recently struck by a car while running and died. One of my fondest memories as a kid was just simply riding bikes with my sister and mom back in a time and place it was safe to do so. And I rode bikes with friends to the local park and ball games, even after some in our group were old enough to drive. Quality bonding time together is so rare these days. I honestly can't remember very much about the material stuff I got as gifts from my parents, and whatever I did receive is long gone and forgotten. But any fun, inexpensive or free thing that we got to do to spend time together is forever implanted into my memories and has made me a better person, I hope. I know that those little investments of time together created a family bond that is better than almost any I see around me today. Some of my friends became my best friends because we invested time with one another, walking and talking together, giving encouragement and advice to one another, while pushing our baby strollers. We used exercise as our excuse to get together, but what we really craved was regular doses of deep meaningful friendship and encouragement, with laughter and tears, the kind of friendships that nourish good motherhood and good families. In our busy and stressful world that is becoming so overwhelmed with addictions to cell phones, video games, junk food, social media, alcohol, drugs, and anything to "escape" or distract us from better choices, we need more free and inexpensive options to help our families and communities come together and be more "healthy" -- mentally, physically, and probably most of all, relationally with each other. If something as simple as a bike/walking trail could contribute to making our families, communities, and citizens "healthier" in this many ways, I think it's a good investment at any cost, and the immeasurable returns on that investment could be seen for many generations, and could have a ripple effect that could spill over into so many aspects of life, health, family, and productive citizenship. I know many people in my area that would contribute effort and finances into creating and maintaining such a worthy project in our little part of the greatest state in the nation. I'm so thankful to be a small-town Missourian, where most still understand and obey the command to "love your neighbor as yourself" and we do our best to teach it to our children, grandchildren, or anyone in our circle of influence. That is, if we would all intentionally get away from our distractions long enough and often enough to

go for a walk or bike ride together and build nourishing relationships. :-)

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I support the Rock Island Trail Project.

As a former resident of Owensville, MO, I believe such a trail would be a great recreational addition to mid-Missouri and provide potential attractions for communities that are otherwise limited in their attraction of non-resident visitors, therefore boosting awareness of community offerings and economic development.

Please support the Rock Island Trail! Our community needs this. This is a great way for families to get outside together and spend time with one another being active!

This trail will be very beneficial to the citizens of Missouri who enjoy the healthy activities of hiking and biking! The trail when combined with the Katy will draw an ever increasing number of visitors to our state for the hiking and biking opportunities! Please proceed with development of the Rock!

I think this trail will bring great things to the small towns as well as provide activities for families. It provides opportunities for people to get out and get exercise.

In short, provide this recreational opportunity to the good people of Missouri!

As a proud new member of this state and now former member of the military (30 years of service) who has traveled the world, I can honestly say, "Lord knows we need it" ... I've observed that our citizens don't wear seat belts, carry too much weight, are dying from the cheap smoking products and are just plain unhealthy ... Help them see our small towns and get them exercising! Do this with a small tax increase which can be used to develop and maintain this trail, advertise its use and allow this project to increase the tourist money to our unique small towns! We have purchased two bikes and we're planning lots of small trips along the trails.

Build it ... and we won't be the only ones that come!!!

I support this project and the agreement. It will be a nice outside activity area for families who live near this trail. Thank you

Small communities will be blessed to have such and worthy, family oriented, trail in their towns. Many people and small businesses alike are preparing for the good flow of visitors or will bring to the area. The Rock Island Trail would be a benefit in so many countless ways.

The Katy/MKT trail generated a lot of bad feelings during the initial planning and development stages, but now everybody loves it and it has proven to be a great boon for the towns along its path.

The same thing is true of the Rock Island trail conversion (my city council is against it, the mayor is for it). I personally would run a portion of the trail every day (rain or shine) and it would be a lot better than the gravel country road I currently use for exercise. I support the Rock Island conversion very

much and hope it doesn't take as long to bring to fruition as the Katy did.

Please continue supporting the rail trails throughout Missouri. My husband and I are in our 70's and enjoy them so much and as often as possible. This morning we joined our 50 year old son riding the Rock Island trail by Pleasant Hill. We met several other bikers enjoying it also. The rail trails are not hilly or rough for us older bikers. Thank you for encouraging outdoor exercise on the trail to good health.

Please make this trail a reality!

Please, we've been waiting for this. It makes sense. It WILL be used! We want the Rock Island Trail Project!

This would be a great boost to the area. Mo could use a trail like this to help the economy.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This will help increase bicycle tourism for our state. Cycling has been steadily growing with more niches within it, racing opportunities for riders, and an improvement on the health of the rider as well. Missouri shouldn't be fat, slow, ignorant, and behind the times. Consider this improvement as a strong investment in the health, well-being, and long-term financial improvement of our state!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I'll be a great asset for the state of Missouri.

Developing the Rock Island trail as a companion to the existing Katy trail would be a tremendous step. I would like to treat the two trails and one amazing bicycling loop.

Please build the trail!!!! So many people in the surrounding communities would benefit from this trail. I am looking forward to taking me and my family out! Please build!

A wonderful idea! This will make wonderful recreation for me and my family!

This would be amazing! Rock Island Trail would ROCK! Our family loves to ride bicycles and this would add so much to the western side of the state.

I am strongly in favor of this initiative and other rail to trails efforts in the state!

The Rock Island Trail project should absolutely receive full state funding. I just completed a 5 day tour that included the MKT and Katy Trails from Columbia to Sedalia. Our group of 12 riders and 20 family members, most from out of state, dropped many dollars at local hotels, restaurants and shops along the way. The trail sections were the highlight of our much longer route from Iowa City to Knob Noster. Trails make Missouri healthier and richer, and allow its beauty to be enjoyed by more people.

This would be great for our community! It would help the children get out and get some exercise instead of sitting and playing video games.

I want it and will use it

This trail would be awesome! Not only for all the trail bikers around, but for all the local businesses, I come from a cross country and track team that would benefit greatly from the use of a path like this!! It runs right next to our school, this trail would help out our town of Owensville so much!

What a wonderful healthy family project. I hope this can be a positive project for our area.

As a distance runner I run in town nearly everyday and would absolutely appreciate this trail. I would use it to my benefit to running everyday and having a little better view along the way. Please make this a reality.

That would be great, have ridden southern Illinois rails to trails and missouris Katy trail, the more the better. Allows bicycles to enjoy travel away from traffic! Let's get this done.

This would be a great addition to the rails to trails in Mo. it should draw tourists from all over the country.

Please support this trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Governor Greitens,

I was a big supporter of your campaign to be governor of our great state. I think you have done a helluva job so far. I wanted to ask you to complete the Rock Island Trail project that was started by your predecessor. I wasn't a fan of his, but did like the job he did promoting these trails across our great state. I think we all know that our country and state is in a sad state of affairs when it comes to fitness. I use the trail in the Pleasant Hill, MO area all the time to increase my cardio work. I see a lot of other folks around here using the trail as well. I believe the trail does draw outsiders to our state to ride these trails all the way across our state on the Katy Trail. I have spoken to cyclist from other areas of the country that are aware of Missouri's efforts for cyclists. In today's world where riding on streets is becoming increasingly dangerous with inattention because of cell phone usage. This gives cyclists a place to ride unimpeded by automobile traffic. Please consider this project carefully and give it your blessing. I'm proud of you and I still have your 6. Thank you sir!

Living in a small rural community, having the trail which runs behind our little town. This would be such a wonderful addition for our town. We have people who drive to go trails and also walk just to have fun, exercise, and family fun! Excited about the trail as I love biking and walking it it good for the body and mind. Plus help our economy.

Great asset for the state of Missouri. Continue the trail to Union, MO and used the Hwy 47 corridor to connect to the Katy Trail at Dutzow.

This will be a great addition to the trails already in place. I think it would be well used. I urge the governor to support this plan.

Take it now or buy it later. The second is not an option for this state and it's government. This ground will be left unkept and unused in its current state. Take what Ameren is repaying.

I think this will be a great benefit to the citizens of the state and to the specific towns along the new trail, just as the Katy Trail has been. The Katy Trail also attracts tourists to Missouri from all over the US and even from beyond our borders, and its popularity continues to increase over time. The Rock Island Trail project will do the same and it is a one-time opportunity that we shouldn't miss!

Consider the uniqueness of having 2 cross-state trails across Missouri.

I am looking forward to the use of the trail for my kids, my mom, and me. We live 20 miles apart and would be able to bike back and forth. So awesome!

How can there even be any question about what to do?
Do It!

This will be a great trail to add to the Katy Trail System. I wish it would start at Union, MO. :)

Can you imagine how many \$\$ this trail will create for those small towns and bigger towns, as well as the individuals who live by them?

Windsor is one of those towns. The people of that town are working hard on services provided (volunteer efforts). It will definitely increase tax \$\$ for the state of MO.

Any addition to a beautiful bike trail is well worth the time, money and effort put into this project. This will be a beautiful addition to a great trail system. People need and want to get out and connect with nature and exercise and this addition can only help.

The addition of the Rock Island Trail Project to Missouri's network of recreational spaces would be a great boon to the state, its citizens, and its reputation. It would not only serve Missourians as a quality recreational trail but also draw tourists from elsewhere, and help grow the state's reputation as a place of natural beauty and outstanding infrastructure for the enjoyment of the outdoors. Local communities can benefit as they have from the Katy Trail from the steady flow of cyclists, campers, and others looking for a great meal, a camp site or bed and breakfast. Finally, I know from experience on the Katy Trail what a wonderful thing it is to meet and mix with the great people and communities all along the way. A perfect showcase for the best of our state!

I feel this "Interim Agreement" would be a boost to Missouri. It should increase tourism to Missouri, it is a way to increase outside activity to our citizens, and it provides a fairly safe place for some of our challenged citizens to get out and enjoy nature.

Using the MKT trail development as an example, these type of rail conversion does provide a benefit to our State and the country.

Now is not the time to follow behind on projects that promote recreation, health and tourism!

Thank you for giving this your consideration.

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I am an avid runner and bicyclist and having more trails in the State is important to me. As a business owner, I think it sends a message to potential employees that Missouri is a good place to live by providing access to quality pedestrian and bicycle paths throughout the state. I highly encourage the state to continue to develop the trail systems across the state.

I would love to see this turned into a hiking or biking trail! I think it would greatly benefit the community.

This is huge opportunity for our state both financially and adds an opportunity for families to get healthy.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!!!

I am for this multi use trail. Missouri is already known for their trail system and this would benefit the towns along the way.

Please support and accept the Rock Island expansion. I'm on the Chilhowee Park Board and see on a daily basis the cyclists going through our small town. The revenue the trail is generating is helping to support the new opening of our Grocery Store. It's an amazing opportunity for all small towns along the trail, a way to preserve history, increase tourism, improve health and increase family time.

DO IT!! The trails are needed and used by all!!

As a bike rider, often using the Katy trail and other rails to trails sight, i would LOVE to see this happen.

I am very interested in the railroad becoming a bike trail. We have groups supporting this effort in many small towns in Gasconade Co. Rural development is all about agri tourism and tourism in general. The research supports tourism as a rural development driver. Herman, Marthasville, and other Katy trail towns see economic impacts from trails and tourism. In our little town of Owensville we have developed a tourism group from the Chamber and are actively creating events to support tourism development as an economic driver in our area. Owensville is surrounded by towns that have used this model to revitalize themselves. Steeleville, Cuba, Hermann, ST.Genevieve, St James, Marthasville, New Haven just to name a few. It is a republican held truth that small business drives our economy and that is what we are talking about here. I think this Gov. is right to support a decision made by Ronald Regan to preserve these right of ways for development.

I feel that the trails in Missouri are a great economic resource for attracting tourists and encouraging Missourians to get outside and exercise and enjoy the beauty of nature. They are a win win for the state of Missouri. I would encourage

Missouri to partner on this trail project. Missouri should lead in developing trails. We have much natural beauty that we can showcase.

The Rock Island Trail will become a great asset to all the communities along the trail's corridor. It will expose Central Mo. to a lot of people that want to hike and bike on the trail. The towns along the corridor that have withered away could see a rebirth thanks to people using the trail and its points of interest along the way. PLEASE ACCEPT THE TRAIL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

My family has owned land in Adair County for 165 continuous years. As the fourth generation owner and farmer of our land, I oppose any state or federal taxpayer funding for the Rock Island Trail. It will NOT benefit the vast majority of persons. Let Ameran find ways of funding it themselves or sell bonds, etc. to provide continuous money to maintain the trail.

Wow, this would be a great asset for the state. The Katy trail has been such a great point of pride for me when I talk about Missouri's parks. Any additional trails like the Katy are great and any progress towards a loop route which allows you to circle the state (perhaps with a brief shuttle) would be a draw for tourism.

Please do this project and more

This is a wonderful idea. Good for family gatherings. Great exercise and fun for our community. Might encourage people with sedentary lifestyle to join in an improve their health.

Not only Missourians will enjoy the Rock Island Trail, but tourists worldwide would use it. I have met such a vast array of people from all over the world as I have biked the Katy Trail. Expanding bike paths to basically create a loop would be a greater draw for avid bikers. Also, more trails entice people to get active and experience the beauty of MO.

Please, please accept the Rock Island Trail. Missouri needs it.

I want this trail.

I am so excited that we will receive this wonderful trail in order to show off the beauty of this wonderful state. It always surprises me when people travel so far away to engage in hiking and biking activities because they don't know the beauty that is right here in our state. These hiking and biking trails are such a benefit to us. Our kids seem to be falling ever further into unhealthy sedentary life-styles and we hear that obesity is a major cause of rising health care costs. As an older adult I have learned these benefits first hand and I attribute my good health at age 62 to exercise and I hope to one day bike this new trail myself. Thanks for your consideration in this matter. Please grab this freebie before it's gone, I have seen that happen to many potential trails in the past when I lived in Illinois. They never knew what they could have had until it was too late. And what we have here is much nicer.

I am a 69 year old man. I graduated from the MU Medical School with a Masters in Physiology. My two children were born in Missouri. After 42 years as a professional scientist I

chose to return to Columbia and retire. One of the main reasons I chose Columbia was the Katy Trail State Park. I have completed the trail 6 times. It provides me with a save, peaceful, and healthy way to stay in shape ... both physically and spiritually. Without exception, I have met many fine folks bicycling the trail from near and far. I can tell you that the trail speaks volumes for the quality of Missouri and its people. When people experience the Trail they return to their homes in different states and countries with a wonderful journey they can treasure. PLEASE do not lose a wonderful chance to build on this success ... PLEASE make the Rock Island Trail Project become another extraordinary treasure, that reflects on the people of Missouri and their values!!!

Yes yes and yes! The Katy Trail was closed off to equestrians except for a very small section of it so let's make the Rock Island equestrian friendly. Possibly small cart friendly if there is a weight limit. Obviously we don't want the trail being used as a freight highway for wagons, but small carts wouldn't hurt. Towns along the trail could benefit from overnight stays for those adventurous enough to cross the entire state via horseback or hiking or on bicycles.

This project is one that has been in the works for awhile, and many people are very excited for its completion. The railroad is an eyesore for the towns it runs by, and this trail will bring new life to these small welcoming towns looking for outdoor fun and business.

We strongly and enthusiastically support the Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I'm a big advocate for continuing forward with the Rock Island trail segment. Please accept the trail!

This would be a great addition to our biking system in Missouri and could bring more revenue to the town's associated with it. Biking is only growing and having these trails is good for our state and our communities.

I think of this as something that improves the general level of mental health of the population. Anyone who has walked, jogged, or biked a trail knows what I'm talking about. There may never be another opportunity like this.

I strongly agree the state of Missouri should develop the RIT. This is a one time opportunity. This is a project which will pay large dividends. The economic dividends realized by the Katy Trail bears evidence to this fact.

I do agree with the general principle of maintaining present parks before the creation of new parks. However, this is a time sensitive opportunity with a long term positive economic impact.

As a cyclist I see this form of recreation as a rapidly growing endeavor. Just observe the bicycle sales market and you will see the explosion in sales of bicycles designed for such sales.

More trails needed

This trail would be extremely beneficial not only to the small towns along the trail that will benefit from tourism, but will help the well being of the citizens of Missouri and surrounding states.

Not accepting the trail would be an awful decision and would certainly make me lean away from choosing Gov Greitens in the next election.

This project would greatly benefit the communities along this line. It would benefit kids in the Gasconade County R-2 school District.... students could walk or bike to school in a safe manner. It would provides for businesses along the way. Lastly it would allow people to bike or walk more for enjoyment in smaller communities. This is a win-win situation.

I am an equestrian who is a firm believer of multi-use trails, having ridden the arizona national scenic trail a multi-use trail which is 800 miles twice and was a trail steward of segment 40B when we lived in arizona. I now live in Mount Vernon, Mo. and am a member of the tri-lakes back country horseman I have seen first hand how a trail of this nature generates tourism and revenue. A non-motorized multi-use trail allows the diversity of nature and history to be experienced first hand. I am a proponent of multi-use trails having ridden horseback with individuals who are unable to hike but can ride a horse easily and love the outdoors, each of us doesn't age the same and thus our capabilities are not the same yet the health and mental benefits are significant when keeping physically active. My sincere hope is this trail comes to fruition and thus promotes Missouri as a trail state.

Trail biking is fantastic! I love the Katy Trail and hope to ride the full length next year. It would be amazing to have the Rock Island line added. Trails are good for everyone.

I think it is very important for Missouri to be a leading in multi-use trails that connect our different communities. There are a so many cycling and running enthusiasts who use these trails and it is very important that there are safe, well-maintained trails for the community to use.

Missouri has the potential to become a world class destination for a bicycle and tourism destination. The Rock Island Trail will be an intregal component of this unique opportunity for Missouri.

Please take advantage of this awesome opportunity. Having rails to trails for our state not only sets up places for Missouri citizens to be active in their leisure time but encourages tourism from outside our state. The KATY trail has been a proven success up in the Missouri corridor. The Rock Island Trail offers that same potential for the southern part of our great state.

In my opinion this positions our state in a much more favorable light than hosting historic prison tours in Jefferson City!

I believe the State of Missouri should accept the Rock Island Trail and expand the state's trail system to promote rural

economic development, bicycle tourism and improved quality of life for state residents.

I always loved the Katy Trail and I would love to bike along the future Rock Island Trail. ;)

I am writing in support of the Rock Island rails-to-trail project. The Katy Trail provides an innovative model for what could be accomplished. It is known to bicyclists near and far making it a well-traveled gem and bringing revenue to surrounding communities. Adding to the trail system would further increase the appeal while expanding access to healthy outdoor recreation. Moreover, at a time when our tourism industry is coping with the negative consequences of the highly publicized crime problem in St. Louis, a Rock Island Trail would help draw visitors by increasing our public-access green spaces and recreational opportunities. Other states understand the value of using old rail lines as conservation opportunities and have used them to create beautiful spaces that incorporate native plantings and businesses along the way. Georgia's Atlanta Beltline and New York's Elevated NYC High Line are two examples that immediately come to mind. Let's join these trend-setting states by developing a Rock Island Trail. Thank you for soliciting comments from the public regarding this important opportunity for Missouri.

YES! We need this trail!!! My husband and I biked the entire Katy Trail this past April (our third time biking the entire trail). This year we started at Pleasant Hill and biked the new Rock Island Spur section which was a great experience. Little towns along the new section are already beginning to provide services to cyclists on the trail. The Katy Trail has brought new life to so many little towns along the trail route and it can do the same for the Rock Island Trail route. If the new trail is completed, it will create a huge loop that will draw cyclists from all over the country (and from other countries as well) because it will be the longest rail trail loop in the country. My husband and I have met cyclists from all over the world every time we bike the Katy Trail. It is a great treasure for our state. PLEASE do not cut funding to this project!!

I think that expansion of the trail would be terrific. I have used the Katy Trail on multiple occasions and have shopped at and spent money at businesses, restaurants, and bike shops along the route. This would be a great asset for Missouri and tourism dollars to the state. Please enter into this Agreement!

I purchased my house because of its proximity to the Katy Trail. I am on the Katy trail, either running, bike riding, walking dogs, or, when possible, cross country skiing several times a week. During spring, summer, and fall, not a week goes by when I don't see somebody who has travelled internationally to ride the Katy trail. I drive quite a bit for work, and have made it a point to stop and run or walk on the Katy trail. I have favorite spots in Jefferson City, Booneville, Columbia, and Rocheport.

If you put a traditional park anywhere in the state, how many people actually get to enjoy it, without a major commute. When you put in a trail that is 144 miles long, lots of people get to enjoy it....everyday.

Dear DNR and Gov. Greitens,

I strongly urge the State to enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement with Mo. Central RR to develop the Rock Island Trail Project from Windsor, Mo. to Beaufort, Mo. For me and my family, the KATY trail has been a tremendous recreational resource we used regularly as my children grew up.

Expanding the network to include this Rock Island Trail Project is a once in a lifetime opportunity for all citizens of the State of Missouri. I have no doubt this project will generate huge economic returns in tourism revenue for Missouri. As one example, in 2018 friends of mine are traveling here from Germany to bike the KATY trail. Please do not squander this opportunity for us and for future generations. Gov. Greitens, this project aligns with your personal commitment to physical fitness and conservation. This is a classic example of the types of conservation projects the Republican Party supported for decades. Hold true to traditional Republican values and approve this project.

Please endorse and support Rock Island Trail Project.

I have used the Katy Trail many times over the years and would love to use the expanded Rock Island Trail as well.

While biking the Katy Trail, I've discovered small towns with restaurants, shops, nature, and people that I would have never encountered had I been in my car speeding by. It's an opportunity for everyone to enjoy a safe, health activity no matter who you are or where you come from in life. The trail draws visitors from all over and is a great asset to our state. I encourage Governor Greitens to approve the Rock Island Trail extension.

Please complete this as soon as possible. These projects are a very very beneficial to the citizens of the state, as well as drivers for economic growth. They make the state a better place to live. The Katy Trail is an obvious local example of this.

I live in Gerald MO and enjoy riding the Katy Trail, however I have to drive at least 25 miles from my home to access the trail and it would be wonderful to have the Rock Island Corridor operational as it's so close to my house, I could access it easily and it would be within 5 miles of my home. Thank you for your consideration and hopefully you approval for development of this great opportunity.

The Katy Trail is a gem in Missouri, and I have made use of it a number of times for riding my bike and enjoying the shops and restraunts along the way. Having a similar trail (the Rock Island Trail Project) would be a great benefit to Missourians, and those visiting our state.

This sounds like a fantastic opportunity for the state to improve its level of bike-friendliness, to encourage tourism, and to encourage exercise in the state. This seems like a no-brainer. We ought to accept the land and install a bike trail! As a resident of St. Louis, I can say that Illinois is already way ahead of us in this respect.

EG,

These trails are a more valuable legacy than anything else you can do as governor - they last forever and your grand children etc can benefit from their existence.

Make it happen

██████████

I am in full support of the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. Myself and the other riders that I ride with on a regular basis (15-30 people) would find this to be a wonderful addition to the Missouri trail system and look forward to being able to explore more of Missouri by bike.

I am writing to express my support for the Rock Island Trail Project. This is a one time opportunity for Missouri to have a trail that will be world-class. It will benefit people who live in Missouri and use the trail. It will bring in tourists from outside of Missouri. It will make anyone who uses the trail healthier. I don't believe in big government, but building the Rock Island Trail is one of the few legitimate uses of government power that even conservatives should support. There is no private-sector alternative to Missouri building this trail. Please make it happen.

I believe extending any and all trail infrastructure in Missouri is a great idea for the state. I believe this project should happen and support it fully.

400,000 visitors annually to the Katy Trail
\$18,491,000 in economic impact annually from the Katy Trail
367 permanent jobs in the state due to the Katy Trail

My wife and I use the Katy trail frequently and would enjoy the expansion of the trail system in Missouri. We have relatives that visit from other states that we have taken to the trail and they enjoy the scenic beauty of the trail along the Missouri River and the winery's that exist in the area close to the trail system.

This kind of off-road trail is essential to improving recreational opportunities for people who walk and bike, whether they are residents of or visitors to the state of Missouri. Typically there are economic benefits that are derived from such trails as well; the Katy Trail has demonstrated this.

Missouri needs these activity-oriented connections between its communities. They create opportunities to go and see places while breathing fresh air and getting healthy exercise.

Please help the Rock Island Trail Project become a reality!

I love the Katy Trail and have used it for years. Please, please provide another trail system.

Just want to show my support for the Rock Island Trail Project. Myself, my family and my friends already make great use of the Katy Trail - we're out there at least once a week during the summer. Developing the Rock Island Train Project would be something for Missourians to get excited about!

As a user of trails in Missouri and other states, including the Katy Trail, I strongly support adding additional miles to our trail systems. They enhance the state, encourage healthy lifestyle habits and are a great asset for promoting the state for tourism.

I love bicycling and have biked on the Katy Trail numerous times (and loved it) so please DNR, support the Rock Island Trail Project. The Katy Trail is a national treasure and the Rock Island Trail can soon become one also. Our children and grandchildren (and many generations thereafter) will thank the leadership of Missouri for having the foresight to conserve this treasure.

As an avid hiker & biker, I would really welcome & enjoy the addition of the Rock Island Trail to our other Missouri resources. Please help support this project. I have personally biked the entire Katy trail 4 different times, and would definitely love to try that on the new Rock Island trail as well. My wife & I would be interested in staying in B&Bs along the trail, and enjoying the small towns across Missouri.

The trail will provide terrific recreational opportunities and an economic benefit.

This is a no brainer. Creating tourism, exercise opportunities, and a sustainable park system is the best thing we can do for the beautiful state. This increases property values, encourages business development along the trail corridor over the long term.

I agree its a great idea to develop the trail for more outdoor recreational opportunities for both Missourians and out of town visitors interested in outdoor activities. It should eventually lead to more economic growth opportunities.

Hello,
My name is [REDACTED] I just came back from riding the Erie Canal from Buffalo to Albany. The ride was coordinated through the PTNY(Parks & Trails New York) and was an incredibly good time. There were 700-750 people on the bike ride and people from 22 States and some from England as well. Many of the riders had heard about the Katy trail and were looking forward to visiting and riding in Missouri. Many of the riders talked about other rail/trails that they had ridden and I'm looking forward to checking them out. I believe the addition of the Rock Island Trail project would be a fantastic addition to what Missouri has to offer.

The rails to trails program that created the Katy trail is one of the features that puts Missouri on the map for many cyclists. It is featured in almost every trail guide and generated lots of revenue for the outfitters and restaurants along the trail. I like to ride the Katy trail often and have been riding it since I was a kid. Any similar program like the Rock Island Trail Project will only improve Missouri's image in this area.

My family uses the Katy and supports Trailnet. We have been cycling for over 15 years and travel to foreign countries and other states to leisure cycle. Rail to trail is safe, fun and practical. Madison County, IL is a great example of what Missouri could do.

Very briefly, I just want to say that the Katy Trail is one of the jewels of Missouri. I love it and I know other cyclists do too. I've had plenty of out of state friends come visit and we'll go out for a few days on the Katy. I wholeheartedly support the

Rock Island Trail Project and would love to see it fully completed. If not for the sake of providing great recreation for the citizens of Missouri, then think of the incredibly positive economic impact that the Katy trail has had on Missouri (over \$18million).

This agreement should happen. Missouri needs more accessible bike trails, especially longer trails across Missouri. I've used the Katy trail and know many many others that have enjoyed this experience as well. People travel to Missouri to use this trail and participate in events that bring economic benefit to our state in addition to the recreational value of the trail.

Please, Please enter into the agreement. Just look at what the Katy trail has done for Missouri.

True Story:
I participated in the last true cycle across Missouri several years ago. It started in St. Charles and went up to Kirksville and back down to Herman before returning to St. Charles. The last day (Herman to St. Charles took the Katy trail for many miles. The out of state folks could NOT believe how cool this was and we were not talking it up.

The Katy trail has offered a great recreational opportunity for family vacations, exercise, scenic landscape, Missouri history, small town experiences, and many more. It brings cyclist to Missouri from all over the country, which equates to revenue to the state. The Rock Island would offer exactly the same opportunities and more. The more the state offers recreational opportunities for its residents, the more the can help change the lifestyles of individuals to enjoy the outdoors and do it in a very healthy way. This is a long term investment in the future of Missouri as a leader in recreational opportunities.

I completely support the extension of the Rock Island Trail Project. Like hundreds of thousands of other visitors annually, I have very much enjoyed riding on the KATY Trail over the years. I would enjoy and use another cycling venue as would many of my friends and family. In addition, Missouri tourism among a group of health conscious visitors would increase as would the related services that support such visitors such as restaurants, bed and breakfasts, and small shops. I expect that this would be particularly appealing in our more rural communities.

I rode the Katy at least 6 times a year and camp along the way. My family from NY comes out to join me and they love it. We spend money every day and we'll do the same on the Rock Island Trail.

I've spoken with locals in these once dead rural towns and they're thrilled to have the economic development. Please see it through and don't miss the opportunity of this great resource.

The Rock Island Trail will bring visitor to Missouri. I have biked the Katy trail in the Spring and Fall and have found many out of state visitor on the trail. Please support the Rock Island Trail Project.

The more trails the better. MO has one of the best already. The KATY Trail is amazing. The RI Trail would be a great

addition and set MO apart from most states. These trails need to be preserved to allow folks to get back to nature and exercise more. MO must take advantage of the RI Trail offer.

The success of the Katy Trail State Park is the best argument for this new trail. Build it and I promise to ride it end-to-end on my bike!

I think this is exactly what the region needs to get more people interested in and pursuing outdoor recreation as a way to stay active.

As an avid biker, I enjoy the many trails available in Missouri. I have biked sections of the KATY trail and looked forward to completing the trail from east to west. I believe the Rock Island Trail will make Missouri a go to place for bikers and a natural resource for visitors.

Yes, Please support this project!!!!

I am a cyclist and would love to see more trail systems in the state of Missouri. When I travel around the US you see how far behind Missouri is. People will use the trail, get outside and enjoy this wonderful state. This trail system will also attract people around the US to come and explore this state. As a cyclist I look for states that have trail systems.

Tell you what, I ride a bicycle a lot, and use the KATY. Many of my friends do as well. If you have doubts about the popularity of the KATY, take a walk or ride there some fine day. In addition, many of us use it in inclement and winter/fall weather also. More of the same would be a definite plus for Missouri.

After riding the Katy Trail for years I'd love to see the Rock island trail competed for future generations to enjoy.

In the late 1970's I participated by petitioning for the original Katy Trail. Since it opened in the early 1980's I have watched it flourish beyond my fondest dreams. In my opinion it has been a complete success. Young and old on foot or bike are always enjoying its beauty. I heartily encourage extending it

Bikes, being outdoors and of course, spending my money in the cool little towns that ride along the trail is what makes trails like it so much fun. Please accept the Rock Island Railroad extension.

What a wonderful part of the state to be able to hike! I have done former train routes by bike, and was able to take the kids along because the terrain is so even. This would be great for Missouri!

I fully support the development of this corridor. I have ridden on the Katy Trail multiple times this year. I spent several nights at hotels in Herman, While on the trail, I observed many other riders and walkers / runners. Many of the folks that I met were from out of state. The Katy Trail is gaining positive reputation among cyclists across the USA and even outside the country. The development of the MGRR will spur additional tourism within our beautiful state.

I can't wait for the project to complete. Our whole family loves to bike and we know many people who drive to Missouri just for the Katy trail. We know we will take advantage of the new trail

Yes this is a great use of the old lines. This is a beautiful part of the state and will boost tourism.

I am so excited at the thought of another biking trail in Missouri. I have biked the Katy trail several times and find it to be a fantastic way to travel, site-see, exercise and enjoy the small towns of Missouri. During my biking adventures on the Katy, I have met people from northern states, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, who traveled to Missouri to enjoy biking in Spring and Fall when temperatures are still too cold in their states.

I also think that bicycle tourism attracts great people- people who don't litter, sho travel clean, respect the environment and appreciate the people and services they use along the way. After a long day of bicycling, they appreciate a nice meal and a clean place to spend the night and they do not begrudge paying a fare rate. Plus, bicyclist talk to each other! Word of mouth of a great experience on Missouri trails will bring more tourists!

I love Katy Trail! I used it countless times while attending Mizzou and I've made numerous trips to it even from St. Louis County. I'd love to have another trail like that in Missouri.

It's pretty obvious the benefit of well developed trail systems to state growth when you look at states like Colorado and Washington that consistently outperform Missouri in economic development.

My wife and I recently rode the completed section of the Rock Island Spur out and back from the Katy trail. We spent the night , ate two meals and bought supplies all in Pleasant Hill. We stopped both ways in Chilhowee for lunch and supplies. Our ride is indicative of the financial impact biking trails have on local communities. Study after study demonstrates the positive impact investing in bike trails have on economically stressed communities. Please continue funding the Rock Island trail. It is a great investment for the people of Missouri.

My wife and I bike the Katy Trail frequently. Our family, about 8 people, take a yearly trip and stay along the route. This surely has an economic impact on the communities along the trail.

We have relatives that live in Kansas City and we and they are thrilled that there will be a connection from KC to the trail.

This project would be great for the state. I've biked many sections of the KATY trail, and my family just loves it. Having another trail like the KATY in Missouri would be a of great benefit for many of its citizens.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope our Governor will accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year. The Rock Island Trail will be both scenic and a major economic generator for the state. It is my understanding that Rock Island communities really want the trail - they have been working for decades to make it happen. The trail corridor

is an incredibly valuable and important gift to the people of Missouri. If the opportunity to accept the trail is lost later this year, that opportunity will be lost forever. The Katy Trail is an amazing national example of how successful and important trails can be to the economies of rural communities.

We are users of the Katy Trail and really appreciate the effort Missouri has made to develop this resource. It would be great to have a new trail with the development of the Rock Island Trail Project to extend the network. Doing so would provide opportunities for healthy recreation for Missourians and attract visitors that would stimulate local economies. I urge you to support this important initiative.

The Katy trail has been a great recreational asset to Missouri as well as a draw for tourists. I am not aware of any significant problems created by its development. s

The addition of the Rock Island Trail will enhance our reputation for outdoor activities, especially if the two are eventually connected.

If this partnership results in the realization of the Rock Island Trail, then let's get going.

The Katy Trail became a reality, giving Missouri nationwide exposure to cyclists, which means dollars coming into our state. Let's continue that endeavor with this trail, promoting health and showing our state in a positive light.

Yes, I've biked the entire Trail and look forward to more trips.

I Am a long distance cyclist. The first week of June 2017 15 people rode the Rock Island and Katy Trail from Pleasant Hill to St Charles as a fund raising event for Habitat for Humanity. Our church, ,Manchester United Methodist, has done this for 20 years and supported the construction of 26 houses.

Along the trip we encountered at least 10 riders from other states riding the Trail. They represent hundreds of out of state cyclists who ride the Katy every year. The economic impact of the Katy has been well documented. And I have seen personally each time I am on the Trail.

Similar results can be achieved with the development of the Rock Island from Windsor to Franklin County.

Please accept the right away for the Rock Island.



As a cyclist who has ridden the entire Katy Trail from West to East and East to West, I support the Rock Island Trail project. The Katy Trail is well used by Missourians and, on my last trip, I rode much of the way with a German cyclist who had traveled here to ride the trail. We are still in contact.

In addition to providing healthy exercise options such trails are also good for the local economy.

do it...Id love to ride it.

I would be a great economic boost to Mo tourism

Our family has a farm in Warren County and we spend a lot of time on the Katy Trail. The Trail is a perfect way for our friends and family from the country -- and from St. Louis -- to

spend time together. When we're on the Katy Trail, it's like a "staycation". We get to appreciate how beautiful our state is, and the money we spend on food, bike rentals, etc., stays in Missouri. PLUS, we meet people from all over the world on the Trail -- who are also spending their vacation money here. Without the Katy Trail, we would never meet people from Maine, Texas and even Australia in Treloar, Missouri! I would strongly encourage DNR to move full speed ahead on the Rock Island Project for the recreational and economic benefits it will provide. The benefits are not hypothetical or theoretical -- with more than 30 years of the Katy Trail experience, we know this will pay off! Governor Ashcroft was a visionary when he supported the Katy Trail and I am sure that Governor Greitens appreciates what trails can do/have done for us!

I am so excited about the Rock Island Trail! I have been running and cycling on the Katy Trail since the late 1980s and love the idea of a whole new Rail's to Trail in Missouri! My family loves venturing into the small towns along these trails and learning about their history, eating at their restaurants, shopping in their shops....these trails are great for local businesses along the routes and great for families wanting to spend time together outside in a healthy way. Please support the Rock Island Trail. It is good for Missouri!

The Katy Trail is a wonderful asset for the state of Missouri. We have met people from all over the world while biking there. The Rock Island Trail Project would be an investment in our state's future. We should take full advantage of Missouri's possibilities.

I think outdoor recreation is in the interest of the state in driving tourism dollars, healthy lifestyles and connecting people to the environment and communities around them.

The Katy Trail has proved to be a great success and has added jobs to the small businesses in the towns along the trail. I hear some opposition to the Rock Island Trail, specifically from landowners who do not favor the trail saying it will diminish privacy and bring outsiders or trouble-makers to the trail adjacent to their land. These concerns were also brought up when the Katy Trail was proposed and have proven to be unfounded.

Any cost to the State in building or maintaining this new trail will be offset by increased investment along the trail, not to mention elevating the profile of the State as far as being a good place for outdoor recreation.

Rail Trails are perfect examples of win-win ideas. Because rail corridors generally have a 2% or less grade, trails built on former rail beds are easy for anyone to use. They provide free access to physical fitness activities for all. Rail trails also provide safe routes for children to walk and bike to school. They provide economic opportunities as hikers and bikers purchase food, rent lodgings, and take advantage of other local venues. Trails increase land values along the trail. All these benefits and more are possible when the Rock Island Corridor is converted to a hiking and biking trail. I use a local Rail Trail 3 times a week, and I'm never alone. It's astounding how much use Rail Trails get: bicycles of all varieties; people walking themselves, their pets, and their kids; strollers; campers; hikers...the list is endless. This Rock Island Trail Project is an

important part of making Missouri a more attractive place to live and work.

Biking across the great state of Missouri will be added to my bucket list... looking forward to completion of this extension...?????♀□??

I think this is worthwhile. I know people who have traveled to Missouri specifically to walk or bike on the Katy Trail and have shared about this via social media, possibly resulting in even more people doing the same. Additionally, the jobs created are greatly needed.

I say yes to more trails in Missouri! Our beautiful countryside is under appreciated. We live using the Katy Trail and meet so many interesting people there - locals and visitors. Let's have more of that!

I enjoy biking on the Katy Trail. Riding the entire Katy Trail and hopefully the Rock Island Trail are bucket list items for me.

Please approve the creation of the Rock Island Trail.

This trail is a great opportunity. I am riding the Katy Trail this fall and will definitely ride the full Rock Island Trail when it is completed.

I and my sons rode the KATY trail on a multi-day trip several years ago and enjoyed it very much. We would love to see more such biking trails in Missouri.

I fully support this agreement and believe it will be great for the towns along the trail, as well as bring a lot of revenue into our state. I'm a regular user of the KATY Trail and am very excited about this opportunity to expand our trail network.

Love bike trails, I do not like to ride on the street with cars. Looking forward to this new trail.

As a person who often bikes and runs the Katy Trail, including biking the whole trail, I am very much in favor of the proposed Rock Island trail! Even my 93 year old mother has enjoyed the tram tour of the Katy Trail. Please make this new Trail happen!

My husband bikes the Katy Trail regularly. We have donated plants, trees and a bench on his regular route. We consider the Katy Trail to be a genuine asset to our area and the entire State. We enjoy visiting with visitors both rationally and internationally.

This area is a beautiful part of Missouri and would bring so many people out to bike and hike this trail.

As an older (62) bicyclist, I love the safety that trails provide away from traffic,

It would provide a treasure bringing in sports and biking enthusiasts and provide tourism to these areas.

Please know that I am in full support of Missouri trails.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project proposal - it's trails like this that make Missouri both a great place to live and a great place to visit!

Supporting projects like this also encourage active living and increased health benefits that come with things like walking, hiking and biking!

Many of our friends and family, those who live both in Missouri and outside of the state, regularly use the Katy Trail. They walk, bike and hike and when coming to and from stop in communities along the trail, spending money at restaurants and shops. All of us are looking forward to the development and connection with the Rock Island Trail. Please approve the use and expedite these developments.

I believe the Rock Island Trail Project would be very positive for the state of Missouri. I have written the Katy Trail many times and find it incredibly valuable as a resource for the residents and visitors to Missouri. Hopefully the investment would generate positive returns in addition to being an asset for the residents.

The Katy Trail is a wonderful outdoor destination. People from all over the U.S. come to cycle across our beautiful state, one only need to look at the license plates on cars parked at the various trailheads to see who is using it. The Rock Island Trail will help build upon our great state's network of pathways, as being outdoor with nature and staying healthy via cycling is a very popular activity. Please strongly consider allocating the funds needed to bring this Trail to completion. The economic benefits to our state affect all the little towns and businesses along the path. People who use the trail are fervent about being active and healthy, and contribute to the local economies in which they traverse.

I spend time on various bike forums online, many fellow cyclists all know about the Katy Trail and what a wonderful path it is. They are looking forward to the completion of the Rock Island Trail to expand upon their healthy lifestyle and vacation possibilities.

Thank you for your time,



I am excited about this opportunity to provide much needed Outdoor Resources to the Citizens of Missouri. The promise of increased revenue for the communities along this corridor is a added bonus. I hope the DNR will accept this resource for the betterment of our State and the Communities it will benefit.

I fully support the proposed Rock Island Trail. I have ridden my bike the entire Katy trail twice and think it is a wonderful way to see the state, meeting wonderful people, and exploring some of the trail towns along the way. Expanding the trail system will provide additional recreational opportunities for families. It is important that we get people outdoors for diverse exercise activities.

This is a great idea for many reasons. It will stimulate tourism and economic development in these areas and attract even more people to the Katy Trail.

Also, rural health and childhood obesity rates improve where residents have safe places to walk and bicycle.

Rail-trails are flat, so they encourage activity even for those with weight or mobility issues.

Thanks for listening to your fellow citizens of Missouri!

PLEASE build it! These repurposed rail lines are true treasures. What better use than to turn these flat lanes into safe, off-road bike routes away (mostly) from vehicular traffic. Thanks for your consideration ???♀ □!



Missouri is bikeways poor. The unused rail lines provide a prime opportunity for more bikeways. It also rids the state of unused and unsightly old infrastructure and replace it with something useful that actually improves the surrounding area.

This trail will improve the economic health of several small cities in rural areas that currently have little economic diversity. In particular I think of my father's home town of Argyle, Missouri where I fondly remember the trains passing by my grandparents house. I definitely could see all sorts of "Mom and Pop" stores growing along trail just like they have on Katy Trail. I encourage the support of this worthy project!

Please support the Rock Island Trail

I support the rock island trail!

This is a great idea! The Katy trail, similar in scope and use, has been awesome for citizens of MO and beyond.

Had the opportunity to ride the first completed section early this spring. The potential of a completed Rock Island Trail as an extension/addition to the renowned Katy Trail is beyond exciting. For the past fourteen years I have had the opportunity to meet visitors from, not just the US, but from around the globe that visit our location in Forest Park while in Missouri to ride the Katy.

I am convinced that by building out the RIT that our state will see similar economic impact that followed the development of the Katy. As a first hand example I point to our experience this spring riding out and back from Pleasant Hill to Windsor. We spent the night at Kim's Cabin where the owner the next morning was meeting her contractor to begin construction on two additional cabins made possible by the increase in business since the completion of the first section of the RIT opened.



Having used and enjoyed the Katy trail for many years we eagerly anticipate the addition of the Rock Island trail expansion. What a boast this would be to Missouri. Walking biking hiking all would benefit. I personally attest to the benefits of outdoor living and know our state would be forever enhanced by this project. The middle part of Missouri would be linked and benefit culturally and economically with the rest of our state.

This would be the absolute best use of local resources!

I strongly support DNR moving forward with the Rock Island Trail Project. It is good to environment to provide green space and bicycle/walking tails. It promotes health by

encouragement of people to bike and walk for exercise. Trail expansion could also lead to economic development from tourist and trail users.

The Katy Trail. Is known nationwide and is a tremendous asset. We ride the eastern part of it all summer long. If state government has a chance to extend it don't pass it up. It's an investment in future benefits for Missouri residents, not an expense!

Yes, please except the "free"gift of the Rock Island Trail extension for the purpose of developing it. I have children who bike on the Katy Trail regularly. They enjoy riding on it and have ridden many miles. One of their favorite pastimes. It is really a big asset for the State of Missouri as will the Rock Island Trail be.

Please proceed with this agreement. This would be a wonderful recreational extension for cyclists.

Yes, please!

I would love it, and I think trails are wonderful for Missouri!

We often frequent hotels and bed and breakfasts in conjunction with biking the trail. On our trail rides we have often met people from different countries who travel to Missouri to bike this trail! Scotland, Chile and Canada to name a few. I think it would benefit Missouri in terms of economic impact as well as health and wellness to extend the trail! Very hard to think of a better use of dollars!

Any trail is a good idea!!

This would be a tremendous development for Missouri. Our family rides portions of the Katy Trail often. It is highly used and often quite crowded. Folks travel from all over for that trail and this looks to be a similar draw. Projects like this that get more Missourians and others outdoors and exercising can only have a positive impact for our state.

I support this project and cannot understand why there is debate on this. The project will directly provide some construction jobs, provide economic development via business opportunities from groups providing services to users of the trail, and provide opportunities for citizens to enjoy seldom seen views of our state.

Cycling Trails are a way that we can make MO great again. This trail and all the trails in MO have helped MO stand out as a cycling friendly state. Nowadays this is very important to young people and company owners.

I frequently ride the Katy trail and would love to be able to ride another rails to trails trail in Missouri. I ha e been with tour groups on the Katy that had participant from throughout the United States. When the Katy was first proposed, the small towns did not want the trail. After the 1993 floods, those same towns could not wait for the trail to be repaired as they expect experienced the economic benefit of the trail. My husband and I frequently visit other states to bike their trails. I am looking

forward to being able to do a loop with the Katy and the new rock island trail.

We are from St Louis and have used the KATY trail often, from the first section in 1993 up to last year..

From Weldon to lunch in Augusta, from Creve Couer Park to lunch in St Charles, an overnight in Boonville, etc.

Always fun, relaxing, good exercise. We have met fellow riders on the trail, from MO and elsewhere. It is a welcome site to see some of the older towns get some new life from the trail.

MO is well known for its bike trails and this will be a welcome new addition and, I would think, an economic boost to the towns along its path.

It's a 'quality of life' issue as well. Missouri is a beautiful state. Let's promote this possible new trail to our already long list of great outdoor venues (state parks, lakes, rivers and streams, fishing, hunting, walking trails, etc).

I love visiting the Katy trail either on foot or bike and would love to see more developments like it!

The great outdoors. We need more activities. We have an absolutely beautiful state. Let's take advantage of it as well as show it off to others.

The Katy Trail is a fantastic recreational resource in our state. It has also helped the economy of many small towns along the way. I have biked many times" and hope someday to do the entire trail.

We could certainly use another such trail going to a different terminal. Especially one that is that such low cost to the taxpayer.

I'm a big fan of rail trails and I've completed the current total lengths of both the KATY and Rock Island trails. Like others who use these trails, I've spent significant amounts of money in the communities through which these trails go. Trails are a boon to small economies and actually boost home values near them. They preserve natural, historical, and scenic areas. They also preserve corridors for future use if necessary. Any forward-thinking person should support them. Thank you!

I would love to see the Rock Island Trail project happen!

Yes. Make this a trail already!!! To go on a bike trail the Katy trail is the closest and it's too far away. The historic rock island railroad stretches through miles of countryside. As an attraction this will help the state of Missouri and although I am obviously not the final decision, I hope my opinion shapes yours.

Our state needs to add to its trail system and it would be a shame to lose this opportunity. It's a beautiful state so let's give people a chance to enjoy it with this extension to the trail system.

The Katy Trail has been a successful attraction for people to come to Missouri and SPEND MONEY. Let's give them another opportunity!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The Katy trail has become a premier rails to trails conversion. The state of Missouri needs to continue to pursue and provide additional trail expansions.

I used the Katy Trail (from Missouri Research Park to Weldon Springs and beyond) at least once a week and feel so lucky to have such a wonderful biking opportunity.

Thank you.

I believe a Rock Island Trail would get a lot of use, if it is developed to the same level as the KATY trail. It, as has the KATY Trail, would almost surely be an economic engine for the small communities along its borders. Since it would be farther from Saint Louis, it might even generate more multiway use, more need for restaurants and overnight accommodations. I strongly support its development!

In October 2016 I biked the Katy Trail solo from Clinton to Machen biking my way to Portage des Sioux stopping at the Lady of the River statue to dip my toes in the Mississippi River. I biked along side a family from Canada with two preteen boys, a group of six from Virginia, a group of nine from Illinois with the youngest being 68 and the oldest 78 years which they told me they have done the Katy Trail for the past eight years. There was a group of eight women from California riding the trail and as I was ending my trail ride in Machen a couple was starting their journey onward to Denver. These are people who are bringing in revenue for our state. If the Rock Island Railroad corridor goes through it would connect with the Katy Trail making a complete loop with people able to start and end at the same place. Logistics can be a problem getting to your starting point. When I was biking in October local bike riders were excited a loop trail was in the future. The Katy Trail in Missouri is known world wide because of its beauty and being safe.

If love biking the Katy Trail, and a similar trail in Missouri would be great in furthering our state as a place known for outstanding outdoor activity opportunities

will make Missouri a better place to visit.

Great for ALL Missourians!

The Katy trail has been a success and the rock island trail will build on that with opportunity to connect with the Katy on both sides of the state and possible .access to Kansas city this will provide great recreational activities for Missouri residents and draw visitors from outside the state . Already proven by the Katy trail

Governor,

As a taxpayer and citizen of Missouri, I cannot think of a more deserving project for DNR to participate in. The Katy Trail is a shining example and famous destination for many bicyclists throughout the country. The Rock Island Trail will constitute another example of Missouri's commitment to the natural beauty offered, as well as an economic benefit to the surrounding communities.

James Oberstar, Senator of Minnesota, began the quest of creating public facilities from abandoned rail corridors

decades ago. Through his tireless efforts, Minnesota provides his legacy, of numerous trails available to tourists of all generations. Not only did his foresight create a benefit worthy of his state, but also of his country.

Missouri as well, offers many trails such as the Katy, Frisco Highline, not to mention smaller local trails.

I make it a point, as many do, when I plan a vacation, to review what trails will be on my route. Being near retirement, I look forward to traversing those trails, especially in my home state and locality. I also look forward to a retirement home close to two facilities - a river and a bike.

The linking of bike trails to all corners of our state, would be an asset not only to be proud of, but to enrich the well-being of our citizens. Isn't that another great "Show-Me" goal to aspire to?

I ask you, as you asked me for (and received) my vote in your leadership, to return my confidence, and provide that leadership to generate development opportunities for the Rock Island Trail and Missouri.

Sincerely and best regards,

██████████
Lees Summit, Mo

I have been riding the Katy Trail in Missouri since 1990 and spend vacations riding different sections and exploring new places. The new Rock Island trail will create a link from Kansas City to the Katy Trail and extension of this new trail will create an extensive network unique to Missouri. Another trail option will help develop tourism and restaurant business in small towns and communities across the state.

first of all, I try to ride the KATY at least once a week. Mainly Mochens to Marhasville but I have ridden the entire trail. This trail system is a fantastic gem in the mid west. I also do club rides around the mid west as well (RAGBRAI, GITAP, GOBA, Tour De Shore, ect) When people I talk to find out I am from Missouri, one of the first things they ask me is "how is the Katy trail?" or "how do I go about riding it?" Do you have to get reservations? Pay a fee? I generally answer, it's fantastic, go the Katy trail website (<http://www.bikekatytrail.com>) to plan a trip and jump on! No reservations no fee's.

About two weeks ago, I met "Dave" from Colorado near Weldon Spring and he told me he took the train to st louis with his bike and was riding the Katy to the Rock Island Spur and make his way up to KC to catch a train back to Colorado. He said this is pretty cool. With all the crap going on in our state, I felt pretty proud when he told me of his plans.

the only down side currently is that the trails ends in Clinton. Clinton is great place but transportation out of Clinton requires some planning. The Rock Island trail will an awesome addition by allowing cross state biking from St. Louis to Kansas City and a Katy/Rock Island loop that could be used by eastern Missouri, Central Missouri & western Missouri

It appears there have been more restaurants opening up on the trail. If I'm doing a long ride (50+ miles) on the trail, I'll spend at least \$20-\$25 on the trail for food and beverages (Augusta Brewery :)).

All I can say is what a wonderful place we have here in Missouri and how even more wonderful if the trail could be expanded especially with all the efforts Trail Net and Great Rivers Greenway has been making in the St louis metro area.

I am in great support of this proposal. would love to have another great bike amenity for Missouri.

My family and friends and I are frequent users of the Katy trail, for bicycling and walking. The Rock Island trail would be a fantastic addition to the state trail system, both for our enjoyment and as a boon to tourism. The opportunity for the state of Missouri to acquire this corridor should not be passed up.

I would ride it often, and it would greatly improve tourism to the already busy KATY Trail.

Awesome

-
1. This should not be a political issue, it's not a dem thing vs. rep thing. I am a conservative who values the outdoors and exercise, not a tree hugger but i support it wholeheartedly.
 2. If you build it they will come - I frequently travel to other states for rail trails for weekend and week long events. Combining Katy & Rock Island will be destination.
 3. Any local grumblings from couch potatoes will be quickly overcome by everyday people getting out to try it out and then are hooked walking their kids, dogs, themselves.
 4. If you don't do it, it will be gone forever.

These trails are a safe way for Missourians and visitors to bike or walk through our state

Great project, Greenwood MO would be a great starting/stopping place or just a stop on the trail!!

As a parent of three young daughters it is important for me to provide them with opportunities to get outdoors. Living in a rural area it is difficult to find a safe place for them to bicycle. The development of the rock island corridor would provide a venue, close to home, for us to do do such. I also feel that it would provide additional recreational activities to supplement the local economy.

This trail connection will allow a low barrier to entry for those seeking a healthy lifestyle with a safe network of efficient trails. Multiple access points allow for those pursuing all levels of distance and put MO on the map for increasingly popular cross country touring.

I would like to offer support for the new Rock Island Trail project. I really believe it it will be a nice addition to Missouri's already great multiuser trail system. The Kary system has a usage of over 400000 per year with much economic and revenue generating effects. With this new system of trails the state could be better traversed by bikes/hikers to see and utilize our great state. I hope the state understands the opportunity at hand. It could be another piece to the puzzle to attact more recreation and tourism to the state. Thank you.

Great idea!

Missouri needs more trails to promote active lifestyles and to provide safe options cyclists for long rides away from traffic.

It needs to be done. It will be another fine trail to bike/walk to enjoy the beauty of MO. Also, it will offer to some the opportunity to offer their homes for B @ B's, bike rental shops etc.

This seems like a very good idea. I think the governor should accept it.

Our family makes great use of the trails here in eastern Missouri and western Illinois. Frequently, we take our out-of-town guests out on the trails. From our point of view, the state's bike trail network is a valuable asset, and benefits the state's economy in a variety of ways. Any opportunity to expand the network and make it accessible to more residents is a benefit to all residents.

We very strongly ask that the state accept this gift and enter into the agreement.

This additional trail would enhance Missouri as a vacation destination for cyclists.

I think this would be an awesome thing to do. Family's can get moving toward more family time together and just outside enjoying nature

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. When I visit other states, I am always impressed with the trails and easy access for walking, hiking and biking. As a physical education teacher, I see the decline in the fitness of our youth. The Rock Island Trail shows a commitment to fitness in Missouri.

Thank you for your consideration.

Please do this! The Katy Trail is a wonderful resource for Missouri, and this would be another trail like that to encourage Missourians to be active, to get outside, to spend money in smaller towns, and to build our communities. This is important work, and I encourage you all to support this.

I have no idea who had the original idea for the Katy Trail years ago, and I did nothing to support it, and I wish I had. I love that trail and look forward to more in Missouri. We need to be a destination state for trail runs, hikes, outdoors and nature. This can only help our own tourism!

Thank you for everyone's work on this.

I am highly supportive of the DNR moving forward on developing the Rock Island Trail. This connector to the KATY Trail will secure Missouri's role as a leader in bicycling in the U.S. Not only do bicycle trails benefit many small communities along the way, but this would connect the two largest metro areas in Missouri. Living in St. Charles, I have seen the benefit of the KATY Trail to the downtown and historic district. I would expect additional benefits along the larger route of the KATY and Rock Island Trails.

This would be a great move. I have been on the Katy Trail the last two weekends riding with my daughter and we both can't believe we have such a wonderful asset here so close to home in Missouri. The more trails we can get out in the state the better for getting people out and active. I have ridden the Katy trail from st Louis to Columbia, what a great four day trip staying in B&B's and meeting all sorts of wonderful people

from Missouri and other states riding the trail. If you build it we will ride run and walk the beautiful trail

This trail concept is great on so many levels. I want to touch on the future health impact that the trail brings. As an avid cyclist I enjoy riding anywhere; road, MTN bike trails, cyclocross, Katy Trail. However some people won't because of fear of traffic on the roads or injury from more aggressive styles of cycling off-road. The expansion of the Rock Island trail may make accessibility to trails much easier to a population that wouldn't normally take the time to drive to an area that has a trail with no motorized vehicles. I think that the health benefit and healthy lifestyle of future generations would be a great benefit. We all know Missouri has one of the highest obesity rates in the country.

I am an avid hiker and cyclist of the fantastic Missouri wilderness and state parks. These are our two biggest assets as a higher Quality of Living choice, and I believe the extension of Rock Island trails will improve this QoL for all citizens and visitors. Please insure its near-term completion.

Please support the expansion of the Rock Island Railroad corridor. As a user of the KATY Trail I can say that these recreational trails provide a tremendous opportunity for citizens of the state as well as tourists to explore our beautiful state in ways otherwise unavailable. The KATY Trail is a state treasure and the Rock Island can be as well. Why would we not support opportunities to encourage people to explore?

Any and all extension of the bike trail system in Missouri will help us maintain our status as the longest rails to trails network in the country. This type of agri-tourism will continue to grow over time and Missouri is a perfect destination to experience the heart of the midwest.

Since the early 1990's our family have been consistent users of the Katy Trail. Our children learned to ride bikes on the that trail. My wife and I spent many afternoons taking in the beautiful scenery along the Missouri River. I rode the entire trail on a Labor Day weekend in 2010. On our tandem bike, the wife and I completed the whole trail a little at a time, in 2015. Last year we rode the completed portion of the Rock Island trail out of Windsor. We take pride in the Katy Trail and would like to see it connected to the Kansas City area. During one of our rides through Sedalia, we met 3 women from Ohio, who traveled to Missouri to ride the Katy. They were inquiring about a place to eat. They stayed at several overnight establishments. We have stayed at several Bed & Breakfasts throughout the years. In other words, the Trail does offer support to the communities through which it passes. Businesses from bike shops to motels, to shuttles benefit from the traffic on the Katy.

We strongly urge the State continues to extend and improve our trail system. The economic numbers, the numbers of jobs, and number of visitors to the region support and justify the cost and effort to provide some much need revenue to the communities in Missouri that try to thrive along the Katy.

Thank You!

I believe this is a very important act as it will provide a vacation, tourist and relaxation spot. But I also think it is

important to preserve right of way like this for future infrastructure needs. A stretch of land like this is not easily put together and should be preserved.

Missouri is the national "Show Me" state for bike trails. The Rock Island Trail Project will draw thousands of new visitors to Missouri when Kansas City and St. Louis are linked by our trail system.

DNR Personnel:

Please accept the next 144 miles of the Rock Island Trail Project and enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad. I strongly support the extension of the Rock Island Trail.

My wife and I live directly on the KATY State Park Trail. We literally walk out of our front door, down a short path, and are on the KATY. It is one of the main reasons that we bought our home. This feature is also a bonus, which increases our home's property value. We are on the trail all of the time walking, jogging, and biking. We love all of the trail connectors that are in St. Charles and St. Louis Counties. The usage of the KATY by all sorts of people is amazing! There are people using the trail all of the time with us. We have met many "regulars" on the trail, but also people from all over the state, AND all over the country coming to Missouri just to ride our KATY. That brings me pride in our Missouri State Park system.

Many times when we ride the KATY, we are heading to a restaurant along the trail or one of its connecting trails. The trail is boosting the economy of these small business owner restaurants and shops. Several bike rental places are making good business along the KATY, too.

Why I am telling you these stories are that I believe these will directly transfer to the Rock Island Trail as well! To have a trail "in your backyard" for outdoor exercise in a beautiful natural setting, and easy access to small community businesses is an excellent use of this Rock Island right-of-way! With connectors between Rock Island and KATY, longer distance riders could ride wonderful loops seeing and accessing the sights and businesses on the "south side of the Missouri River."

Please continue your support of the Rock Island Trail Project and proceed with the Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad. We can not wait for the Rock Island Trail completion to ride its new sections!

Thank you!

St. Charles, MO

People come from all over the world to enjoy the KATY Trail. The Rock Island Trail Project would build on and significantly expand that success.

If more and better paying JOBS are a top priority for our state, then Governor Greitens will want to strongly support this project. Tourism is one of the foundational elements of Missouri's economic future--and the Rock Island Trail will quickly become a key component of our tourism industry.

The Katy Trail is a proven success and adding additional routes to Missouri's trail network is a bonus to getting out of state tourist dollars. Converting rails to trails is a relatively low cost method of adding parks and biking/hiking trails to the Missouri Park System

I really enjoy using the Katy trail as do many of my friends. A similar trail would make the state have some of the best long distance trails in the country and I know many people would be excited to use them. The Katy trail also seems to support many small businesses along it.

We bike the Katy Trail with my six year old son almost every weekend. It is a great chance to bike without the threat of cars. The escape to nature is wonderful. On our trips we always see people who are from out of town and people who are completing the entire trail. My husband and I dream of completing the entire trail. The idea that the Rock Island Trail could extend our choices is awesome. More bed and breakfasts, shopping, possible camp grounds to choose from along the way and more scenery!

We are very aware of the huge growing popularity of people "thru-hiking" the Appalachian Trail, The Pacific Crest Trail, the Continental Divide Trail. Our state would greatly benefit from having the only statewide loop for cyclists. More people would come from far away to enjoy it. World bike tourers may cycle through Missouri to get to the West.

Now, as people are traveling from afar to enjoy our upcoming solar eclipse, would be a great time to advertise the plans for the only statewide loop trail. It would increase the likelihood of people returning and of spreading the word.

Please preserve our environment, increase the health of our state's people, and increase tourism by choosing to say yes to the Rock Island Trail extension.

I think it's a great idea! Anything to encourage more cycling in MO!

Bicycling is a very popular form of healthy recreation. Not only would this new rail-to-trail conversion be a great addition for Missouri cyclists ... people travel all over the country to ride trails like this and explore other scenery. The resulting tourism dollars from this trail would be an added bonus.

I think that the Rock Island bike trail is a great addition to Missouri and would be a big plus for Missouri tourism. Please hurry this trail along before I'm too old to utilize it.

I strongly support the development & maintenance of biking trails in Missouri. It encourages fitness activities, recreation, business development along with opportunities for fundraisers for politicians.

This endeavor should be considered a "no-brainer" for the state of Missouri. The addition of a new trail(s) to match the caliber of the Katy Trail can only stand to add Missouri's stellar reputation for state parks and open spaces. As an avid cyclist, the Katy trail has provided the setting for wonderful memories with family and friends. I'm certain the new trail will provide new experiences and memories for my family, other Missouri residents, and tourist from all over the world.

My family supports walking and biking trails in Missouri. They are good for health and recreation. As trail users, we also provide business for the merchants near the trails. Trails enhance the image of our state. We encourage the development of the Rock Island Trail.

There are so many reasons to accept the land and to develop the Rock Island Trail Project. Missouri has long been one of the fatter, more unhealthy states. This sends a clear message about our priorities. We need to have fun, easy access to recreational areas for our health and wellness. Also, too many people live in a world of stress and high work. They need a place close by to relax. I know this and see it all the time because I am a physician.

Absolutely a good idea. These trails are used by thousands of people who take time from their busy lives to exercise by walking and biking through natural areas. This is more important than ever with obesity and stress on the cusp of our culture.

Thank you Governor for your consideration!

I am in full support of extending the Rock Island Trail. Anything we can do to get more people away from their tv and into nature where they can contemplate how fragile it is can only be positive.

More recreational trails will enhance the quality of life as well as tourism for Missouri residents and visitors. These will also help promote healthier lives and lifestyles and well as the overall image and appeal of Missouri as a place to live and work. Thank you for exploring this and hopefully making it happen.

The first forty-seven miles of combined equestrian/bike/hiking trail has brought a regrowth of business and opportunity to Windsor and the possibilities are open to the many other towns along the purposed RIT project. The DNR is the reasonable overseer of such a project and should proceed. But I urge DNR to develop the trail as equestrian friendly also, as hikers, bikers, and horses can share the same trails as is being proven with the first forty seven miles.

Please accept rock island trail agreement

I fully support the Rock Island Trail Project. I believe Missouri benefits from rails to trails in many ways. There definitely is a positive economic impact and jobs created resulting from creating these bike trails. I have seen it firsthand since I am a bike rider and use the Katy trail and Grant's trail. Missouri needs to be progressive thinking and encourage the further development of this project which creates the right type of image for our state.

Hi I am soon to be 70 and I enjoy using mo. trails ,I would like to see more trails .This Rock Island trail would be great ...I like to see good projects that everyone can use .. Thanks [REDACTED]

I think this would be a wonderful opportunity for Missouri. We need more trails.

The Katy Trail and expansions such as the Rock Island Trail Project are key to Missouri's relevance as a place to live and visit. Having moved to Missouri over 20 years ago, I have always been glad to live in a state that manages its natural

resources in a way that benefits the people and the environment.

I support the state of Missouri entering into the Interim Trail Use agreement for the Rock Island Trail Project. Missouri's existing bike trails, including the superb Katy Trail, are an amazing asset to the state both in terms of Health and outdoor activity, but also in terms of Tourism dollars. Missouri should continue to build upon it system of bike trails and this potential next section of trail would be an excellent addition.

-From a proud Missourian

PLEASE! PLEASE! Accept this agreement! What a marvelous addition to Missouri this would be. I've ridden the entire Katy Trail twice (and parts of it hundreds of times) and met many people from around the country and someone from Germany who had traveled to MO to enjoy our trail. I've read that the economy along the trail benefits with more than \$18mm annually - adding the Rock Island Trail would be such a boon to the economy AND also offer a healthy initiative (which MO could surely use)!

I'm a HUGE fan of rails to trails and how it shows off parts of our state that you otherwise wouldn't see by car. What bragging rights we will have if this is completed! I will be one of the first to head to that trail as a cyclist - and I will have out of state friends with me!

I have biked the Katy Trail end-to-end. I look forward to biking the Rock Island trail end-to-end when it is complete. The Katy Trail experience is among my most fond memories. It would be great to have another favorable memory made.

For many years my husband and I have enjoyed riding the Katy Trail both in its entirety and on small day trips. On these occasions we always stop along the route to enjoy the restaurants, shops and assorted businesses including hotels and inns along the way leaving a fair amount of money in the small communities that have benefitted from the success of the Katy. I've had occasion to recently ride the completed section of the RIT spending the night in Windsor and eating and drinking at local establishments in town. I am very excited about the potential benefits of a completed RIT and the unique Rails to Trails loop that will be created by its connection to the Katy. This will make our state an even more attractive bicycling destination for visitors from far and wide. I can think of no better return both in the short and long term for the state's investment in this trail.

As someone who has been blessed to have completed the entire Katy Trail on bicycle, I can tell you that the general peace one gets from the experience out in nature, the physical gain one receives from movement, and the wonderful variety of individuals you come across that opens up your social/psychological boundaries of just yourself and your small section of the world is immeasurable. With the addition of the Rock Island Railroad corridor becoming a recreational trail, so many more people will experience these same life changing events and hopefully the world becomes a better place because of it.

I disagree with this project. First, the existing railroad runs through people's properties. I don't believe I would want

people whom I don't know walking along through seeing my property. Having a railroad there is different as people were on the train and go by fast enough that they cannot damage your property. But walking it they have easy access to your property, which is against what I believe. You don't know who will be walking the trail and if they are scoping out a place to commit thievery or what they are doing.

Second if you have children walking this trail there is a strong possibility these days of a sex offender nabbing them. Fifty years ago this may not have been the case but in today's day and time we need to be more watchful over our children.

The MORIT may sound like a good idea but I don't believe that this has been looked at from all points of view.

PLEASE accept the Rock Island Trail Project.

I ride on the KATY every week. It makes it easy to exercise because it is close to home.

Bicyclists from all over the USA and other countries bring tons of money into this state when they ride the KATY. There is not other trail like it in the country.

With Rock Island Trail we could have TWO great trails!

This is an incredible opportunity. People with travel on these kinds of trails have money to spend.

The Rock Island Trail would provide easy access to a great and beautiful place for people from your great state to easily get out and exercise in a safe place with their friends and families.

This could open opportunities for people to open new businesses to provide food, shelter, souvenirs, and other necessities to riders.

I would be happy to share more about these ideas and add more.

I live in KCMO and having the RI so close to me and hook up with the Katy Trail is an added bonus. Also I was raised in Eldon and remember when the train would go thru town. To be able to enjoy my old stomping grounds again would be very pleasurable.

Please help make it happen!

Conservatives want to "make American great again" and Liberals are worried about the environment. You'd be killing two birds with one stone

I support the acquisition of this corridor and the conversion to a recreational trail very strongly. My wife and I have ridden all of the sections of the KATY trail between Machens and Booneville. Often we have ridden with my cousin from New York City, who regards the KATY as an amazing recreational resource. My wife and I have been on several overnight trips, staying at B&Bs and motels in various locations along the trail. We hope to organize a trip with her brother and sister-in-law from Michigan soon. The KATY is a fabulous resource that brings many visitors from out of state. I believe that a Rock Island trail would be as well, and has the potential to encourage similar economic activity as the KATY.

Providing more trails for people to use for recreation or commuting always seems like a great idea. Promotes a healthier lifestyle.

To all involved, I am hoping that the decision is made to continue with putting in the rock island trail. I have both a

personal and financial interest in the future of this trail. On the personal side, my family (I have a wife and 4 young kids) likes to go on bike rides together and this will allow us to spend quality family time together. On the financial side, I am opening a business (dining establishment) at the beginning of the trail in Beaufort and depending on the trail as a way of revenue for my business. The future of my business may be in question if the trail is not made a reality. Thanks for your time, Matt Rees

My wife and I have ridden the entire Katy Trail, a section at a time. We have really enjoyed it. We spent money on Bed and Breakfast places along the trail. Sometimes a hotel near the trail. We dine at various places in towns along the trail. It is good for the local people along the trail and the economy of Missouri as a whole. Businesses provide bike service, bike rentals, food and drink along the trail. The Katy trail is a gem. I especially like the mid sections where there are less people and less traffic. I think the Rock Island Spur would be a great addition to the Missouri park system !!

I would love to have another trail like the Katy trail to bike on. I ride on it often and even rode the entire thing a few years ago. I have been considering doing it again. I would be even better to have a new trail to ride.

I strongly endorse and support the Rock Island Trail Project and I hope that Gov. Greitens will approve the state's development of this additional linear park. I have used the Katy Trail many times and I have always enjoyed the use of this amazing state feature as have countless fellow Missourians as well as visitors from across the country. These opportunities to develop such unique features as a linear park thru beautiful state countryside become available quite infrequently. Please don't pass on this wonderful opportunity to add to Missouri's rich heritage of beautiful state parks and trails. Even if the trail has to be developed in stages don't pass up this opportunity for both now and the future.

Yes!

One of Missouri's greatest resources is our state parks and one of our best state parks is the Katy Trail. I grew up in St. Charles and rode the Katy Trail often. Now I live in Columbia and have appreciated the network of trails that connect to the Katy Trail. These trails have helped me to get out and enjoy Missouri more while getting exercise. One of my personal goals is to ride across the state of Missouri and the Rock Island Trail Project would help me and others achieve this goal.

I met a couple last winter (2016-2017) from New York. When they learned I was from Missouri they asked if I had ever been on the Katy Trail. Seems they had ridden it that past summer end to end as part of a group from their church. They asked about the loop they heard about and want to come back when it is open.

That is why I am in favor of the Rock Island Trail

The Katy Trail is a perfect place to ride whether you are looking for a short ride or a multiday ride to enjoy all the towns along the way. Please support the extension!

I recently rode the Katy Trail to Windsor to connect to the Rock Island Trail on a cross-state trip from St. Charles to Pleasant Hill. The sights, lodging and food made this an incredible trip to towns I would have never visited or spent money in. A challenge I saw while riding was the varied 'depots' people stop at for rest, recovery, and water. They varied significantly with each town. A great proposal to help offset the cost of the expense of adopting the Rock Island Trail is to consider having each town sponsor their stop by providing utilities construction. This could also be accomplished by local volunteer days to assist in creating these 'depots' for towns with few commercial entities. Overall, I would support adopting the Rock Island Trail to make Missouri the bike destination getaway for many people looking to ride trails for days.

I forgot to say in my first message that I had relatives from Texas come here with their bicycles to ride the Katy Trail I think this new trail would invite even more visitors to the state.
St Louis west on Katy trail ride back east on the Rock Island Trail
How inviting is that!

This would be a very big and positive thing for the slowly emerging business economy in Cole Camp, Missouri. Residents are ready to put in the work. We want this opportunity to make our community a place to visit to eat, shop, stay, play, rest...along the trail. Accept the property and let us build the trail!!

I recently biked the Katy Trail from St. Charles county (picked it up after crossing the new bike path across I-64 bridge) all the way to its end in Clinton, on my way out to Colorado. What a wonderful experience it was to bike the KATY. I met so many people on the trail from Missouri, all over the country and even some international. Not only that, I bought a KATY trail bicycle jersey in Booneville which I wore throughout my trip through Kansas and Colorado. Most other bicyclists instantly recognized the KATY, and most expressed a desire or plan to bike the KATY. The KATY really is a gem in the bicycling world. To be able to ride almost the entire length of the beautiful state of Missouri without the danger and distractions of traffic is a real blessing for a cyclist. To extend the great reputation of the KATY by completing the Rock Island Trail Project will further enhance the fame of Missouri's Rails to Trails network. Please, Please do finish the Rock Island Trail Project!

I would strongly recommend the development of the Rock Island Trail Project and that the DNR enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement. I have very much enjoyed my experiences on the KATY Trail and believe extension will make this an attraction that will prove mutually beneficial to the great state of Missouri and all who will utilize the trail.

Please complete the Rock Island Trail project. The Katy is a wonderful success bringing much needed tourism, dollars and recreation to Missouri. Adding the Rock Island will build on that success at a very reasonable cost on an existing right of way. We will never have this opportunity again!!

I feel the rock island trail would be a great asset for the state of Missouri and her citizens. The Katy trail provides a tourism base for many communities across the state. A similar economic boost would be possible for those along the rock island trail. There are many old railroad towns that have seen better days and this project could help the towns along the old rock island corridor. Some private landowners have voiced objections to the trail but as can be shown with the Katy trail, most users are very respectful. Many more people are wanting the opportunity to explore the outdoors with biking, hiking and other trail activities such as bird watching and photography and building this trail would provide more access to expand on these and other hobbies.

I support the Rock Island Trail Project as a unique opportunity to enhances Missouri's position as a cycling enthusiast destination augmenting and expanding what the Katy Trail has already started.

Please commit to the Rock Island Trail Governor Greitens! This donation is priceless and important to promote tourism as well as provide a safe place for cyclist to enjoy the beauty of Missouri!

I am an occasional user of the Katy Trail for biking. It, like many other trails, is a great resource for people to get out of the urban areas, experience nature, and exercise. Trails like these add immensely to the quality of life and the attractiveness of the area, especially to potential employers. Developing the Rock Island Trail Project would be a wonderful addition to the web of trails in the area.

Missourians WANT Rock Island Trail!!

I believe it is imperative to accept this trail. Bicyclists and nature walkers would utilize it to the Fullest potential. Don't allow residential or commercial buildings on this property..

This Trail, if developed, would be a great economic asset to the state, and to localities along or near its right of way! My wife and I have twice ridden the Katy in its entirety, staying at nearby B&Bs and purchasing food. On July 10th and 11th of this year, we visited the trail and stayed at the Little House B&B in Marthasville. Others have noted the 2012 economic impact study of the Katy Trail, citing its 400,000 annual visitors, over \$18 million in annual economic impact, and jobs created.

I would like to encourage the development of the Rock Island Trail. This trail would go through many rural areas and small communities and be a great addition for healthy activities. In today's world our citizens need locations for healthy ways to spend their time with low or little cost. We need to help individuals to exercise and not be obese. The trail would be an excellent walk, run or biking activity!!

Please help provide this trail for everyone. I volunteer to ride with veterans through the Wheelin Warriors program. I am a veteran and retired educator from Parkway North H.S. You were a great student & will be a great governor. Help our vets and our people from Missouri.

[REDACTED]

My family has used the Katy trail on many occasions, including group trips with friends and family outside Missouri. This has contributed to the Missouri State economy, and appeals to business development. An extension with the Rock Island Trail will check contribute significant ly to Missouri's growth.

I support the interim Trail Use Agreement and development of the Rock Island Trail Project. I regularly bike the Katy Trail and have cycled the entire trail on the annual DNR ride. I think the Katy trail is a jewel that showcases our state and its history. The Katy trail added jobs to the Missouri economy and to the communities on the trail. Extending the trail with the additional corridor will attract more riders, and add jobs and money to the areas along the new trail.

I like this aggreement and hope it comes true so that the project can get completed. the more trails the better

This would be an excellent idea! As someone who currently lives in a small town (not one that the trail would go through) I can see how it could generate more tourism to an area! Not to mention another trail to enjoy the great beauty of our state would be beneficial as well:)

This would provide great opportunities for local businesses as well as community building in many towns. The trail can offer many educational experiences as well as health initiatives. Please consider accepting the trail!

Rock island trail would be a great asset to our rural community. It would provide business opportunities along the trail that would otherwise no be available. It also allows recreational fun for adults and youth offering an opportunity for family fun close to home.

Yes would love to have more walking, running, biking trails...

I'm all for it becoming a state park like the Katy trail. I've ridden the Katy several times and would do the same for the Rock Island. I've seen what the Katy has done for small towns such as Windsor and Rocheport. It would really help out the small towns that were built along the original Rock Island railroad. The Katy and Rock Island combined would bring in cyclist from all around the world.

please support the Rock Island Trail Project!!

With the income of equestrians and their willingness to travel, camp, and buy from local vendors this might provide those with businesses along the rail/trail a larger source of income. Rails to Trails is a great project and supported by equestrians nationwide! Julia Edwards-Dake/Founder of Hags with Nags.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

This sounds like an amazing idea. I would absolutely use this trail.

Gov. Greitens,

There are 3 principal reasons the Rock Island Trail is a great deal for the great state of Missouri:

1. It brings opportunities for economic development to the people living in the communities the trail passes through, particularly for small businesses. It's a great opportunity for bringing money to downstate Missouri.
2. It grows tourism and outdoor recreation opportunities.
3. It keeps our people healthy by keeping them active and engaged in the outdoors.

Dear Governor Greitens,

First I would like to let you know that I am in complete support of you as I am also Republican and can certainly understand your fiscal concern about taking on the Rock Island Trail project.

My husband and I are ride the Katy Trail quite frequently and we know several hundred other people that also ride it on a regular basis. The trail has brought Economic Development to all the little towns along it and I'm sure that the same will happen with The Rock Island Trail project. I can tell you that my husband and I, as well as my friends, spend a minimum of \$150 each day that we ride the Katy trail. Most all of us have to drive at least 60 miles to get to the trail but it's well worth it to each of us. And we will do the same for the Rock Island Trail when it's completed. We have met many people from out of state and out of the country that ride the Katy Trail. The money that each person spends not only along the trail, but getting there benefits the state of Missouri in tax revenue. job creation and economic development.

I urge you to approve Missouri to take on the Rock Island Trail project.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

Silex, MO

It's important to get the Rock Island bike trail up & running for several reasons. Best & biggest reason is positive economic impact for towns it passes through. More year round recreation opportunity for locals adjacent/near the path is obviously a huge bonus.

Please convert the former Rock Island Railroad corridor to a recreational trail. As a runner and a bike rider, I have seen first hand how the Katy trail brought development and jobs to Missouri, something we truly need. But if Missouri gets a reputation for outdoor recreation, it will bring people to our State and encourages young people want to live here. We need to move Missouri forward.

Thank you,

Please approve the Rock Island Trail

I support the conversion of corridors like this into trails for pedestrians and bicyclists. These turns an unused resource into a productive asset, which not only provides recreational use for Missourians, but potential revenue generators for the communities the corridor travels through. It also provides a tourism draw for Missouri, which doesn't have the natural advantage others states enjoy with ocean or mountain attractions. Missouri has beautiful scenery, but we need to exploit opportunities like this to make the interior of the state

more accessible and vibrant to a wide population, while providing revenue to local towns.

I am all in favor of the project. Missouri's "rails to trails" are one of the state's key assets. They are a vital economic stimulus.

This will be a great asset for Missourians. Something that generations will enjoy.

Extending the bike trail is a good thing for MO economy, home owners along the trail and tax payers

What an epic no journey that c would be! No risk, no reward!

I would like for the state to develop the Rock Island Railroad corridor.

Thank you.

I think it will be an asset for the state of Missouri

I am very much in favor of establishing the Rock Island Trail. Despite my age (76) I bike the Katy Trail and other trails in St. Louis and St. Charles counties. I meet young people who get bikes and start riding because they are specifically attracted to the Katy Trail.

As regular bike riders, my wife and I have been enjoying the beauty of the KATY Trail for more than 25 years and would love to expand our mileage with a new extension. We tend to ride long distances and are always excited to show off the KATY when friends and relatives come to town. To have another 144 miles available to us would be fantastic.

This is fantastic idea and a much needed project for the State of Missouri. These recreational trails not only provide great opportunities for cyclists and walkers to get out and enjoy our great state, but also are beneficial to the nearby communities from an economic perspective. I wholeheartedly support this initiative.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail, to help beautify our state

Please support the Rock Island Trail. This trail will be a vital lifeline of tourism dollars to many small rural communities with few other options for economic growth. Also this trail will help encourage many of the communities citizens to be more active leading to healthier lives. Healthier individuals means more independent individuals and less strain on medicaid and SNAP. Easier way to get to work without a car as well leading to greater independence to support yourself. Thanks for considering my input. Your time is greatly appreciated.

Please move forward with developing the Rock Island Trail.

The trail will be a wonderful addition to all communities near and far

Please add these miles to the Rock Island Trail. Adding this as a multi-use trails for hikers, bikers, and horses will help Missouri to continue to the leading trail state in the nation.

I do not feel that DNR should enter into the Trail Agreement. Missouri has wonderful state parks that everyone can enjoy. The trail would only provide a service for a minority of people who are able to use bicycles. I do not think that Missouri has the resources to build and maintain this kind of facility. I also have great concerns about the property owners along the trail and the public that will be using the trail that will be going through their land.

Riding the Katy Trail has lead me to re-visit Missouri towns along the Katy Trail over and over again. The Rock Island Trail development would have a similar effect. At this time, I would never visit the towns along with Rock Island corridor, but I could see that changing if the trail gradually gets developed by DNR.

Please support the "Rock Island Trail".

I believe Missouri would benefit from having another trail such as the Katy Trail. I and many of my friends and family frequently ride the Katy Trail, stopping at wineries and restaurants, staying at B and B's along the way. I also know people that come from other states and countries to ride the Katy, and we are even one of the 500 (sold out) who will be riding it during the eclipse. People will want to come to Missouri and ride both Trails, or come back to check out the new Rock Island Trail. These people respect the environment. It would be a truly positive thing for Missouri!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This trail would give Missouri a unique distinction among States, having two trails that would create a loop across the State. It would also create recreational opportunities for areas that have little State Park access without traveling long distances. The areas served by this additional trail would be given an new economic lease by increasing the tourism trade passing through their areas. The Trail is good for Missouri.

My wife and I are avid users of the Katy trail and recently went and rode part of the rock island spur from windsor mo. As drivers get more and more distracted with technology in their vehicles these trail systems are about the only safe place to ride anymore. The combination of the Katy and the rock island would make Missouri a premier destination for bike riders, as well as have a substantial economic impact on the small communities along the way. I would highly encourage the development of this trail system.

This would be a great add on to the Katy Trail. Anything the state can do to facilitate this process would be a valuable use of taxpayer dollars.

i think this new trail will bring more visitors to Missouri and have a favorable economic impact to the communities along the trail. it has the potential to establish a loop with the katy trail that would be attractive to cyclists; such as west on the katy trail from St. Charles, then returning east on the rock island trail. it would be a opportunity for vacationing cyclists that doesn't exist anywhere else in the country.

Would love to see this! I remember riding the Katy Trail with my parents growing up, and would love to be able to pass that tradition onto my daughter without having to drive a half hour or more. This would be such an asset for other families that want fun and budget friendly things to do with little ones.

I would like to see this happen. Please make this a non motorized multi-use trail for hikers bikers and equestrians. This will increase revenue to Missouri the trail state.

Thank you [REDACTED]

I'm very excited to see this happen. I've been waiting for 10+ years! Let's do what we can to fun this!

I live a few minutes away from the Katy Trail and I use it at least once a week. I also enjoy cycling down to defiance and spending the day at the wineries. I believe Missouri needs more corridors like this to keep citizens active and boost economies of the smaller towns of Missouri.

I am truly in favor of extending the Rock Island Trail. I am a regular user of the Katy Trail and see many people on the trail from other states. They come specifically to enjoy this beautiful trail. Another trail would be great to bring more commerce into the area.

This trail would be fantastic for tourism and ongoing development.

Please consider keeping Missouri's bike trail Rock Island trail use. Many people come to MO is bike, kayak and canoe. This is a great opportunity to perpetuate tourism dollars. MO is last in so many areas--i.e. Salaries, etc. we don't want to be last in tourism.

As an avid biker, this trail will help provide more places for Missouri citizens to ride their bikes and run. This will also provide more opportunities for revitalizing tourism to many small towns along the area. Please move this project forward.

The rock island trail is a must for the southern part of the state. It will revive all of the old towns along its route and boost the economy for their locale. Please get this started asap.

I have used and ridden the Katy trail many times as well as participating in the week long event on the trail. I've always met many people using an enjoying the trail with me. I believe that rail to trail brings positive financial results all along it's length.

I fully support the development an addition of the Rock Island trail.

I regularly ride the Katy and patronize the adjacent restaurants and wineries. I will travel to TX to ride their rails to trails project in Paris. These excellent projects attract both young people and retirees like myself. I encourage development of the Rock Island Trail. Thanks for accepting my comments.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

I believe the original intent of the railroad land grant should be honored and the road bed should be returned to the adjacent land owners.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project and return Missouri land to the Missouri people.

My wife and I have used the KATY trail on many occasions, and highlight it to friends and family when they are visiting from out of town. We even did a multi-day vacation on it, taking the train to Sedalia, then biking east to St Charles over a couple of days, enjoying stops in Booneville and Jefferson City along the way.

The proposed Rock Island Trail Project should add significantly to the opportunities for us and our visitors to experience the beauty of Missouri and its people.

Please follow through with the long-promised Rock Island Trail Project. Our family frequently rides and walks the Katy (as well as other DNR trails) and see what vitality results, both economically and socially. Our state's residents and businesses will benefit from the trail's continuation.

An additional long distance trail in the center of the country would be a great recreational asset for the State of Missouri.

Please allow for this gift from Ameren. In the end, it will be a great Missouri asset!

I feel the trail will be a wonderful asset to our community, both in terms of economic development and for the health benefits to our citizens. And not just for our community, but for all communities along the trail.

I think it's a great idea!

I am very much in support of MO DNR developing the Rock Island Trail. This would be a prime recreational attraction and bring a lot of tourists to the state. The State of Missouri should do everything in its power to make the Rock Island Trail, and also the Katy Trail, well appointed parks with great amenities. Missouri has the opportunity to make an investment that would yield a great return.

A great tourist draw both cyclists as well as walkers and hikers. The added trail brings greater visibility to this wonderful state. And visibility means tourist \$\$\$.

Please accept this gift from the railroad, Governor.

I sue the Katy trail on a regular basis and am looking forward to the expansion and links of the new Rock Island Trail addition to our great trail network through the state. Please support this project as we need to keep Missourians up and moving to keep them healthy. This would also be a great tourist attraction for the state.

I frequently travel to locations across the country specifically to bike. I've made trips to the St. Charles area to bike the Katy Trail multiple times and would do the same for the Rock Is Trail. I support local businesses on these trips and know many

other bikers and hikers who do the same. Please give this extension serious consideration

Adding trail projects like this helps to differentiate Missouri from other states and pull economic benefits that the state wouldn't have without it. I've used the Katy Trail many times and am always impressed by it, imagining long ago the trains that used that very route.

I am very much in favor of this project. What a wonderful opportunity for family outings for biking, hiking, and enjoying time together in Missouri's great outdoors.

I support the rock island trail.

The Rock Island Trail has been very successful in Illinois.

The way I look at it. The original landowners didn't sell it to start with so how can it be sold and change hands so many times when it is still on their deeds and tax documents. Should be released and returned to original property owners.

I strongly support development of the Rock Island Trail. I live near Beaufort and am excited about the economic prospects the trail will bring, as well as the recreational availability of a trail nearby. The Katie Trail has been a boon to those small communities as well as the state, through tourism. To have another bike/equestrian trail so close to the metropolitan area will be a benefit to all - bring it on!!

I believe This is a good opportunity for the communities that Rock island impacts, Freeburg, Argyle, Henley, Meta, Eugene, Eldon, Barnett, Vesailles, Stover, Ionia, Farmington, Leeton, Chilhowee, Winsor all have a lot to gain Missouri is Beautiful! a unique place with great people and a door is open.

I and my Wife have spent time on the Katy and met a lot of people from across the country and around the world who love the bike trails I met a couple from Maine who rented bikes from St Louis started in KC rode from Lees summit to St Charles they stopped to camp and see the sites and others I would in courage everyone to take the journey

Even though we are a small town (Ionia), I believe there would be nothing but good come from this. It would have traffic coming through our town that we have not had since the Rock Island shut down! I have attempted to get people in our town interested in this project, but probably won't have much luck until they see the final product.

My wife and I strongly support continued development of the Rock Island Trail Project. We have used the KATY Trail for walking and biking over the years and look forward to using the Rock Island Trail in the future.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the people of vision who worked to the create the KATY Trail. People in the future will look back on those involved with the Rock Island Trail and feel the same. The Rock Island Trail is a huge opportunity that will pay dividends year after year to the people of MO and to the communities along the corridor.

I believe strongly in continuing to develop a healthy, safe and robust bike system in the state of Missouri. I travel frequently

to cities in others states and see first hand the vibrancy and livability of other cities/states that have invested in bike able communities.

We have interesting rural options thru Katy Trail and numerous mountain biking options and we should continue to embrace more development to drive tourism and promote healthier lifestyles for our citizens.

I am an avid bicycle rider and a strong supporter of Rails-to-Trails-type projects. These types of trails provide venues for safe bicycling adventures of long or short duration. Bicycling is great exercise and is to be encouraged.

Good for the Missouri economy and real estate values. Promotes healthy Missouri outdoor activities and vacations

I am not in favor of another rail turned into a bike trail. That is not what the land was acquired for. This land should go back to the original land owner.

Many farmers and ranchers would be impacted with this trail going through their property.

How can Missouri afford to build and maintain another trail when we can't afford to keep our current highway system up to standards.

Also, who is liable for property damage and injury to cyclists if trail is used by the public and what keeps the public on the trail and not wandering on private property trail tuns through.

I believe that supporting the conversion of the old rail road bed to the Rock Island Rail is VERY important to the State of Missouri. I ride the Katy Trail often and are amazed at all the, out of state and sometimes from other parts of the world people, I meet on the Trail.

The length and ability to loop would greatly enhance the appeal of this combination of Trails to all of us in the state and also increase those who come to see the heartland of this great Nation on foot or from a bike seat. Bringing dollars and hope to many small towns who would benefit from this type of visitor. People in cars often drive on by, but on a bicycle or on foot you want to stop rest, eat, drink & interact with folks one on one.

Please support the Rock Island Trail. I write a bikepacking blog and love the Katy Trail. Missouri needs more like it.

I support the Rock Island Trail Project.

I recently moved to Missouri after having left in 1977. One of the things that I have always mentioned to others about Missouri is the conversion of the rails to trails. It is something Missouri should be proud to have done and market. I the three other states that we have lived there was no such effort to take advantage of converting the rails to trails.

Dear Gov. Greitens,

I highly recommend accepting the Rock Island donation from Ameren for use as a bike trail. Biking is becoming more and more popular, and this is a way of promoting tourism, recreation, and health for our state.

[REDACTED]

I ride the Madison County IL Trails (rails to trails) most every weekend from April - November. I also ride Grants Trail (rails to trails) in Kirkwood/South St. Louis County generally once a week. From what I've seen on the various trails, having them accessible encourages people to get exercise and be outdoors when they might not have without the trails. It's wonderful to see whole families biking or walking on the trails as well as individuals and small groups. It's also a wonderful way to connect with friends - go for a walk or bike ride rather than having lunch or dinner.

I very much support the proposed agreement and hope that it will become reality!!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

I support the Rock Island Trail Project. I am a Missouri resident and avid cyclist who uses trail systems several days a week. I know many people who have taken up cycling because the Katy Trail was accessible to them. I have planned many trips along the trail and think small rural Missouri communities benefit from another trail project. Cross state rides are extremely popular. More cyclists are going off road, including myself, due to the dangers of distracted drivers and lack of safe routes in rural areas. I look forward to seeing this project progress and future rides exploring more of the state of Missouri's natural and cultural resources.

Respectfully,



I ride my bike on parts of Katy Trail now and it would be great for the state of Missouri to develop the proposed Rock Island Trail Project to help show that Missouri wants to be a leader in having trails available for everyone to walk or ride their bike. Developing railroad property that is no longer used by the railroad industry would create jobs for both the construction industry and parks & recreation to maintain the trail. There would also be the economic impact from the people who use the trail spending money at local shops or stores that are adjacent to the trail. Missouri needs to learn that in difficult economic times, money needs to be spent in order to generate money instead of cutting the money from the budget and not creating any new opportunities.

PLEASE ACCEPT THE rock island trail .

I strongly support DNR entering into an interim Trail use agreement for the future enjoyment of all Missourians

Missouri would benefit from the Rock Island Trail project. My wife has used the Katy trail a number of times, staying in bed and breakfasts along the way and eating in restaurants along the trail. We also have friends that have come from Colorado to ride the entire length of the Katy trail. The Rock Island trail project will bring more riders and the tourism dollars to Missouri.

I support the Rock Island Trail and Trail Use Agreement and ask for the support of Governor Greitens and the DNR. Thank you.

Please let Governor Greitens know that we support the Rock Island Trail state park. It will give families the needed trail and promote more biking, exercising and lots of people would commute to work using the trail which would cut back on Ozone.

Please Note that we support the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. My husband and I have thoroughly enjoyed riding the trail beginning in Pleasant Hill. We are very excited to see the plans for it to continue through Lee's Summit and beyond. As a man who obviously sees the personal benefits of exercise, this should be something I believe you would get behind. It would be exciting to see the economic development which bike trails bring to the state (see Colorado for examples of restaurants and businesses which cater to the cycling crowd) not to mention the health benefits and thereby lower medical bills.

Governor Greitens, please choose to accept the Rock Island Trail. This exceptional trail will be another fantastic attraction for the State of Missouri, helping to bring visitors to both the rural and urban parts of our great state, and promoting exercise and enjoyment of the outdoors for many generations!

I support all rails to trails!! I enjoy biking and hiking and the Rock Island Trail Project will bring more people to Missouri to enjoy these activities. The Katy Trail is wonderful and the Rock Island can be just as great. The towns along the Katy Trail are proof that it will help the economy of other towns. Please support the Rock Island Trail Project!!!????????????????

I think it would be great for all the communities and generate income and taxes for the state.

Additional hiking and biking trails in Missouri will greatly add to our state's attractiveness to current and future residents. I am highly in favor of accepting and developing the Rock Island Rail Trailway and would definitely make use of it. Like the Katy Trail, it will contribute to economic development and the health and well being of Missourians in enjoying the outdoors in our beautiful state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I regularly bike on Grant's Trail and sometimes the Katy Trail and both are tremendous assets that are heavily utilized. Grant's Trail especially has bikers, runners, walkers, strollers, roller bladers, etc.

I completely support the Rock Island Trail Project. I have cycled the entire Katy Trail 8 times. This year I also pedaled the 47 mile Rock Island Trail from Pleasant Hill to Windsor. Access to the trail is a fabulous way to explore Missouri. Over the years of pedaling the Katy I have encountered many people from other states and even other countries who traveled to Missouri specifically to ride the Katy Trail. As the longest rails to trails in the country it is definitely a draw for tourists. Also, having the Katy right here, it has kept me in the state rather than traveling somewhere else for a long bike ride. I am

hopeful that the Rock Island Trail will provide more opportunities to see another part of Missouri.

I was one of the first cyclist's on the Katy Trail and was instrumental in allowing bikes to be rolled on to AMTRAC which gave AMTRAC and extra fee, increased users of the Katy and helped everyone have a better time. The Rock Island Trail will compliment the Katy and visa versa. The Rock Island Trail is a public asset that should be promoted and blended into the Katy. It will help the middle of the State like the Katy. Please tell the Governor that the Rock Island Trail has my utmost support as well as all the bikers and hikers that I know. I witnessed the success of the Katy and believe Rock will be successful too. Do not allow this asset to be wasted.

Bill

Another cross state trail would encourage more people to ride, walk and enjoy Missouri. It could encourage commerce as people would start companies to serve trail users. And of course, the more people who use the trail the more health benefits the population has. WE NEED THIS TRAIL!

This would be awesome for Missouri

Please accept the rock island trail!!!

I'm all for the state of Missouri entering into this agreement if this is made into a multi-use trail for bicycling, hiking and Horseback riding. This would give a lot of people access to a good trail. Also because of the maintenance cost the state needs the help of the 3 groups.

It would be a great natural addition and use of the land and former rail way.

Please support the RIT trail project. Small communities outside of the metro, such as Chilhowee and Leeton Missouri are already seeing the impact this trail can have on small cafes (Leeton Cafe) and corner stores (Chilhowee Corner Store). In Chilhowee there are even plans now to renovate a small house to be a hostile for passing cyclists. This type of economic boon can only help small rural communities. Look at the development around the Katy Trail passthrough towns compared to other neighboring small towns.

I think this is a great opportunity for Missouri. Where the Katy is a novelty, the Rock Island will start the creation of a network of trails.

As a cycling Missourian who uses both the Katy Trail and The Frisco Highline Trail I urge you to please approve the agreement on the Rock Island Trail so our state will have another safe area free from traffic to ride and walk.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It would benefit the healthy lifestyle that Missourians enjoy with biking and hiking.

Please Support Rock Island Trail for health & recreation of all Missourians!

This trail is a healthy addition to Missouri, providing a scenic form of exercise. Studies prove that exercise is a benefit to body and mental processes and delays aging and age-related illnesses. Exercising in nature is exponentially better.

Please don't let the work of so many for so many years go by the wayside.

Please say YES to the Rock Island Trail Project's continuation and completion!

As an avid bike rider, I totally support the Rock Island Trail and I pray Gov. Greitens will do the same.

I totally support the addition to Missouri's trail system. I have seen first hand the economic development a well done trail can bring to local communities having lived several years near both the Raccoon Valley and High Trestle trails in Iowa. I purchased a home in the Camdenton area and one thing that is definitely missing is a bike/pedestrian trail. The Rock Island Trail will be a great fit for the area. Thanks for your consideration.

Dear Governor Greitens:

Missouri has become one of the nation's leaders in trail development and tourism revenue. Jackson County has bought the Rock Island right-of-way from Kansas City almost to Pleasant Hill and has committed to building a trail on it. Pleasant Hill is connecting that small remainder into its jurisdiction. The Connection from there to Windsor is under construction. Now if you'll approve adding this new 144 miles of right-of-way we'll continue this record of trail leadership. Please give our DNR the go-ahead to buy and develop a fantastic new trail to add to Missouri's leadership.

I support the Rock River Trail and hope you do too.

This would be a shame to let this once in a lifetime opportunity pass. (Rider of the KATY from Clinton to Jefferson City)

Our St Louis church group of approximately 25 people has been riding the length of the Katy Trail for the last 20 years. Our participants have included people from Colorado, Kansas, Illinois and Florida. This year we added the Rock Island Spur. WOW! To be able to bicycle across Missouri on trails!

Even more exciting is the thought that someday we will be able to bicycle a loop along both sides of the Missouri River IN Missouri. We've met so many people who come from all over the U.S. and the world to ride the Katy Trail. We've met people who use the Katy Trail as part of their route to ride coast to coast across the U.S. Those people and others will come back to Missouri to ride the Rock Island Trail or to ride both trails.

I strongly urge DRN to pursue an Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad to develop the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

People who want to use the trail for biking, walking, running, horse back riding and UTVs should be able to. Other states have similar trails and they are open to all types of uses. Set a

speed limit for UTVs if they are a concern. The trail will get the most use if people of many interests are allowed to use it.

Judging by the overwhelming popularity of the Katy trail Park, the Rock Island would put Missouri at the top of rails-to-trails states! Wonderful for the users, and financial growth for the surrounding communities! FULL STEAM AHEAD!

Governor Greitens,

Please support this project. Bike trails are a great way for Missouri residents to get outside and be active. Spanning the state of Missouri via a bike route would connect the state in a whole new way. Please support these measures to do so.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please support the Rock Island Trail project

Please support the Rock Island Trail Project

You would think that a Governor who was a Navy SEAL would be all for the Rock Island Trail project. This addition adds to what MO already has and promotes safe biking, walking, running, trail riding for individuals and families who enjoy the outdoors. Cyclists riding in areas without bike paths or lanes are nearly twice as likely to feel endangered and those who have the access to bicycle are likely to ride it and want to ride on a safe trail such as Rock Island.

Please support the Rock Island Trail!

Opportunities for rail-to-trail are few and far between so don't let this one get away! Trails like this are very convenient for families and promote outdoor activity which in today's world are lacking.

I support the development of the Rock Island Trail. It will bring jobs and recreation to the surrounding communities.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail into our park system. It would join the Katy as a showpiece for our state. The DNR have shown themselves to be excellent managers of the Katy, so Rock Island should be accepted. I am sure there is a large volunteer pool happy to help offset construction and maintenance costs.

This would be useful to me biking and running. Would promote active lifestyles of locals

I am an avid cyclist (road, mountain, commute) and am starting to think about vacations that center around biking. The Katy trail is on my list, as well as the George S. Mickelson and many others. I get the feeling that biking is starting to become more mainstream and that it's popularity will only grow as it becomes more socialized.

Oddly, I have in-laws who are not bikers at all, and they are planning to go down in a couple weeks and do 3 days on the Katy (credit card touring), they have probably ridden 20 miles in the last two years.

I guess my point is that I think it would be a good long term investment to accept the Rock Island Spur. I will definitely be making it down in the next couple years to do all or part of the Katy and would likely do the Rock Island if created.

My family is from Nebraska.

█

I think the trail project is a great idea and can benefit the state in many ways.

The trail will be a great addition to the Katy Trail, we have ridden it several times! Great for families!

I ask you to support the Rock Island Trail Project.

I first learned about the Rock Island Trail Project while on a weekend bike trip on the Katy Trail. Other bike riders were gushing about its natural beauty and varied terrain. The ability to bike on the Katy in one direction and the Rock Island Trail on the return trip sounds like a spectacular trip that will bring people to our region. I think it will be an amazing asset to our state. I highly support the development and completion of this trail.

This is a no brainer. Developing the trail will boost the economy of these declining rural areas as well as provide another fantastic recreational activity for our wonderful state.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail corridor.

I support the Rock Island Trail, and I will be voting next election cycle.

I support the rock island trail, I hope you will too governor. Walking biking trails are a good investment for future, and makes our state attractive to out of state cyclists.

Please support the Rock Island Trail

As a wellness supporter, Registered Dietitian and Diabetes Educator I can not think of money better spent to promote community wellness in the state. It will also be an economic boost to rural communities such as Eldon. It will promote our state as progressive in health and wellness to visitors to the Lake of the Ozarks region. Many out of state visitors will take advantage of the the Trail while visiting the Lake Region. Finally research shows opportunities for activity plays a huge part in disease prevention such as Heart Disease and Diabetes.

I will use this trail on a regular basis and support all the towns along this route economically when completed

This would be a great amenity for the State, and one more way to encourage residents to get active and be outdoors experiencing God's great earth. Please accept this gift!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

For cyclists this would be a great opportunity to add a trail through Missouri from Kansas City Area. It is a great way to see our state and provide opportunities for families to be together, increased revenue for the state with visitors from

around the country staying in hotels, eating at restaurants along the way, etc.

The proposed Rock Island Trail Project would be tremendous gift to Missourians. I believe arguments to allocate funds elsewhere are shortsighted. Access to this otherwise unused land would be a tremendous gift to the people of Missouri. hose true value can not be determined. Who can put a price on the personal and spiritual rejuvenation that takes place on top of a bicycle out in the middle of nowhere? You can't. I believe our communities and state will be happier and healthier with access to projects like the Rock Island Trail.

Thanks



Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It is a gift that will benefit the entire state.

I think this is a wonderful idea and would be such a beautiful ride.

I am 70 years old but ride my bike on the Katy Trail every week from April through November. I bike with a group of women for a week every year. Last year we did Michigan and this year we will do Wisconsin. Bike trails like the Rock Island Trail attract people from all over to bike this great state. Missouri has awesome parks and such beauty. Please support this trail because biking is excellent recreation from 5-95 year olds, will attract visitors and tourists, provides an alternative to the car, and celebrates our park system.

Let's go through with this and make this a great state to travel to and get around in

Myself as well as my family are very much in favor of the trail and the benefits it will add to the communities.

Please build the trail. It will have a positive impact to communities across Missouri at a reasonable cost. My family lives very near the future trail in Lee Summit. We are excited to have this resource coming to our community. I plan on using this trail almost daily once complete to cycle, walk, and run. Trail networks are a huge positive for the community in terms of health and well being.

Often times I commute to work in downtown Kansas City using a combination of the express bus (to work) and my bicycle (to home). Being able to ride a big part of my commute on the trail will reduce my risk of having an accident and make the ride much more enjoyable.

Again please build the trail we have been promised.

A trail would be great! It's always so nice to be able to turn something historic into something useful. Physical fitness is important and the trail would bring people out!

This is an opportunity that should not be overlooked. Even if the final build of sections takes time I certainly hope Governor Greitens will accept the remainder of the Rock Island Rail area to develop into a trail. I have personally seen new business blossom in the towns of Leeton and Chilhowee due to the opening of the small sections of the Rock Island Trail. These and other small communities need and want these types

of influx of tourist monies. MO is known for it's Trails and state parks and it's a great way to capitalize on the vacation money families from other states can bring to these areas.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. It will be a fantastic environmental and economic development asset for Missouri

Yes please do this!! I support the development of the Rock Island Trail Project!

I am an avid user of the Katy Trail and existing Rock Island Trail between Pleasant Hill and Windsor. Please accept the rights to add the Rock Island Trail corridor to the Missouri State Park system. This would be a great asset to our parks system and position Missouri to have a rail trail system unparalleled by any other.

Please accept the rock island trail. It will be great for many reasons including increased opportunity for small town business and increased fitness options, especially for bike riding.

Please accept this gift from Ameren to develop the Rock Island Trail. This addition to our state parks will be used by thousands of people each year creating jobs and adding much needed revenue to the communities that it will go through. Plus the additional recreation area our citizens need.

Please accept and develop the trail. Outdoor amenities like these are great venues for family and organized events.

Enter the Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad, it is good for Missouri, it's citizens and the budget!

I would like the Rock Island Trail Project to include equestrian use of the trails. Motorized vehicles should not be allowed on the trail due to hazards to themselves and others. Missouri has the opportunity to draw riders in from surrounding states. It would also encourage riders to stay in Missouri instead of traveling to other states for quality trail riding. This would increase revenues of Missouri. Some people are unable to bike or hike on trails because of health reasons, but are able to ride a horse. This enables them to enjoy the scenery the great state of Missouri has to offer. I urge the Rock Island Trail Project to include equestrian use. Missouri has the opportunity to expanded an often overlooked sport, horseback riding.

Please pass this thru, for the more common people not just do everything for rich people

The Rock Island Trail Project is a welcome addition for biking and hiking. The KATY trail has hosted many hundreds of bikers and more trails are needed. For the businesses in towns along the Rock Island Trail, this is a great opportunity to open our communities to new visitors. Here in Gerald, MO we are blessed to not only have the Rock Island Trail, but US 50 also running through town. We are located an hour from St. Louis and with the Rock Island Trail in place, many visitors will be coming to use the Trail.

I own a cafe and bookstore in Gerald. Any new customers would be appreciated.

I am also setting up a retreat in Gerald, with 12 bungalows, so those biking the trail will have a place to stay (The closest motel is 20 miles away and they are not on the Rock Island Trail).

I have many friends in St. Louis who enjoy biking and hiking and are willing to use the Rock Island Trail when it is in place.

I am willing to help my community write grants, set up social media sites, spread the word, and provide the comforts of home for Rock Island Trail bikers and hikers.

Please let me know what else I can do as a citizen, to promote this awesome Rock Island Trail Project. !!!

I have made a personal commitment to share the historical and natural history of Missouri with others. The best way I know is to be involved in the Rock Island Trail Project. This is wonderful opportunity for both communities and visitors to share in the rich cultural heritage of Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail project.

The Trail will be great!

Please accept the new 144.3 mile trail section, the current section of RIT is getting a lot of use and its patrons would appreciate having it extended!

I will probably never be one of those people who treks the entire 144 mile trail, but having access to be able to travel a part of it, to be able to experience fresh air and to be able to show children and others that natural places can still be functional while helping to keep nature natural would be a benefit to the cities along the trail, the state, and the country as a whole.

I use the Katy and intend to use the new trail. The economic value alone is worth the investment. Think the political feather in your cap.

I support all efforts to increase community greenways that connect communities and people to healthy lifestyles. cutting funding to these programs increases obesity and sedentary behaviors that end up costing society much more in healthcare and poor life choices. Also, I have based my small business' on healthy living.

Me and my friends have ridden the Rock Island Trail and Katy Trail multiple times over that past year. Each time stopping along the way and enjoying the sites and purchasing food and drinks.

It would be a shame to lose this opportunity to have a extensive bike, horse, and pedestrian trail system that few other States can offer.

When I talk to other Cyclist from other areas of the country they all are aware of consider the Katy Trail as destination ride they plan to do one day. By completing the Rock Island Trail spoke to Kansas City and through through the southern section Missouri will have a Tourist destination like no other.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept The Rock Island Trail!

Please do it! My family can't wait.

Don't miss this opportunity. Get this agreement done.

Anything less would be an embarrassment and show a distinct lack of good judgement. And this is from someone who would not personally (directly) benefit by using this segment of trail.

I believe the Rock Island Trail Project could be an asset to small communities and small businesses all along the trail.

Governor, the towns along the Rock Island Corridor will benefit immensely, just as those along the Katy Trail have benefited. As a 5th generation Missourian, I implore you... please support this.

That trail sounds wonderful. I love riding the trails in Missouri. They really are the best.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail." The trail will be only 10 miles from our home, and we are very excited about being able to use it in the near future!

One of the largest waste of tax dollars there could be.

Thanks to the Katy Trail, Missouri has become known, worldwide, as the "Trail State." This has been the catalyst for a lot of national and international exposure and inbound tourism. But maintaining this brand will take work and expansion over the next few decades. And that's one big reason why the expansion of the Rock Island Trail is so important.

In the Nineteenth Century the general public derided the U.S. purchase of Alaska as "Seward's Folly," but time and long-term development have taught us that long-term thinking (Yes. Even up to 100 years) is necessary when you have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to acquire an un-replicable property. And that opportunity is now.

Besides, rural Missouri needs some of the same economic development consideration that our urban communities often receive. This is an excellent step in that direction.

Accept the trail.

I support the Interim Trail Use Agreement. Cycling has assisted in improving Missourians and visitors quality of life and view of our state.

Anytime we can repurpose already existing infastructur into a public use is a win for all Missourians and visitors to our state.

Even with no immediate plan to develop the Rock Island Trail it would be an incredibly short-sighted move to not take the agreement. This would be a tourism and commerce win for the state and the local municipalities along the Trail.

I write to strongly urge Governor Greitens to accept the donation of land to create the opportunity for the Rock Island Trail and to do everything in his power to ensure the trail can be developed. My friends and family travel regularly to other states to ride similar trails. When we do this, we put money into those towns' local economies, and we would LOVE to see Missouri create opportunities for similar tourism dollars to

come into our state. We already make great use of existing MO trails.

Please, please help to strengthen Missouri as a cyclists' destination.

I fully support the conversion of this former rail corridor into a recreational trail. I believe this to be an excellent opportunity to increase the economic activity in the small towns and communities along the proposed route, much in the same way the Katy Trail has done for the communities along its route. The DNR must take the initiative to enter into the Use Agreement that will keep Missouri a leader in the U.S. when it comes to outdoor recreation and the tourism dollars it draws.

This is a no-brainer. The donation is worth a lot of money. These trails are very popular in the state and an economic development opportunity. Perhaps a tax zone along the trail among trail related development could make it a zero financial burden. Either way, take the gift.

I wholeheartedly support the creation of the Rock Island Trail.

Recreational trails are such a wonderful asset. Not only do they provide opportunities for healthy exercise and family fun, but they also provide opportunities to become acquainted with many beautiful places within our State.

Developing the Rock Island Railroad into a Rails-To-Trails line would be a highly useful tool for Scouting. Boy Scouts working towards their cycling merit badge would have another HIGHLY SAFE and scenic place to ride their bicycles. Right now the KATY Trail is heavily used for Scouting rides. Developing the Rock Island would provide additional mileage for rides.

It also would allow Scouts to do a summer camp of cycling because both the Rock Island and the Katy trails would be connected. In today's world, Scouting recognizes the importance of finding ways for Scouts to get back into nature and disconnect from the electronic world, even for a short time. So providing this additional mileage for cycling would be most beneficial.

This would be a wonderful addition to Missouri Trails. My husband and I ride the Katy Trail all the time. We live in St. Charles and live about 5 miles from it. We have ridden this trail more times than not and every time its a new experience. We in Missouri are so lucky to have this trail to ride and have met many people who have come here to ride it also. Last summer we met a couple from New Mexico. They rode the entire length of the trail and told us how lucky were to have it. I also know a gentleman who rode the entire length May 2016 and June 2017.

I would love to ride this trail with my family just like the katy trail it would severe as a good weekend and week day pass time thanks I also think it will keep people busy having fun and keep out of trouble

I like the trails and the ability to ride a bike with out fear of motorized vehicle traffic.

As a trial user, I fully support DNR entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement.

I strongly agree that MoDNR should accept this trail and aggressively pursue development of the trail. Hopefully, legislature will acknowledge this economic benefit to the communities that will be served by this tremendous tourist boost. Mo has some of the best trails in the nation and this addition will certainly further enhance Mo'. standing of best recreational opportunities.

Don't be deterred by the false claims of the money grabbing lawyers representing a very small number of landowners trying to grab land that's not theirs.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment

The Rock Island corridor would be a great addition to Missouri's recreational trail system. Recreational features such as this draw people from all over the nation. Many MO small business owners will benefit economically from this addition and it will serve as an economic catalyst thus generating tax revenue for MO. Let's not miss this opportunity to this gem to MOs crown.

If there's ever a time to NOT save a penny and forego a pound, it's on THIS project, which was put into play during Matt Blunt's administration-- he was the one who worked on the Rock Island deal with Ameren, back in the early part of the millennium.

The Katy Trail has been a major shot of adrenaline to our state, it's breathed life into forgotten towns, created small businesses, generated civic progress through sales taxes and tourism taxes, and generally opened up the state to international tourism in no small way. It's money, money, money, and it's also fun, fun, fun. It's a no-brainer.

Anyone, conservative or liberal, would be a damn fool not to embrace the multitude of benefits the corridor would bring to our state. Start your legacy now, Governor. Put your stamp on Missouri's Rock Island Railroad trail.

I definitely want to see more walkable and bike-able trails all across Missouri. Not only does it benefit Missourians with a healthier lifestyle, but is appealing to the thousands of people now taking up biking as a way of exercise. Bikers from all over go to different states to enjoy off-road bike trails. Why not show bikers the beauty of Missouri through these great bike trails?

Please develop (and quickly) the Rock Island Trail for our country to enjoy. There could be no better investment of our tax dollars.

As a Missouri citizen and avid bike rider on the Katy Trail, I support the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. Thank you!

I would love to see the Rock Island Trail extended. It preserves the corridor for all Missourians to use--just like the Katy Trail. Tourism is enhanced, natural areas preserved and recreational opportunities for our citizens provided. That's a win-win-win.

I am a 46 year old recreational cyclist living in California and have enjoyed long-distance rides in several states (including

Missouri's renowned Katy Trail). Twice, I have traveled to Missouri just to ride the bike trail. In fact, I'm riding "across Missouri in two weeks on a bike ride which will include the new Rock Island Spur and Katy once I get to Windsor. My fellow cyclists and I make advance reservations in B&B and hotels along the route. Missouri has a great reputation of leading all other states (in my opinion) on rails to trails. I am certain that tourism and notoriety of Missouri would further increase if Missouri could acquire the additional 144 mile corridor from Windsor to Beaufort...and hopefully have a loop trail. For my next ride in 2 weeks, I fly into KCI, then ride to Machens (actually I'm riding to Fast Eddies in Alton). Then fly out of STL back to California. Most cyclists, including myself, would really prefer a loop trail. I know that would attract even more local and out of town cyclists. Regardless, I am Missouri native and proud of the Show-Me State's embrace of healthy outdoor activities that bring people together like cycling, hiking, equestrian riding, etc. Thank you and please adopt this new trail.

Please accept this once in a life time gift of the Rock Island Railroad right-of-way.

Like the Katy Trail the Rock Island 144 mile trail offers all Missourians and out of state and even out of the country tourists a great opportunity to enjoy the beautiful outdoor recreational amenities we have in Missouri.

All the small communities along the Rock Island Trail stand to benefit from the economic development.

Please accept the Rock Island right-of-way.

Any conversion of Rails-to-Trails is a plus in my opinion. It's an efficient and environmentally friendly way to benefit the citizens and the State of Missouri. I love the Katy Trail and look forward to riding on the Rock Island Trail soon. The Governor & Legislator should support this conversion project!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I support the Rock Island Trail and I hope you will too.

My wife and I are St. Charles, Missouri residents and are in favor of the health and economic benefits of the Rock Island Trail Project. Check out the popularity of the paved Madison Illinois and Xenia Ohio trails, and our own Katy Trail. It's a great opportunity and win for Missouri taxpayers.

Cost of project is prohibitive now and in the future. To many Missourians need help in making a living and this project amounts big waste of monies. Whats the real motive for rails for trails ?

I have ridden the entire Katy Trail as well as the Rock Island spur. The trails are a great state park. While riding, I have met many people from all over the state and all over the country. Clearly, this great park is bringing in tourism from across the nation. I have also met many from other countries. I hope we can continue to develop and complete the Rock Island trail as I believe it will be a great asset to the state of Missouri.

The Rock Island Trail Project is not only a recreational opportunity and boost for Missouri, but also is an economic

bolster for small towns along the trail. Cyclists are already drawn to the Katy Trail but connecting the two beautiful cities on either end will draw even more. Conserving this area, providing the recreational space, and keeping to their promise is the duty of the state legislators and involved parties.

Please accept the Rock Island Rail Corridor. The Katy has been a wonderful asset to my family. Accepting the Rock Island trail is a worthwhile investment for Missouri.

I support the Rock Island Trail and I hope you will, too.

Missouri has a chance, with the proposed Rock Island Trail Project tied into the existing Katy Trail State Park, to create what would be a unique trail loop linking the eastern part to the western border of the state and providing biking or hiking across open country on relatively flat surface that potentially could attract thousands of users from around the world if adequately promoted.

I strongly urge Gov Greitens not to make any short-sighted decisions that will delay or end the full Rock Island Trail Project but to fully support this project that one day in the future will take its place alongside the Arch as the pride of Missouri around the globe.

Governor Greitens,

I have been riding on the KATY Trail since the early 90's. It has been a wonderful place to spend time. Twice, I've ridden the trail from Windsor to St. Charles. My friends and I still talk about those good time. There are folks from all over the country and some foreign lands. Even though some folks in the small town it traverses were initially apprehensive, I haven't heard a complaint in 20 or more years.

I think the Rock Island Trail would be just as worthwhile as the KATY Trail has been.

Please approve the Rock Island Trail...

Thanks for your time.

I think this is a worthy use of money and would be great for attractive tourist dollars. It would connect via the Katy Trail to the greenways that are crisscrossing St Louis.

Please create this trail. Missouri can become one of the greatest trails states in the union.

The Rock Island Trail is a huge asset for the state of Missouri. Please accept the next 144 miles of the Rock Island Trail State Park

We definitely need more trails, the current trails are getting crowded and used often

Missouri needs to invest in the Rock Island Trail Project. Now 20 years old, the Katy Trail has been an amazing success story--both in drawing in dollars for the local economy and in giving Missourians across the state a source of pride. The Rock Island Trail Project has the potential to do the same.

To attract employers and young people to growing industries, such as high tech, it is important to provide activities that would attract them. The Rock Island Railroad corridor is such an activity. It deserves to be built.

The Katy Trail has had such a positive financial and recreational effect on the state of Missouri that another 144.3 mile recreational trail would only add to the impact. Any time my husband and I ride or walk any part of the trail we end up meeting people from different parts of the USA and around the world. Already this year we have stayed at one of the many bed and breakfasts that have developed along the trail, enjoyed some adult refreshments at a few wineries and microbreweries, eaten at a family diner, filled our car up with gas, and last year bought two new bikes, all over of this adding to someone's bottom line while we are adding to our enjoyment. Others come to our state to have fun, see beautiful sights, bike, hike, and spend their money also. We hope you will enter into this agreement so we and future generations are able to enjoy this beautiful state.

The town was promised a grant. Fulfill that promise to and whatever else can be done to the your best of ability. These little towns are struggling and it would be a shame to lose them completely. The trails have helped the small town of Windsor and I'm sure many others. I see a lot worse ways that government money is spent. Put it into small town and the rewards will be worth it.

We absolutely need to proceed with the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. The KATY Trail has been a tremendous success and we need to take advantage of this project too.

I am a disabled veteran and I am in favor of creating the rock island trail system. Having places like this to go and be outdoors makes a big difference to veterans like myself. Please continue to support this project and tell the governor to stop attacking projects like this.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

Hello,

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! Trails of this type are wonderful assets for everyone to enjoy. I currently ride the Little Blue Trace Trail in Independence/Lee's Summit and find it much safer than riding on the streets as well as being much more enjoyable. While riding, I see many folks of various ages and fitness levels enjoying the outdoors. I don't even like riding on the streets with designated bike lanes as they fill up with gravel, glass, sticks, etc. which can pose hazards as well as doing damage to bike tires. I am fortunate to be close to the Little Blue Trace Trail but would love to have another option close by. Thank you

Gov.

I am a 66 year old Missourian that keeps in shape by walking 24 flights of stairs daily before mounting my bicycle.

I so hope that you give your best to making the Rock Island Trail a reality.

Thank you

██████████

Every year I ride Missouri's Rail-to-Trails for several hundred miles and so I realize how enjoying nature by cycling is so valuable. I also fill out a survey after every 240+ mile Katy Trail Ride (11 so far) that asks how many dollars I spend for that ride. It doesn't ask how many fellow riders I have recruited to join me, but I can tell you this year I was joined by a friend from Des Moines and another from Dallas. And over the years the total numbers are even larger, and the weekends at Bed-and-Breakfasts with friends increased. I predict that another 144.3 miles to explore will be an attraction many thousands of us riders will enjoy. Missouri will profit even more from reputation and travel.

I hope DNR will enter the agreement.

My wife and I ride the Missouri trails. We travel to other states and of course spend our money while away from Missouri. This summer I have traveled to Colorado twice to ride my bike. I spent around a thousand dollars paying for rooms and meals and road tolls each time. This is tax money Missouri lost and another state gained. The Katy Trail and Rock Island trail could be a destination for folks from other states. Sadly, Missouri is recognized as one of the states in our country where people are out of shape. Give Missouri citizens more and better options to stay safe while exercising. Please show our country that we are on the right and modern track into the future.

My husband and I have recently started trail-cycling together. As part of our retirement plan we have made a list of trails across the U.S. that we plan to visit. The Allegheny Passage/C&O Pittsburgh to D.C., the Mickelson Trail in South Dakota, the Cowboy Trail in Nebraska and of course the Katy. I know more and more retirees are looking for an active lifestyle. This is a population that spends money. Missouri has a GREAT opportunity to become THE bike trail state in the country. With some easy advertising with Rails to Trails, AARP, American Bicycle Federation, etc. added trails could be an economic boom! Please help us look to the future and take advantage of this one-time, amazing opportunity regarding the Rock Island Trail Project!

Dear Governor Greitens -

Thank you for taking the time to read the survey results for the support of DNR entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project.

I live in Eldon, MO and truly feel that the trail could really change the fate of our small town. Since 2006 our community has lost 3 new car dealerships, 2 major factories that employed more than 800 jobs and numerous small business (locally owned appliance stores, restaurants and fast food chains). Eldon and it's people have struggled to regain strong financial foothold. Our City government does not have the funds to repair streets and drainage issues and are reporting that they do not even have \$15k (typical election cost) to run a bond issue or sales tax increase to fund these much needed projects. Now, I know this may describe a lot of small towns since the recession of 2008, but we have hard working individuals in our community and they deserve more than this.

I would like to invite you to Eldon for a tour that where we could cast an adequate vision of what the trail could do to our town. Sir, I am an extremely conservative financially minded

person. I only suggest a tour, because words do not come as eloquently as numbers come to me, so even though I am completing this survey with an response, I truly feel like we could cast a far better vision with a visit versus a couple paragraphs in a survey.

I have supported you during the entire election process and into your position as Governor. The entire community of Eldon really appreciate that you made a couple stops here during your campaign. I attended the one at the Eldon Country Club. Your leadership thus far as the Governor is very commendable. I am proud to have voted for you and the changes that you are making.

Please consider allowing DNR to enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement to develop the Rock Island Trail. I would appreciate your support in this matter.

Great project. We need to preserve more land for trail use. Particularly ones such as this that are accessible to more people.

please complete this trail - it would help complete the bike trail from KC to STL

Please accept the Rock Island Trail for the benefit of all Missourians.

Serving as an alderman for the City of Gerald, I have mixed feelings in regard to the trail. It is my understanding that this project is presently unfunded, but proposed as a segmented plan, to be developed by the community's nickel, when their funds become available. As any other agreement, this would require review by attorneys and with that said, an undue amount of professional fees, with very little input from small communities like Gerald. Would it bring tax revenue to our city? Possibly. Would the benefit vs expenditure equate to a 'positive'? Maybe. It is a risk that many are willing to make when we are talking state-wide tax assistance, per state taxes. But less so when we are talking city coffers, that have many other issues that need addressing. If it was simply a matter of raising taxes, or letting our infrastructure crumble, then by all means, let us do that, and see the remaining citizenry move away, to areas that have a stronger tax base supported by giant box stores and such. Little quaint communities haven't a chance to risk the limited funds, let alone risk the exodus of even a few inhabitants that can't afford to remain. If the trail is totally funded by state taxes, then it may be worth the risk. The Katy Trail is said to be a success, but I haven't seen any real data to support that statement. Economic growth attributed to the Katy is suspect, as is the actual cost to maintain it. Are user fees the answer? Not likely. Is the DNR willing to risk it's budget, to built and maintain this project, until the economic benefits support it. Not likely. Is the legal liabilities that remain between the railroad and landowners, the railroad and Ameren, the railroads and the DNR, resolved? No, and the first ones that will be resolved, and rewarded, will be the attorneys that litigate the resulting adjudication. The majority of the users are not the locals but the many who will travel to the area to ride the trail. They are the moneyed people, that can afford to do this type of recreation. They are the ones that think nothing of investing their funds to enjoy the labors of all Missourians that have provided them a trail to ride on. New bike, new shoes, fancy outfit, all bought

somewhere other then in my town. I don't ride bikes, and I don't particularly care if other find that strange, that I don't. I share the highways with them and most communities now have bike lanes dedicated to bicyclists, at the expense of the vehicular driver. My road tax pays for their enjoyment, and my insurance premiums pays for their risk element. Maybe that is a revenue source, charge the bicyclist a fee. Put an additional tax on bikes and strollers and such, or maybe just add an additional tax to those communities that don't have a right of way through their city, that was either taken or the compensation was less then fair, when the 'need' to procure the rail right of way, was imminent. Maybe this ought to be finalized on someone else's dime, and maybe the private sector could make it work better. At least then, it wouldn't appear to be another bottomless sink hole for the taxpayer, and the communities that the trail passes through.

Please help Belle with a nice gift from Ameren and the support of rural Missourians.

I am not one who supports spending a lot of money on the many things government does spend it on.

But I really can not see a lot of help for the small towns and rural areas in Missouri. This project is one that has small towns along the trail looking forward to. Not only will it support these communities

it will promote a healthy lifestyle of walking, biking and jogging. So I would like see the DNR to enter into the Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad to develop the recreational trail from Windsor, MO, to Beaufort, MO.

I live in Kansas, though I grew up in St. Louis and hope to move soon to Kansas City Mo. I often come across the state line to ride parts of the Katy Trail, and would increase my visits if the Rock Island Trail Project to open.

This is an opportunity that shouldn't be missed; please accept the Rock Island Trail section.

I fully support the Rock Island Trail Project. Clearly these kinds of improvements make a huge impact both financially and personally to small towns along the trail as well as individuals all over the nation. I personally discovered my love of hiking when Missouri wisely opened up the Katy Trail. Now I plan my vacations around the trail including where to eat and stay while vacationing. Please support this amazing project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I believe sthis is a vital part of Missouri and would bring in tourist and be an economic boost to the state of Missouri. This would also provide a healthy activity for families and individuals.

This trail would be a great asset to the area. I live in Raymore and have ran on the extended part of the Katy trail in pleasant hill and it was so nice to not have to travel long distance to get to a nice, safe trail. Running or biking around a neighborhood is monotonous, involves dodging traffic, and is rough on joints. The trail provides a smooth, forgiving surface that goes a LONG way where you don't have to make a ton of confusing turns to get in a long run or ride. The Katy Trail is booming in Columbia and southern MO, this trail here could only improve

visitors and athletes coming to the area. I really hope to see it's continued expansion and so would about 100 other runners I know in the area.

I am in support of construction or expansion of any bike trail to promote health, reduce carbon emissions, help global warming and reduce traffic congestion created by automobiles. We spend far too much tax money on expansion of highways and roads for autos.

Please accept this once in a life time gift of the Rock Island Railroad right-of-way.

Like the Katy Trail the Rock Island 144 mile trail offers all Missourians and out of state and even out of the country tourists a great opportunity to enjoy the beautiful outdoor recreational amenities we have in Missouri.

All the small communities along the Rock Island Trail stand to benefit from the economic development.

Please accept the Rock Island right-of-way.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This is a wonderful opportunity!

It sounds like a great way to use our resources to attract more people to Missouri. I support the Rock Island Trail and I hope you do too.

This is a great way to bring revenue to the small towns along the trail and into our great state! Keep it moving forward.

Thank you!

I regularly ride on the Katy Trail with my husband. We have meet people from all parts of the country who come to Missouri just to ride on the trail. The trail has many benefits, it gets people outside to exercise and enjoy nature.

This is great therapy for some body who is suffering from an addiction such as drugs or alcohol.

Please accept the gift of the Rock Island Trail, it would be another tremendous asset to the state of Missouri...providing the revitalization of many towns and the creation of jobs.

If the new trail is half as successful as the Katy, there should be little opposition to the Rock Island. With more small towns on the R I, it will add more to the economy than the trail. It will cement Missouri as a destination for hikers and bikers looking for a unique trail experience.

So happy that MO is on its way to becoming a world class biking state!

I recently visited Overland Park, Kansas for 3 days to ride several of their bicycle/walking trails and spent around \$600.00 for motels, meals, gasoline, shopping etc in those three days. My trip was planned specifically around the availability of and in the vicinity of the the bike paths. I have over the years taken similar trips in Iowa, Colorado, Kansas, Wisconsin and Missouri spent similar amounts of money. I intend to take another such trip next month. I have been on the Katy trail numerous times and would like to ride this new trail if it becomes available and all such trips involve spending time and money with local merchants. Please accept this great opportunity for economic benefit.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I wholeheartedly agree that DNR should enter an agreement with Missouri Central Railroad to develop the Rock Island Trail Project. These are great resources for recreation and tourism.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. As a resident of Kansas City, we have very little safe space to ride bikes in town. This trail would be greatly appreciated by Kansas City, as well as avid bikers all across Missouri.

I am very much in support of developing the Rock Island Trail Project. Biking has brought business to rural communities that don't always benefit from other infrastructure projects. Biking promotes good health and can lessen need for frequent health care. I turn 68 on Monday and still ride my bike 1000 miles a year. Please allow the Rock Island to be completed.

My husband and I have thoroughly enjoyed Katy Trail, as it was being built and ever since. Many vacations have been spent riding the entire trail. We have met many people from many states, along with some German and Danish visitors. That trail is worth every cent of upkeep as a (healthy) family tourist attraction. We strongly feel that Rock Island Trail will be just as important, even enhancing the possibilities for Missouri to excel in this high quality, long lasting tourist attraction/state park. Please let the project begin and continue to completion. It will benefit Missouri tremendously..... thank you!

Warsaw, Missouri.

The KATY and MKT trails bring thousands of visitors and millions of dollars in revenue to Missouri. The new Rock Island Trail would expand these wonderful travel opportunities for visitors and residents of Missouri to get out and enjoy the natural beauty of this state while generating tons of money for the residents of missouri through gas, lodging, etc. This would also preserve and build on the wonderful trails already in Missouri for future generations.

Continue all the hard work from the last Administration. Great benefit to a lot of small towns!

Easy decision, build the trail. People will come. Money will flow into towns that need it.

The conversion of a railroad bed to a multi use trail is a win/win situation for everyone. As a disabled veteran I make use of every trail I find for bicycling. This is my primary means of exercise and relaxation, the addition of this trail will be the addition of land for me and many others just like me. There is no down side to more trails and outdoor recreation for the state of Missouri. Please stand with people like me and accept this land.

Sounds good, good for tourism and will help that region our state

I am very excited about this agreement. As a resident of Beaufort, I am encouraged by the possibility of tourism and outdoor activity in our community. Thank you!

Missouri has lost many jobs in the past 30 years. Continuing to develop outdoor spaces that attract good healthy people will also attract business. Rock Island Trail gives Missouri another nationally ranked park/trail that will make Missouri a better place to live. Please support the acquisition of the Rock Island Trail.

Dear Governor Greiten, please reconsider supporting further development of the Rock Island Railway trail. I have been riding bicycle for the last 7 years and have seen many people, including myself improve overall health. Giving more people in the state a safe place to ride bike that is accessible in multiple locations throughout the state promotes the health of our communities. According to the CDC, Missouri's has a population of 30-34% of adults are obese. Obesity leads to many health concerns, including Diabetes and HTN. I have been a dietitian for 15 years and specialize in End Stage Renal Disease and I continue to see an upward trend of ESRD. The two leading causes in kidney failure are both DM and HTN, related to obesity. The cost of these health conditions, lead to high health cost on the state and our communities. Giving more opportunities with the expansion of the Rock Island Railway trail improves the health of our communities, not to mention increasing revenue throughout the state, but lowering the burden of health care costs relates to debilitating health conditions.

I think this would be a wonderful project. I enjoy being able to have first class recreational trails in my state so I don't have to travel out of state to bike on new trails. This is exactly the kind of thing I want my tax dollars spent on.

Fight obesity and ride bikes, protect the ozone layer, and give people along the route more opportunity for business from tourism

I took up cycling a couple years ago, and this summer I made it out to the Katy Trail finally. What a wonderful experience! I would love to see the Rock Island Trail Project come to full fruition.

I have rode on the Katy Trail on numerous occasions over the past five years and the trail is always in use by someone. This trail is an opportunity to experience nature first hand and to enjoy an active healthy lifestyle.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

I believe that this trail is something that should be completed. Missouri is a beautiful state and each region deserves a chance to show off their town. This will bring even more tourism and therefore revenue to the state of Missouri. We need the Rock Island Trail!

This trail would be another example to outsiders that Missouri loves the outdoors and invests in it. Be a destination state, not

a drive through state. Towns like Belle could use the tourist dollars.

You see how the Katy trail is used, the Rock Island will be equally well appreciated and used by myself and others.

As a supporter of the Missouri State Parks and support of the Katy Trail, the Rock Island Trail will be a major asset to the state of Missouri. Recently my family traveled to Iowa to ride several bicycle trails and witnessed the first hand how a trail system can have an impact of the communities they travel through. These trails will provide a source of tourism and income for these communities as well as others when people travel to and from the area.

Please fund the development of the Rock Island Trail. In addition to providing healthy recreational activities for Missouri residents, as one of the longest rail-to-trail projects in the US, it will bring out-of-state tourism dollars to Missouri. Many of the communities located on the trail are small towns that need the tourism jobs it will create. As such, it will be a solid economic development investment.

I am an Osage County resident and request that you fund the trail.

Thank you.

I have used the Katy Trail often and appreciate it. I hope to see more more safe, recreational bike trails available to the citizens of Missouri.

This trail would bring a much needed economic boost to many of our small towns. There are several businesses either being planned or already in the building process in anticipation of the trail opening. I fully support the trail development!

The Trail Use Agreement is a win for the DNR and will bring out of state recreation enthusiasts to the state of Missouri.

I would love to see this go through.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Missouri to expand the Katy Trail and provide more environmentally friendly and family friendly activities for its citizens. I strongly support this opportunity.

Please accept Rock Island trail. It will provide a great activity for families. Thank you.

Please accept Rock Island Trail

I whole heartedly support the Rock Island Trail project. This is an excellent opportunity for people to see Missouri differently than the "road " view. It may develop some small businesses along the trail. Also it would give bicyclists and tourists another reason to visit Missouri.

This is great for ALL families young and old .please accept this land and develop trails.

The Rock Island trail is a huge opportunity to bring tourism to the state of MO. I have cycled the KATY end to end twice and various sections multiple times. Each time I met lots of people

from other states who spent money in the small towns along the way. This is something my family has been looking forward to for a long time. A loop of this size connecting our two biggest cities is unheard of and will be a magnet for cyclist all over the world. This a greaet investment for our state...Please think of the years of benefit from this project.

I support the DNR entering this agreement. I understand that although it is a gift, it will cause more money to be spent to rehab it and get it up to standards. However, this would be awesome.

I wonder how the neighbors of the Katy Trail feel about that trail now that they have had a few years to live with it.

I can also appreciate the nearby landowners wanting the land to be returned to them, if that is a possibility. But on the whole, I would like to see it converted to another bike trail. Thank you.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the state of Missouri and all of the communities along this potential trail corridor. I highly recommend the Governor support the DNR in pursuit of this project, particularly considering the success of the Katy Trail redevelopment. The small town communities along the route stand to gain incredible benefit from the Rock Island Trail in terms of organic business development. This should really be a no-brainer for the DNR to enter into such a trail use agreement. Let's continue to promote Missouri as a desirable tourist and outdoors-enthusiast destination.

The Rock Island Trail Project is an opportunity for an economic boost to the communities that sit on the once vibrant rail line. These towns were born on this rail. A rebirth now on a world class trail is not only good for those small Missouri towns but The Rock Island Trail will be good for all of Missouri.

Please support this acquisition to our wonder State Park System

Last year my 71 year old wife did the entire KATY trail with me sagging for her. Most of the people we met along he way were bicyclists and they all knew that Missouri was the best in the country for Rails to Trails touring.

Take the best there is and add 150 miles or so.....What a tourist draw.

The AMTRAK River Runner is very bicycle friendly and could use the business.

I use the Katy Trail regularly and would love to see more of its kind. It is a fun and healthy way to experience Missouri outdoors. It also teaches many who might not otherwise be exposed the value of preservation. The Governor & Legislator should support this conversion project!"

I support the trail. It is a great value to Missouri and will soon be an economic engine like the Katy trail is now.

Proceed with the development as soon as possible.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. The Katy Trail and Grant Trail (in Mo) and Madison County Trails and Tunnel Hill Trail (in IL) are all rails-to-trails projects that receive tremendous amounts of foot and bicycle traffic. I feel this trail would be a great addition to the ever expanding trail networks

in the area. The trails do inject tourism dollars into many small towns and hamlets along their respective routes. Thank you for your consideration!

If we have obesity issues in Mo, surely a ride or walk on a trail couldn't hurt! Communities in rural towns will benefit from the business provided by bicyclist and walkers! These areas need revitalization!

DNR should enter into an interim trail use agreement and continue with the Rock Island Trail Project.

The trail project would be an economic benefit to the state.

I would like to see the Rock Island Trail set up as a paved trail as an alternative to the Katy Trail. It would be great to be able to ride to Kansas City and back in a loop.

this would be a wonderful addition to thw MO trails system, help promote healthy lifestyles, & increase economic development & success in the area!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

As has been stated in numerous articles, this trailer will become an economic engine in many communities. I live near Cole Camp which is already a tourism destination. I strongly support the Trail Use Agreement.

The proposed Rock Island Trail Project is a great opportunity that the state of Missouri should immediately act upon to help provide economic opportunities for the communities along the route, increase recreational options, provide additional reasons to attract tourists to md-Missouri, and build upon the success and national attention that the KATY Trail has brought to the midsection of our state.

Missouri has become a tourism center because of its parks and trails through the state's diverse countryside.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please support the Rock Island bike trail

Please support the Rock Island Trail. This is a safe trail to ride your bicycle on. My husband & I are bicyclist, we have just spent \$3000 for 2 new trail bikes at a small business, local bicycle shop. We took a trip across the Katy Trail starting in Pleasant Hill MO on the Rock Island Trail going to Windsor MO, connecting to the Katy Trail. This trail would a big economic boost to the little towns along the way. We ate lunch in Chilhowee, MO, the Corner Grocery store that was converted from an old bank and still has the bank vault. We spent the night in a cottage in Windsor MO, plus dinner and breakfast in local restaurants. We spend money in every town we pass through for water, food, bike repairs, souvenirs & lodging. 35% of the state revenue goes to social services , the tax payers are the ones that pay the taxes to supporting the social services & the building of this trail. We should have some rewards for paying the taxes and supporting the social services.

Rails to Trails is a great idea. I have ridden the full length of the Katy and wished there was some way to go further.

As a landowner with the railroad being our neighbor, we were always told that if the railroad was ever abandoned, that land was suppose to return back to the landowner(in our case -us!) we were never even contacted about our thoughts and didn't even know it was in the process of becoming a trail until Lawyers started contacted us and it was already a "done deal" at that point.! I do not favor this at all. We live to the west of the town of Belle and I think a few people have big ideas that it will stimulate the economy. Maybe a few dollars, but nothing like bringing in something to put people to work with decent paying jobs! This is costing millions to billions of dollars and major work is not even started in our area...the bridge over the gasconade will be astronomical and not sure how they will be able to access it to get the work completed. It is all on private land around it with no public access.

I worry about those using the trail for destructive purposes and trespassing then claiming an injury and want to sue the landowner. There has been a lot of people trespassing and causing damage already and its not even an open trail yet. The cost of this trail would fix a lot of roads and bridges in dire need of repair. If a cost study was done comparing the number of people using the trail in comparison to those using roads and bridges I am sure the percentages would be very very different with at least 4 or 5 times more using our highways and bridges over a trail. Let's use our money wisely and put it where it will do the most good. The Rock Island Trail is a pipe dream for a handful of people and should NOT be shoved down the throats of the landowners along the railroad line. So here it is in a nutshell:

1 cost is to high for the ratio of number of people (different people not same ones using frequently) using the trail

2 it will not bring huge shot in the arm for the economy..however it will bring a few dollars

3 landowners will face even more incidents of theft, vandalism, trespassing, and etc.

The Rock island Trail needs to be abandoned.

I support this! We need to connect Missouri with more bike trails.

Please support the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please support the Rock Island Trail! It will bring many, many tourists to enjoy our beautiful state.

Please accept The Rock Island Trail.

We are from Colorado but love the Katy Trail and look forward to biking more of Missouri's trails with our friends who live in Warrensburg.

Proceed with the Agreement.

Proceed with development of the Rock Island Trail Project.

I enjoy bicycling on the Katy Trail. Great exercise and low-cost entertainment. Riding the proposed Rock Island Trail adds opportunities to the fun.

As kids in the late 1950's to early 1960's we rode county roads from Columbia to Hallsville. Thinking back on the experience it stands out as not safe as there were no shoulders and it was entirely in the sun so was not as pleasurable as a shaded lane, similar to the Katy Trail.

There appears to be a mechanism in place for payment in lieu of taxes on State Park Land.

Fencing along the Rock island to some extent exists or a natural tree cover buffer is in place.

PLEASE accept the generous donation from Ameren. The groundwork can mirror that of the Katy Trail; a trail that provided me with one of my most memorable vacations.

I strongly feel that we don't need to spend money on this trail. The state has many other needs for money other than a recreational trail. It is my feeling that the land should go back to the land owners like it was meant to. I hear and see people that are for the trail, but in my area most people are against it. I would like to know how many of these supporters would be willing to spend their own money or give away their own land for a trail. Thank you for your time.

I think it would be great for the middle of the state.

I think the trail is an important addition to our existing network of trails and will be a long-term boost to our tourism economy across the state. I support the Rock Island Trail Project.

The trails systems is a waste of tax dollars that serves very few people. The trails are in remote areas that will require a special response by the sheriff departments. For Osage county the response time will be close to half hour long after the trouble makers are gone. The trails are infringing on private property and will require more money to maintain after a heavy rain storm.

The tax dollars can be better used to maintain the highways. Many more people use the highway than those that use the trails.

I am very familiar with this route and believe that it may be more scenic than many parts of the Katy Trail. The route between Union, MO and the point it crosses the Osage River is typically gently curving with few straight sections traversing very beautiful rolling terrain. Crossing both the Gasconade and Osage River bridges will be very dramatic along with the multiple tunnels encountered along the route. I am not familiar with the portions of this route west of the Osage River but understand that it is of a similar nature. Not taking this opportunity to bring the Rock Island Trail to fruition with all of its recreational and economic benefits for the citizens of this state and the world would only demonstrate that their is no competent leadership in Jefferson City. All you need to do is look at the Katy Trail's success and know that the all opposition arguments to it proved false. The Rock Island Trail will be a massive success if you do not let nonsensical financial and legal arguments stop one of the best projects that State of Missouri will ever have the opportunity to participate.

I am all in favor of developing the Rock Island Trail Project. It will put Missouri on the map as the best state in the country for continuous trails. It will improve the economy of many small towns along it's path.

I live in Southeast Missouri, and have only once enjoyed part of the Katy Trail. On that ride, however, I could clearly see the

economic benefits to the small towns along its course. Riding with cyclists from MO as well as IL, KS, and TN that week, we all agreed on what an attraction this trail was. I'm all in favor of keeping a balanced budget and cutting the fat from bloated entitlement programs, but any improvements or additions to this rail-trail system should be viewed as an investment in the tourism industry, investments with a slow but certain return.

After having done parts of the Katy Trail enjoying it very much, I believe the Rock Island Trail would make a fantastic addition, enabling a round trip, something I love.

This trail would provide safe running and biking trails for the communities it will go through. I am a resident in Versailles and we have no sidewalks and only a very small city park road for our children to learn to ride their bikes on. Having this trail and access to so many miles of traffic free area to enjoy our families would be amazing for this area. Please allow this trail to go through and let us give our children this amazing gift and place to grow up on.

I fully support the development of this trail project. It will benefit the economy and public health of Missouri. The arguments being given against it are the same that were disproven when the Katy Trail was developed. They are simply not credible.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

The trail would serve to expand public awareness of Missouri's forests and streams. It would increase commerce for towns and businesses along the trail. Cyclists and people that camp tend to stay in a spot they like and spend money (bicycle times magazine). Bicycle touring is making a huge comeback, consider bikes offered by Specialized (read Sequoia), and other manufacturers. This is a huge opportunity not only for Missouri's tourism industry, but for towns along and businesses the trails passage.

I am strongly in favor of this project and all steps necessary to move it forward in a timely fashion.

Trails like this contribute to overall quality-of-life, health, and even economic development. I love to use the Katy Trail, I love to visit the wineries, little shops and B&Bs nearby. I take pride that our state has the Katy Trail. Please move forward with the Rock Island Trail Project!

Everyone I know wants the trail to be completed NOW!

MORIT would provide yet another recreational trail for exercising muscle and mind and it will provide economic benefit for the towns along the trail. I live in Kirkwood and use the Grant Trail here 2-3 times a week bicycling the complete 20 miles. This is safer than using the road. Several times a year my wife and I use portions of the Katy trail as day trips to enjoy the Missouri River and eat at some of the local establishments along the trail. My hope is you will see the benefits of MORIT Governor, and support it. Thank you.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

This is a tremendous opportunity for the hiking and cycling enthusiasts as well as the residents, businesses and towns along the Rock Island Trail. For a good example of this opportunity you need to look no further than the Katy Trail to see success and the benefit to all parties from that endeavor. And a special thanks to Ameren for this wonderful donation to the citizens of Missouri.

The Rock Island conversion into a bicycle/hiking trail will be a tremendous asset for Missouri. Combined with the extremely popular Katy Trail this project will make Missouri a destination nationally for hikers and bicyclists. Having been involved in securing the Katy Trail and subsequently in developing a shelter for Trail users and seeing and hearing their appreciative comments, I strongly urge the Governor and the Missouri DNR to accept and develop the Rock Island right-of-way and develop it as funds allow.

I support the Rock Island Trail. Please accept this into our state park system.

The trails that we have a Missouri ring so many benefits to our state. It provides a place to exercise that is safe and a place for people to get out and be in nature

I am asking that the Rock Island Trail project linking the trail with the Katy Trail be approved and allowed to go forward. Not only do these trails add to recreational activities available they provide new life to small towns as long the routes. The mere accessible these trails are to various types of recreation will be an economic boom to areas along the trail. Activities along both trails should include equestrian use and include trailer parking areas.

Yes, Do accept the land when offered. It will boost the economy for all the towns along the trail as well as the state.

Please proceed with developing the Rock Island Trail Project!

I enjoy biking the Katy Trail and exploring other trail systems. Sounds like another potential trail to attract visitors.

Please continue construction of the Rock Island trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Trails such as these are safe places for people to engage in activities such as hiking and biking, both of which improve the overall health of the participants.

Please accept this gift, we would all benefit from this addition to our trails in Missouri!

The Katy has become such a great national icon for Missouri and one of the best and most unique state parks in the country. The Rock Island has the potential to be just as great but also very different due to the geography through which it passes. I realize that the Parks focus is now on maintenance of existing properties. However, sometimes opportunities come along and one just has to grab them. This is one of those opportunities. Economic development is not always the most important reason to do a project, but many communities along the R.I.

stand to gain significant revenue from the trail. I strongly urge DNR to make this a reality.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. The Katy Trail has proven what a valuable resource and boon to the local communities such a trail can be.

Windsor is a small lovely community working on creating small business to accommodate, all travelers of the trail. Easy access on and off, the trail, crosses a beautiful part of Missouri. Our community needs this gift. Thank you.

This is a worthy project that will be a boon to Missouri's economy and tourism industry. We have enjoyed the Katy Trail this summer and look forward to new bike trail opportunities.

This is a worthy project. To minimize fiscal impact, proceeding in phases may be appropriate. Perhaps some private fund raising commitments could make this a more desirable item for the legislature to consider.

I am wholeheartedly in support of the trail system. Communities and business have already made plans and financial expenditures based upon the State's commitment. I believe this trail will benefit the state and residents in the following ways:

- Improve the economy of many depressed towns along the way
- Provide a wildlife green corridor across the state
- Provide Missouri residents with trails and pathways to improve health of its residents
- Give non-residents a reason to visit a unique world class trail and improve tourism
- Promote our state throughout the country and perhaps globally

I have seen people for all over the US and around the world visit the Katy. I would not expect a pot of gold at the end of the trail; however, the trail would provide some towns and business with additional revenue.

I would be in favor of a fixed tax amount for all Missourians. I feel that looking at numbers on a spreadsheet would be tragic and miss the many non-tangible benefits of improving our park system, wildlife, and environment of this state.

Why would you NOT want to do this!

It would bring additional tourism, which would create additional jobs, and produce additional sales tax revenue. It also would benefit the small towns and villages along the way. This is a no lose opportunity!!!
COMPLETE THE TRAIL!!

Total waste of tax dollars. Do not need any more "trails" Give the land back to the people that it was stolen from.

Dear Gov Greitens,
I am writing to ask you to consider funding the Rock Island Trail Project. I am an avid walker, biker, and nature enthusiast. I love our State Parks system and use them on a weekly basis.

I am also a Republican, capitalist, and Dave Ramsey fan! I realize that greenways have a cost that must be offset. Budgets must be balanced. I can't imagine the job you and your team have trying to make the whole state work for everyone living within its borders.

That being said, if there is anyway to include the Rock Island project in the current budget I, and many others like me, would be forever grateful. Preserving green space provides opportunity for tourism and builds into the health and wellness of our residents. Preserving green space builds a legacy. I would be very willing to help fund this legacy project with an additional tax that would support the purchase and maintenance of this trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter,

██████████
Independence, MO

Ever since moving to the Kansas City area six years ago, I have enjoyed biking on many of the trails nearby. Shortly after moving here, I heard about the Katy Trail State Park and was able to ride on it. That first experience had me hooked. Miles of trail ahead of me, no cars to fight, beautiful landscape to ride through and a good workout. Since that 50 mile trek, I have rode the Katy multiple times including riding the whole trail over a 5 day period with a buddy. We thoroughly enjoyed the adventure of exploring the state of Missouri along the trail and supporting the businesses and communities along the way. Then we heard about the possibility of another trail coming to fruition that would connect to the Katy. The Rock Island Trail has the ability to take the trail system in the state to another level. Not only would we have a trail that spans the entire state but we have another one that could help connect the two largest cities in the state as well as extend the trail system in new communities. The Rock Island Trail can help impact the state in a multitude of ways- tourism, health of residents, economic growth, employment and much more. As someone who has used the Katy Trail in the past and currently rides on the Rock Island Trail on a regular basis, these two trails and the trails that connect to them are beneficial to the communities and people that they run through as well as the entire state of Missouri. The Show Me State has a lot to show!

Governor Greitens, you know as a former Navy serviceman the importance of having resources for PT not to mention site for just the therapy of a run or hike or walk with nature that this trail would provide for veterans in the state of Missouri. Make it happen sir.

██████████
US Navy Veteran
10/03/1989-04/24/1998
USS John Paul Jones DDG - 53

Please accept the trail!

We must preserve and expand parks for Missouri families, these parks are critical for the communities. Please helps up preserve and expand these parks!

Please accept this for the trail! We need it!

I am strongly in favor of the Rock Island Trail Project.

I think this will be a great project. I enjoy riding and hiking on the Katy Trail and would love to be able to add another long trail for scenic riding. It's great to be able to take my kids on trails with little interaction with road ways and car traffic.

The rails to trails program is a wonderful opportunity for all people to experience the beauty that is Missouri. Having enjoyed many miles on the Katy Trail it is apparent that the ease of access code tribute to the economic benefits. Please go forward with the Rock Island Trail Corridor.

Thank you

I think this trail is a great idea! All of the others trails in the area are always full of runners bikers and just people in general using them! As a runner myself we need more safe traffic less places to go

Do IT

Please approve and support the Rock Island Trail Project. Many benefits are possible when the Rock Island Corridor is converted to a hiking and biking trail. It is an important benefit and opportunity for those along the Rock Island Trail project.

Most people around here are excited at the idea of bringing more tourists to the area. Our little towns need a boost and we need a safe place to exercise!

The Katy Trail is one of the true gems of our state and adding the Rock Island to that will make it shine even brighter. Providing access to this corridor for our citizens and visitors will enhance MO!! Show Me more trails!!

The trail is a necessary catalyst for the revitalization of these 20+ Missouri communities. The communities 50 miles west of St. Louis have been struggling with devaluation of property values, loss of what were once thriving businesses and loss of their young adult population.

The proposed trail is already bringing financial investment and renewed excitement & energy to these communities.

We need an anchor!

This trail is a great opportunity to expand Missouri's recreation trail network, creating a world class destination for bicycle touring. Towns along the proposed trail will have opportunities to stimulate their local economy with tourism and service related businesses. I can personally attest to the local and non-local money spent at local businesses surrounding and related to the Katy trail in Boone county Missouri.

This trail would be a great addition to the Show Me state!

This is going to be great!!

Please support this. It will help all the small communities located along the trail.

What a powerful gift to our citizens and guests this Rock Island Trail will be. A beautiful environment in which to

explore our state while helping promote good health habits for those who travel it!

I think it would be great for the community and would definitely use it myself with my friends for riding bikes.

Utilize it with new tracks and Amtrak.

I look forward to using this trail.

We were transferred to Owensville from Virginia in 1962. There were 3or 4 shoe factories,several small plants making various shoe parts and even some shoe repair businesses.Alied Chemical was thriving in the clay business and paid union wages ...These are all gone now,but with the prospect of the Rock Island Trail,we have seen expanding businesses and several new restaurants.Along with these physical changes, we also see hope -instead of desperation. Please Agree to this Rock Island Trail project and make this area thrive again.

I was born and raised in Missouri. I usually go to Kansas to run my long trail races. I would love to run and bike more Missouri trails! I believe this would be good for running and biking communities, family outings and revenue for surrounding business. Please consider this request of a long recreational trail in MO.

I support this idea.

I am a North Kansas City Resident; however, I frequent many of the trails throughout this end of the state for running, biking and hiking. As a science teacher and a former cross-country/track coach, I think it is imperative that we have great areas that extend throughout the state that allows our families to interact with each other through biking, hiking, walking, running, etc. Such a simple event that everyone is capable of doing, even with physical limitations. I think continuing to improve the infrastructure of the Rock Island Trail Project, we would be able to continue forging forward of improving our own personal physical and mental health.

I support entering the agreement and I hope that you do as well.

I would like to see the trail completed as a way to kind of keep the idea of the railroad days alive for future generations.

I am in support of this project as it would provide families & youth time together outdoors, not on electronics.

I also believe it would boost the economy in these areas with tourism.

I am a 41 y/o mother of 2

This would be a wonderful addition to our community.

Beautiful country and a safe place to ride in the area.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. This will benefit Missourians now and for generations to come.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

The more recreational areas for biking the better for the human race. We humans as a species are getting lazy,

overweight and unhealthy. Go for it. We had a the illinois prairie path where I lived in illinois it was great

This trail is totally awesome and should be considered as a great trail extension. The hidden railway markers hidden in the "bushy trail" are little gems. Historically speaking, the trail has significant meaning. The beauty of the trail, along with the Katy trail will bring in many tourist \$\$\$ to the state coffers. The residents of missouri deserve such a treasure as this trail for generations to come.

I am optimistic about the Rock Island Trail Project ! What a great use of this land and a great way to encourage more Missourians to exercise and enjoy the great outdoors!

The trail would provide opportunities in an area that needs them for not only recreational intrests but business as well. It's a win/win project.

I live in Franklin county and would love to see the Rock Island Trail Project move forward. Having a trail could make a large economic impact for the towns along it; just as the Katy Trail did when it opened.

Yes, absolutely! Please accept the Rock Island Trail ! I am a green-conscientious conservative, and I voted for Gov. Greitens. There is such a thing as a green-conscientious conservative but that can be explained/debated separately. Frankly, I had been completely underwhelmed by ex-Gov. Nixon and his efforts (or lack thereof) to complete the prior gifted connection of the Rock Island extension into the K.C. area linking up with the Katy Trail to truly make a 'state-wide' trail. This prior mileage was received from Ameren after the Taum Sauk disaster and ironically was litigated by A.G. Nixon, himself. Yet, his DNR literally 'sand-bagged' on that ~45 miles of trail for 5+ years before finally starting to work on it's completion and it's still not done.

Now, we as a state, and the Republican leadership not only have an opportunity to fulfill the completion of a statewide trail, but then be able to add a 2/3rd's wide state loop connecting the two trails as one, which would set our state apart from so many others. This could add new tourism for cyclists, hikers, and there would be consideration for including much more equestrian and perhaps small sections of motorized vehicle access (especially in the hilly sections. A public/private cooperative effort would obviously be preferable to having all improvements come through the state alone. Obviously, Ted Jones was the catalyst and financial engine for the Katy Trail, but in this case, the state needs to take the first initiating step of acceptance.

There are additional recommendations from the MO Bike Federation and the Rails to Trails organizations to try and link up trails to adjoining states, including Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska and Illinois as idle rail lines can still be utilized for those as well. I say, it's also time to make DNR moneys be used for linear trails, which probably have as many enthusiasts as there are hunters in state conservation areas, and campers and sight-seers visiting our state parks.

But first things first, accept the Rock Island Trail, now !!

I would love to see this project finished and soon. I happen to know it will bring people and business from far and wide, my

brother from Washington state will be here to ride the trail as soon as it opens. He has ridden the Katy Trail a few times.

I feel this is a great thing. Time always changes situation. Just like years and years ago when the railroad came threw. At that time it was a great thing. What else can a old railroad bed is good for? The Katy trail is being used just about every day of the year. I support the Rock Island Trail.

I am really looking forward to having the new walking/biking trail. Wish it were already done It will be a great place to walk safely

Looking forward to it!! I live outside of Beaufort.

Love this it will be so great!

At first I was against the Katy Trail years ago, but now I see how much it has improved those towns along it. I believe the same thing would happen to the Rock Island towns. Goodness, they could use some help. They are so depressing to drive through now!

This seems like a great idea and should provide many new recreation and economic oppurtunities. I can't wait!

Adding more miles to an existing trailways is great! It will bring economic boost to the neighboring communities, just like the MKT. This is an excellent investment of taxpayer funds. These cultural o

Please accept the Rock Island Trail! I'm not a MO resident, but I've seen the advantages this kind of project brings to the states and surrounding communities within KS. It's a win win for the state of MO. It is imperative to preserve green space, give residents a place to visit and exercise and it does benefit the small towns along the course. Do not say no!!

Yes, more trails please! Keep Missouri gorgeous!

This trail is a must. It will bring so much business, productivity to MO.

Essential exercise as well as many hours of recreation and pleasure as well as tourism.

I feel entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Agreement is a necessity.

As a frequent user of the Katy Trail, it would be wonderful to have a long-trip alternative in Missouri. I totally support developing this trail!

I have ridden trails in Wisconsin, the Mickelson in South Dakota and various Colorado trails so I understand the value these trails bring to tourism and small businesses in States that develop rails-to-trails. Please develop the Rock Island Trail. Thanks!

I think utilizing the non-existing railroad for the Rock Island Trail is a great idea. Many people will use it to bike / walk/ run. Safe way to enjoy the outdoors without being on the roads. It will benefit many businesses along the trail as well.

We would love to have this trail in our area. We frequently head over the river now to utilize the Katy Trail. We would no longer have to do that if we had our own here. I know that everyone in this area would be supportive.

Cycling is a healthy activity and converting old rr easements into a recreational space allows riders to enjoy another safe place to enjoy Missouri's natural beauty. Not to mention the potential economic impact that accrues from investing in a first class trail system that draws riders from around the country. We need more opportunities to get out and see the countryside, not fewer. Please support this plan.

Opportunities of this scope do not come often, and while that in and of itself is not good cause to take on the opportunity, the gains realized and the potential improvement for generations to come most certainly do. In almost every way, the state and nation is borrowing money for things that are ultimately ephemeral, and for once in this case we can buy something that is lasting, and can be enjoyed by the generations who will ultimately pay for it.

Build it!!! I am a business owner in Beaufort and would love to have the trail up and running!!!

Would love to see more of these projects done. I think it would add to the tourism in Missouri and also give residents access to more cycling/walking trails. It would also potentially boost the economies of some of the small towns it would go through. I love the Katy Trail and would absolutely use the Rock Island Trail.

Even though I don't ride a bike this is a fabulous idea! Anything to encourage people to get outside to enjoy our beautiful state is a good thing. If there are restaurants and hotels in the towns along that trail they will surely benefit from increased traffic.

I think this idea is an awesome use of something that is not currently being used. It would be wonderful to have something close that my family and I could utilize for safe exercise.

Conversion of Rails-to-Trails would be a win for all midwestern citizens and visitors. It's an efficient and environmentally friendly. I love the Katy Trail and look forward to riding on the Rock Island Trail soon. Please Governor and Legislators, support this conversion project!"

I think it is a great idea and I support this project. Mid Mo is becoming a destination for many cyclists. This would also bring revenue and awareness of many small towns along the route, which would benefit local economies. I know there is great support in the local communities, as well.

Simply put, there are few public amenities that cross age and class and even political lines than do Rails to Trails. When I picture Missouri in 5-7 years WITH the Rock Island Trail, I see a state that has invested in the future and has invested in public goods that simply cannot be provided by the private sector.

If we don't build that trail, what have we gained? This state under-invests in just about everything but prisons. It's gonna cost some money but lordy this is such a parsimonious, skinflint state that it's depressing to imagine.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Missourians! Please support this effort

This would really benefit Missouri tourism. I love the Katy Trail and this would be a wonderful addition!

Hoping the Rock Island trail goes through

Would love to see it use multi functional....some for horseback and bicycles. We, in the horse world spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on trucks, trailers, feed, vet care etc...and plenty of taxes, not just a mere couple hundred dollars on bikes...Sedalia allows horses

Yes, please do this. It would be so great for bicyclists, and really pull in the tourists. No other state in the union has this sort of resource, and making it a full loop would boost it from a national attraction to an international attraction.

While it is sad to see the US losing railroad lines. It is great that we are gaining bicycle and other human powered trails. I think it is great to stop in small towns, each with their unique offerings.

I LOVE the idea. I ride the Katy trail all the time. I'm from the Union but currently live in Creve Couer. I would love to retire in the Union / Beaufort area. Living next to a trail similar to the Katy trail is my dream.

I have been on the Katy trail since the start. I have seen the positive changes it has made to the local community. New businesses and services - so many positive changes. To have a trail that is not overly affected by river flooding is a real plus. Please sign the agreement

I do not see a survey here but I am in favor of developing this trail

All for this! Should be exciting!

I am in favor of doing whatever it takes to add the Rock Island Trail to Missouri's recreational trails. We need all the trails we can get.

I drive from Lee's Summit to Pleasant Hill to access the RIT a few times a week. I have logged over 150 miles on the trail in July 2017 alone. I look forward to being able to visit my friends in Stover, MO, by riding the trail, soon. I fully support the RIT expansion.

Great use for unused railway. I'll travel from Iowa to use the trail and spend dollars in your state. Got for it!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail corridor! Good for the communities along the trail and good for Missourians and Missouri's tourism trade.

I grew up in the area, it would be a great trail through some beautiful areas. It would also be supportive to local businesses, and provide out-of-towners, and locals, access to view and experience new areas around them.

Please support the bike riding and hiking citizens of Missouri by endorsing the completion of the Rock Island Trail. This new trail will also draw outdoor enthusiasts from other states which will be a boom to our economy!

The Katy Trail has proved to be a huge asset for the state of Missouri and for the small towns it passes through. The Rock Island Trail, from the Kansas City area through much of the state would do the same for other communities. People come from all over the country to walk or bike these trails. As a rule, they are good people and do not trash or damage the trails. They are fine ambassadors, enhancing the reputation of the Show-Me State and providing economic support for small businesses in villages across the state. I urge the governor to support the offer of Ameren to donate the land to the state for this opportunity.

I strongly support the development of the Rock Island Trail. I feel safer and have more fun riding trails in Missouri rather than riding on its roads. Many others also enjoy the trails but there can never be enough of them in our state. Let's not be content with just one long distance trail, the Katy. Let's add 144 more miles to that and give our citizens more healthy recreational activities.

I STRONGLY support the Rock Island Trail Project. Please move forward on this project!

Please allow horses on this trail. There are not a lot of places for folks to go with their horses to ride and there are a lot of people who would use it for horseback riding. Horseback riders are expected to share their trails with hikers and bikers, now it's their turn to share with us.

I'm thinking of riding this as a loop. I'm sure I'll spend at least \$300. Trails are the future and the future is here. Very important to establish this trail system.

I think it would fantastic to change the rail to a trail.

Please accept the Rock Island trail. It sounds like a great trail for our family to use.

Please authorize the aquisition and construction of the Rock Island Trail Project...thank you.

I support the Rock Island Trail and I hope and pray that the Missouri government will too!

Please accept the next 144 miles of the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project

Please allow horsebackriding. With signage clearly stating who has right of way

I think DNR should definitely enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement and develop the Rock Island Trail into another coveted Missouri recreation destination. People from all over the country already travel to Missouri to experience the beauty and history of the Katy Trail, and that will only increase with the Rock Island addition to our now-legendary trail network. There is another benefit, as well, that may seem far-fetched right now, but not necessarily so far-fetched in the future. As I recall, studying civil engineering in my undergraduate courses at Rolla, the intent of the Rails-to-Trails Act was to preserve the abandoned rail corridors in case our great nation ever needed them again for rail transportation. Well, with the development of the Hyperloop, I'm thinking the day may not be too far off when these corridors may once again be called back into service for large scale movement of people and goods. Preserving another transportation corridor between our two largest cities just makes good sense.

Please vote yes for this agreement.

This is a very worthy project for my Tex dollars to fund. Please back it so our cyclists can safely go cross county.

Please accept this trail! Make it happen! I want to ride it!

Missouri needs more recreational gems to give both residents and tourists a reason to appreciate our State! The KATY Trail success story proves that great benefits to all result from rail to trail projects.

New business opportunities also develop for communities along trail routes! It is of utmost importance that projects like this be given firm support from our political leaders. As Governor, you will do well to add your support to facilitate the Rock Island Trail Project.

I personally have enjoyed the Katy Trail both on day trips and overnight excursions. I know folks who have visited from other states and I have met riders along the trail from foreign nations. They were attracted to Missouri by the expectation of riding the trail.

I fully support adding the Rock Island Railroad corridor to our Missouri trails. It is a wonderful resource that everyone can afford to use. Additionally, it is revitalizing small towns along the way that dried up over the past years. It is truly a project that benefits the entire state of Missouri.

Horrible idea. Lets build a north south corridor. Crazy to think that this trail won't take away from existing Katy businesses. If its so popular use private funds. Hate to see government expand into more of the same. I love rails to trails but really a bad idea.

This would be a great trail. I am in full support of developing the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please approve the Rock Island Trail!

Please do this project.

Please accept the gift of the Rock Island Trail. Please please accept a gift of the rock Island trail.

It would be a safe way to travel both for myself and a healthy alternative for my family.

I am in FAVOR of developing the Rock Island Trail Project from Windsor to Beaufort. There are so many economic, social, physical, and psychological benefits for these small towns along the proposed trail. The mere thought of such a trail is breathing new life, excitement, and inspiration into the towns and the people living, working, and residing in these areas. What better use of an abandoned "has been" rail corridor;) I can not imagine. The whole idea makes me smile. And I can't wait for it to be completed!

Fantastic way to open our state up to more tourist dollars.

Yes, I support the Rock Island Trail Project.

Great for the state, will be a monumental addition to the park system

The proposed Rock Island Trail will be an economic boon for all the communities it passes through as well as offering the citizens of those communities recreational opportunities close to home. I know that I would definitely use the trail when it is completed through Owensville as I do not feel comfortable biking on public roads. I urge you to approve the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the gift of the rock island trail. There are many small towns among his trail that will greatly benefit from the use of trail. Trail users will also benefit by getting to see more of their state.

I own property along this trail and from seeing the progress have been very excited about it coming through; my child are equally excited about having a great place to ride their bikes that is close and free from car traffic

I love in one of the small towns it will pass through and I am for this project completion! I don't wanna see farmers lose land but dying small towns need growth and what better way? I don't think it's going to bring crime as some have thought because what criminal thinks 'hey I'm gonna use a walking trail as a way to steal or kill'? Bring the trail on through and let's prove people wrong! How many utilize the Katy Trail daily? How many are tired of the same scene that use it? Let's give them new scenery to see! Thank you.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

We live in Rolla and are really excited about the prospect of having a rail-to-trail linear park for cycling and walking so close to us!

Thank you.

I believe converting this old railroad line to a trail would be a real gift to those who live near it and would definitely draw more use from the Kansas City area. I support this proposal.

Missouri has an opportunity to stay the leading state in rails-to-trails. The addition of the Rock Island trails would keep Missouri well ahead of other states who are adding to their programs.

The trails across the entire state of Missouri are major tourism draws and economic drivers for large and small communities alike. Our economy cannot afford to be 2nd to any other. When it comes to recreational opportunities, destinations cannot grow a mountain, they just cannot add a beach and other monuments are costly. A rails-to-trails program opens up vast portions of our beautiful wilderness to people who would otherwise venture to any of our neighboring state for the experience. Why not keep them recreating in Missouri. Be pro tourism. Be pro recreation. You support economic growth, why not with tourism?

I think this is a great project. Can't wait for the completion. This will be such an economic boost to the rural towns in that area.

Great economic driver for small towns across Missouri. Let's get this done, Gov. Greitens!

If that trail was completed, you can be sure I would be using it, time and again. I would definitely be an asset to this beautiful states recreational sites, and one of the Governors' legacies--just for signing the bill!

This will be a great asset to the 23 small towns along the Rock Island Line. Small businesses will benefit greatly from the trail users and it will cause more business to open, that will cause sales tax to come to the cities, county, and state not to mention the jobs that it will create some of them could be seasonal for high school and college students. I would encourage your support of this state park.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. We have ridden the completed section.

As a bicycle enthusiast I hope you accept the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I have already ridden on the newly opened section starting at Pleasant Hill, and continuing it from Windsor to Beaufort would be a great recreational asset for the State of Missouri that I would definitely use.

I'm a frequent user of state trails. Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I strongly urge you to support the Rock Island Trail. For future generations we must not let this opportunity go by. Missouri is one of the leading bicycle supportive states. The Katy Trail is world famous and the Rock Island will be too. Please support the Rock Island State Park.

I would love to see them enter into this agreement. This would only benefit the entire state. Getting more people out into nature.

Please accept the Rock-Island Trail.

It would: expand tourism and boost local economies, provide more safe recreational activities, enhance our culture by bringing more people from different area together, and

increase public health by encouraging more people to be active.

Please accept the donation of the Rock Island Line from Ameren. Creation of a parallel rail to trail park to the Katy Trail will be a wonderful resource for our state.

I ride the Katy Trail often. I have been a Katy Trail volunteer. Many times, I speak with folks from out of state and occasionally folks from other countries (Germany and Canada this year). They all love the Katy Trail and are complimentary on its condition and beauty. With the Rock Island Trail as an added long, scenic and in some places spectacular and unique trail added to the States attractions, I am sure much additional revenue will be drawn to the State and local communities. One suggestion: Add a sign-in register at key locations. Please support the Rock Island Trail!

I am so in favor of developing the trail. I grew up in Owensville MO but have not lived in the area for 30 years. The KATY trail is well known and a desired destination for many in Austin TX. I have personally accompanied at least 30 riders from out of state on the trail. This safe riding areas bring clean tourism to your state helping to support the struggling small town and the people who long to stay and life there.

As a property owner whose property the proposed trail is to run through, I am totally opposed to the opening of the trail for the following reasons:

1. This trail is to run through private property. Just because Ameren was able to acquire the Rock Island Railroad land, this land should not belong to them. Property owners granted an easement for the railroad, not ever Ameren! I view this trail as a total invasion of my rights as a property owner and my personal safety as a citizen! We are already getting people coming onto our land via the trail and our private road to access the trail. This is in spite of the fact that we have multiple "No Trespassing" signs posted. Also, Ameren has said they will install fencing around the trail on our property and that still has not been completed.

2. The cost to make the trail ready for consumers is too high for our state when we have Missouri state employees who are NOT given pay increases and remain the lowest paid state workers in our nation! Also, I think instead of investing millions of dollars into a trail that a small percentage of consumers will use, we should shift our focus to other items such as replacing or repairing roads such as I-70!

I truly believe that the Rock Island Trail will be a positive addition to the trails in the State of Missouri. Taking something that was for years used for profit and turning it into something that is needed for the families, the young and old of Missouri to get outside and use for health, social, and entertainment.

Please support the project just as I supported you in the election, and your ongoing battle you wage for the great state of Missouri.

Our family loves to ride and think this would be an excellent asset to the state of Missouri!

I think this agreement will be rewarding on so many different levels. I personally have witness the excitement the Windsor community exhibited just a month or so ago from the recent dedication of the trail to their town. Not only would Missouri residents be able to enjoy the trail but also offer something to visitors from foreign countries. I especially think the trail would attract Europeans by the thousands. Missouri offers awesome culture, history, scenic beauty, and entertainment value of which the trail system can be an integral part. The economic boost and pride of community would revitalized the small town communities directly linked to the trail. A system eventually linking St. Louis to Kansas City with a network of side trails to other parts of the state would bring the world to Missouri for unique experiences other no where else. I see a substantial amount of employment opportunities would be realized directly linked to the trail system. Bottom line, the benefits far exceed the expense and sacrifices necessary for making this happen.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

We spend a lot of time traveling to, and biking trails in the Midwest. We buy gas, food, supplies, and hotels wherever we go. Most rail trails go through small towns, with those of us using the trails supplying much needed commerce for these towns, and we are happy to do it. Please reconsider continuing the work on the Rock Island Trail.

I believe the proposed Rock Island Trail is a great opportunity to continue to expand the outstanding trail network available in Missouri. As a frequent user of the Katy trail I would enjoy this new addition. I frequently tell out of town visitors about the wonderful Katy trail and how it has allowed trail side communities to experience a growth in tourism and and business.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity that cannot be missed.

I support the DNR entering into an agreement to develop the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the rock island trail. Tourism is one of the biggest economies in the world right now.

DNR should enter into a trail use agreement to facilitate further work on the Rock Island Trail. It is a worthwhile effort for millions of Missourians and visitors to our state.

I support this agreement. It's a great move forward for MO.

I fully support this agreement. Rails to trails projects provide so much individual and family enjoyment. I have also personally experienced the wildlife that forages on the trail at dusk. I will have that wonderful memory forever. If you would like to enhance the lives of human beings, you will support this too.

Bicycle Trails bring tourism. I live in New Jersey. My husband and I have been riding the trail from Pittsburgh to Washington DC for the past several years. This year we've decided to ride the trail from Kansas City to St Louis. It looks like a fun trip. Can't wait. Hopefully the first time of many.

Rail trails have provided my wife and I with safe, healthy locations for exercise, opportunities to enjoy nature, and chances to meet others who share walking, biking and running activities. We have experienced rail trails in other states and have seen, first hand, the types of families these trails draw, in addition to the rapid growth of the local economy in areas through which these trails traverse. Landowners and municipalities potentially crossed by this new trail - and the state of Missouri - would be advised to study the positive impact rail trails have had across the country. There is, in my opinion, little downside to supporting and financing such a venture.

Please consider this wonderful opportunity to provide continuous Recreation for our state. This will provide, hundreds of thousands of people the chance to enjoy nature from a hands on perspective, not to mention the health and Welfare benefits to the people of the great state of Missouri, THANK YOU!!!

Finish it

I support the Rock Island Trail and I hope you will, too

With the expansion of cities into areas formerly in the "country," equestrians are losing places they used to be able to ride. I would support development of this trail project!

Please enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement for the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please support the Rock Island Trail. It supports health of individuals and also the economy of the areas it passes through

Develop the Rock Island Trail.

We need something in Springfield Mo. There is 500,000 people in the Springfield Metro Area, and no park system of MO DNR's within fifty miles.

Please accept the Rock Island Railroad corridor

The addition of the rock island trail to the existing Missouri Katy Trail would create a vast unrivaled trail network in Missouri that would attract tourism nationally as well as internationally. There are not many places in the US where you are able to enjoy over 400 miles of natural beauty while on a safe, dedicated, secluded trail, free of traffic. The revenue it brings to the small, often forgotten railroad towns along its right of way pumps life and spirit back to these small towns. The addition of the Rock Island Trail to the Katy Trail would create a true ecotourism treasure for both the State of Missouri and our nation.

I support efforts to establish the Missouri Rock Island Trail and hope that the Department of Natural Resources will pursue this agreement. I believe it will be good for the citizens of Missouri and for state tourism.

I support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will, too!! Patti Lewis

I am an avid cyclist and ride parts of the trail every week. I know people that have actually started riding because of the trail being a nice safe place to ride. I live in Pleasant Hill and every day I see cars coming into town with one or more bikes on their cars. I am sure this brings money to our town. I think any town that the trail goes through benefits. Thank you for all you have done and I look forward to seeing the rest of the trail completed.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Its benefits to local economies along its length, as well as to the health of Missouri's public, will pay many long term dividends.

Please accept the incredible offer of the Rock Island 144 miles of abandoned track! It would not only be an excellent boost to the local health and well-being of members of communities that live nearby, therefore lowering the cost of health care and mental health in the future, but would help create a culture of healthy living. While I live in Nebraska, I just rode through 20 miles of very rural rails to trails (MoPac halfway between Lincoln and Omaha). There were local teenagers (3) walking together and not on their cell phones--actually talking to each other (which I never see any more, kids walking and kids talking, no ear buds even), several small groups of farming wives, and even a farming couple (my dad and Grampa were farmers, Grampa in Worth County MO actually, by Grant City and Denver and Allendale--farms still in the family)--something I never would have seen my grandparents doing! Furthermore, we have had a LOT of chatter here in Lincoln where we have access to 150 miles of trails, some leading to Iowa and another to Kansas, of the excitement to plan trips to MO to travel the New 144 mile section when you complete it! Kansas is famous for the Dirty Kanza and Nebraska is famous for their tour de Nebraska and the BRAN, Iowa has RAGBRAI. MO has Branson--a place to watch shows and drink--, or the Ozarks--a place to ride boats fast and drink. It's not known for healthy living--but together with your trail along the Katy Trail, you could be the PREEMINENT rails to trails state in the Midwest!!!! And become one of the healthiest states in the middle of the country with the lowest obesity and health care cost rate!!!

I would ride that trail in a heartbeat! Be forewarned thinking! Accept the amazing gift and look toward the future!!!

Please accept this trail.

As populations increase we will need places for people to get away and relax. Along with a beautiful get away come bike tourism dollars and small business opportunities along the small towns that are slowly dying.

Please take this trail, I am ready to ride it and bring some out of state friends with me with their money.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I think it is a great idea and would promote bicycle tourism. It also helps make healthier communities by providing a safe place for walking, running and biking.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Trails are great for tourists and we spend money in your state to visit fine rail-trails like the Katy. Rock Island would make it even better.

"Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Yes, yes, yes! Do it. The Katy Trail is a marvelous amenity and a destination for tourists. We cycled it from Sedalia to St. ChRles in 2003 and want to return, probably more than once if you add the Rock Island. This is a no-brainer for Missouri.

I rode my bike across the wonderful state of Mo 4xs via the Katy trail. and to put it bluntly, i spent mega bucks along the way; staying in campgrounds, eating in local restaurants, stopping for groceries and the occassional beer. The Rock island corridor would be a welcomed addition to the marvelous trail system Mo has in place already. Not to mention a great addition to the nation's rail to trail network.

Please make the Rock Island Trail a reality. I have no other reason to visit Missouri, and I promise that this trail, in conjunction with the existing Katy Trail, will make your state a destination for myself and other bike tourists.

I am an avid hobby cyclist. The Katy Trail is easily the most important resource to me as a Missouri resident. Adding another trail would show the state of Missouri believes in preserving our natural resources and encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the trail! Its gonna be fun!

What a great opportunity to add to the great trails of Missouri. We are from Nebraska and ride the Katy trail. Love helping the small towns as we stop along our rides. Adding another trail will only benefit these small towns! It's healthy and wonderful being outdoors. Make the right choice. Add to the trails!

Please move forward with the conversion. Converting the trail will afford boundless recreation opportunities as well as fostering health and fitness. If the trail is built endless memory will be created along the way. The trail provides yet another way to display the unparalleled natural beauty of the State.

I am strongly in support of the Rock Island Trail project! The Katy Trail has greatly benefitted the communities that border it and the people who use it. It would be awesome to provide our state's citizens with another trail to enjoy and attract riders and tourism money to our state. Please move forward with this project!

This trail is an awesome opportunity to make Missouri THE international bicyclist destination, particularly with the connection opportunities to the Katy Trail. The economic development and jobs growth potential is phenomenal. As someone who grew up in rural Missouri, I know how important these jobs and recreation opportunities are to people in these small towns. Please, please make sure that this happens and the sooner the better!

Thank you,
Andrew Murray

I support development of the RTIP and would make a point of traveling to the Great State of Missouri for a multi-week bicycle tour of the Katy Trail and the RTIP. The proposed new trail would make for a great long loop and provide businesses along the trail a great opportunity for receiving my (and many others) Sports-Tourism money. For the average Joe, this combination would extend our stay from one week on the Katy to two weeks on both.

Governor, bicycle touring is the new golf and this combination would be one of the longest round-trip rail trails in the country, making it a must do ride for thousands of very nice cyclists.

I'd love to see this happen. I have traveled to Missouri (from Wisconsin) several times to do multi-day rides on the Katy trail. While that's been a wonderful experience, it's not ideal because either you have to retrace your route or you need to get picked up or dropped off at one end. Not only would a new trail provide another great experience, but with a little road riding one could plan a nice loop trip that would not require the being dropped off or picked up. I really think this would significantly increase the tourism dollars spent by cyclists in Missouri.

Please accept and value the Rock Island Trail! Missouri has the chance to become a true and recognized vacation and biking destination spot, bringing revenue and new business. I live in Illinois but am planning a trip on the Katy Trail soon. I would be taking Amtrak to Kansas City, then riding back across Missouri, staying in motels or bes and breakfasts, eating in local restaurants, then riding back to my home. Without good bike trail access from Kansas City to the Katy Trail, this kind of plan is less likely to happen.

As a bicycle tourist, I'm thrilled with the prospect of a Rock Island Trail. It would certainly be one of my upcoming trips, and I'm a slow cyclist who would make full use of the lodging/dining/sightseeing opportunities - and more than likely spend more than my budget will be happy with. I fully support the project.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and hope you will support the Rock Island Trail and accept the Rock Island corridor from Ameren later this year.

You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. We in Texas only wish we could get our state to so just one trail. Please don't turn this down. I love Missouri and can't wait to cycle the wonderful trails and roads.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail !!

I would love to come to Missouri to ride it.
Thanks.

I am an avid cyclist and adding this stretch of trail to the existing Iowa and Missouri network would be great for tourism and local recreation.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Recreational trails like this are almost impossible to create unless they are converted from old railroad right-of-ways and once that right-of-way is gone, it'll never be available again (because no official would

want to use eminent domain to claim land for recreation). This is a priceless gift I'd encourage you to accept! Even if it's not all converted right away, accept it and convert it as funding is available!!!

Trails like these bring people to your state from surrounding states to spend money too!

Please don't let this golden opportunity slip away!!!

Please accept this trail! It is worth millions to the great state of Missouri. I will come and ride it when it is ready, and spend my tourist dollars there.

I did so three years ago on the Katy Trail, and would like to do this new one as well. These two trails together will make Missouri the bicycle touring capital of the USA!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail !

I competed in the MR340 last year. the Katy Trail is on my bucket list for bicycling in addition to a visit to the WW1 museum in KC. the Rock Island Trail would give me yet another reason to visit the wonderful state of Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

My wife and I often make a weekend out of riding on the Katy Trail by staying the night at a B&B. Having additional trails will help bring people to spend \$ in small town with poor economies. We often run into people on the Katie who are from out of town and even out of the country. Again this could mean revenue for these small towns which in turn equates to tax revenue.

As cycling grows as a tourist industry, infrastructure to support it is critical. Adding this trail will increase tourism and a healthy alternative to car travel.

What a great idea!

Of course we should build this trail! As a frequent user of the Katy Trail I am fully aware of it's benefits to the communities along it, tourism dollars are brought in from not only all over our country but other countries as well.

It is a safe enjoyable way to ride your bicycle and walk in the beautiful Missouri country side away from cars and roads. The Katy trail has proven to be a great asset to Missouri, I don't feel there is any other answer but YES to continuing this great project of The Rock Island Rail Trail for Missourians and the nation.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Greetings,

I've been utilizing the KATY Trail every year for the last 5 years and hope to see the Rock Island Trail developed. These trails not only draw in people from out of state for tourism, but also draw in-state people to keep more of their tourism dollars at home. There are additional health and other benefits that are difficult to properly monetize.

Thanks!

This would be a wonderful addition to the outdoor venues that Missouri has to offer it's residents and visitors. Please add the trail to our other jewel, the Katy Trail.

Thanks

John

I support accepting the trail use agreement. It will make Missouri a national Leader in bicycle tourism and benefit the states economy. I for one will travel from Virginia with family and friends to ride it.

Any land use that finds purpose for otherwise useless land is a good one. I encourage the promotion of the Rock Island Corridor for a bike trail.

I've ridden the KT many times solo self-supported, and with larger groups. The Rock Island will be a marvelous addition to the bike path system in Missouri, my home state.

The Rock Island trail would be a superb addition to Missouri's park system and provide economic development opportunities to rural Missourians. Thank you.

This would continue to make Missouri one of the premier destinations for cyclists across the country and hopefully abroad. Please make this happen.

Gov. Greitens, Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project.

I wholeheartedly support this imitative for our state! What a great opportunity to expand our current Rails-to-Trails support to all Missourians who walk, run, or pedal!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Corridor donation from Ameren as a Missouri State Park. The larger the trail system, the farther people will travel to visit it and the longer they will stay. With the Katy Trail and Rock Island Trail together, Missouri will have a trail system that will be the envy of the world and that will bring travelers from all over the world--even more than currently visit the Katy Trail.

This internationally significant trail system, benefitting communities across the heart of Missouri, will be a major part of Governor Greitens' legacy. I love riding my bike on trails and would be sorely disappointed to lose this great opportunity to increase them across the state.

Past history has shown that people of Missouri use trails like this and we continue to develop where we can. It also makes a great statement nationwide for the State of Missouri.

I am in favor of the Rock Island trail development.

This is a great opportunity to increase the miles of biking and hiking trails in Missouri. The KATY Trail has shown how a bike trail like the Rock Island Trail can become an economic catalyze for those areas the trail runs through. It will increase tourism in this State just as has the KATY Trail.

I see this as WIN-WIN situation for the citizens of Missouri. We can not pass up this great opportunity to improve the livability and economic rewards the Rock Island Trail has to offer to the State of Missouri.

I wholly support having the Department of Natural Resources enter into as Interim Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept and complete construction of the Rock Island Trail Project as soon as possible. I know so many people that are so anxious to be using this trail for biking and hiking. Please put Missouri on the map with multiple fitness trails spanning the entire State!

This is a great idea and will make Missouri a destination for bicyclists all over the country and provide a great amenity for bicyclists in Missouri.

The Katy Trail is helping small town already. The Rock Island Trail will do the same.

Please develop this trail.

I think it is awesome that all this land will be given for a 144.3 mile long recreational trail. I recently had the the opportunity to ride the Michelson Trail (109 miles) in South Dakota and it was fabulous. I would certainly ride this trail. In my local town we are begging for the railroad to donate property so we can build a trail. If they are offering, you should definitely be accepting!!!

The KATY shows the value to Missouri and the residencesb And the main tourists that visit our state, the Rock Island adds to that special value

Please accept donation of the Rock Island Trail Project. The Katy trail has been a great asset for Missouri. Another cross state trail would add great synergy to our trail system.

Thank you, [REDACTED]

Please accept the trail gift. Check out what Wis. has done and the econ benefit those countries have received.

A must save corridor and an opportunity to boost the economy of small towns such as Beaufort, Gerald, Rosebud, Belle, Bland, Eldon An opportunity to have an all weather trail that is not subject to flooding and transects the heart of the Ozark mountains. This should not even be a question of support.

I fully support the development of designated trails across Missouri. The value they add are beyond recreational activity. Biking/Hiking trails provide opportunities for tourism, entrepreneurship, and safe and economical transportation. Please support the Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

Having a trail that joins with the katy to just about traverse the entire state is awesome. And being able to explore even more of the state's rural beauty would be even better! Please accept the Rock Island rail corridor!

Please support the Rock Island Trail.....

Make Missouri a destination state for family biking & hiking enthusiasts.

Enhance opportunity for local economic growth for small business along the trail to support trail users.

Additional potential for events similar to Pedaler's Jamboree and BAM (Bike across Missouri). These events draw hundreds/thousands each year which in turn brings \$\$ to our local businesses and local/state tax revenue.

I am beyond excited to hear of this trail being added to the trail system in Missouri. We are making plans to ride the Katy Trail next year and this now is consideration for staying longer. Adding this 144 mile trail makes Missouri the premier biking destination for local, national and international bikers. The towns along this trail will benefit as will the whole state. We are from Missouri originally and now live in Texas. This trail will bring in more people and money to Missouri. What a great addition!!! Grab it while you can.

Dear Governor, please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Couldn't be more hopeful that this project comes to fruition. Would be an amazing asset to the areas it passes through. Can't wait to see the finish project and hope it happens soon. 100% in favor!

This could bring good commerce into our state.

I fully support converting the Rock Island Railroad corridor to a recreational trail. I have lived near St. Louis for 30 years and have often hiked and biked many different sections of the Katy trail. I have observed the economic benefits to many small communities along the trail. Many of these small towns were declining and near extinction. The trail has created many new business opportunities and given new life to these small towns. It seems there is an overwhelming consensus that the Katy Trail was a great success.

I hope the state moves quickly to accept and develop the Rock Island Trail. This will boost the recreational and business opportunities for many towns along the path. Lets repeat the success of the Katy Trail.

Our family and our friends all love the trail system here in Missouri and we are especially fond of the Katy Trail. We have traveled from end to end and love it. The idea of another trail that spans over 144 miles in thrilling to consider. We have met many people from all across the country as we have hiked the Katy Trail and we know it is one of Missouri's MANY natural resource assets.

We are asking you to ACCEPT THE GIFT from Ameren and develop the Rock Island Railroad corridor into a 144.3 mile long recreational trail from Windsor, MO, to Beaufort, MO. We look forward to exploring Missouri's newest trail!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I am sure that this project, just like the existing Katy trail, will be economically beneficial to our state and that time will prove that the concerns of its detractors were unwarranted.

Yes!! Please add another trail. I love the Katy Trail and have a business along it's corridor. We encourage all of our customers to use the park and the Trail. Adding another long Trail would bring the opportunity for even more small business to succeed. Thank you

Between 20 to 50 years from now people will say what forethought we had. The economy and community that will grow from this action will be impressive relative prospects without.

I have seen firsthand the impact that the Katy Trail has had on downtown St. Charles and St. Charles County. The trail generates a lot of foot traffic and tourism dollars. Most importantly, these types of trails get people out of their house to get some exercise, something that is sorely needed especially in Missouri...

Please we need the Rock Island trail project. It will mean so much for businesses along the Katy trail in Owensville, Mo. Restaurants have already been bought along with a bicycle shop in anticipation of the trail opening. We need the economic development in our town! Thank you.

I support expansion of the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I strongly support the idea of the Rock Island Trail. My family has used the Katy Trail for many years and many trips. We look forward to a more extensive and interesting trail along the Rock Island line. It is closer to home and will be more accessible to us.

Please do not let this trail get away. What a great opportunity for Missouri to leap to the top of bike trail experiences. I have bike the Katy Trail 12 times and will be back for more. I am hoping some day Texas will wake up and get its own Katy Trail. And now Missouri has the chance for two great biking/hiking/equestrian attractions. Keep the Rock Island!! It will only give Missouri more bragging rights.

Please make this trail segment happen! I have ridden a road bike across the entire state of Missouri - through the Ozarks - and our state is a beautiful and challenging place to ride. I would love to be able to ride across it on a trail! Missouri is truly becoming a destination for cyclists and this will expand that attraction and promote a healthy lifestyle for Missourians.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Missourians love our outdoors and it's healthy, too.

I am totally in favor of the Rock Island Trail going from Windsor, MO to Beaufort, MO. My wife and I are active bicyclists, and such a trail would add to the appeal of the Katy Trail by permitting a loop.

A trail like this is such a tourism draw, and would help towns along the trail significantly. From an economic standpoint, it's a great development tool, and has been shown in many places along multi use trails. The chance to receive this right of way should *not* be passed up -- if lost, it cannot be re-created. The DNR should accept the Rock Island right of way.

Thank you.

I strongly urge you to build the Rock Island Trail. I am from Alabama and have traveled to your state two times to ride the Katy Trail. My previous trips included flights into Missouri, five plus days of lodging, transportation, food, and lodging. The Rock Island Trail represents another opportunity for me to return and see more of the state.

On previous outings my extended family, we traveled as a group (7 members) along the Great Allegheny Passage and C&O Canal, for a total 10 days. This trip also included the use of local hotels and restaurants the entire time. The opportunity to provide a safe bicycle riding venue is the first decision in where I and my family decide when selecting an adventure.

I support converting the Rock Island Railroad corridor into the Rock Island Trail. Missouri has the potential to become a cycling and endurance sport enthusiast destination state with this addition.

I'm a cyclist from Lincoln, Nebraska. My wife and I have ridden part of the Katy Trail and loved it. We plan on riding the entire length. I can't think of a better way to use the RI route miles in Missouri than to designate them as a multi-use trail state park.

What a great opportunity. It would be criminal to pass it up. The people of Missouri deserve this trail for promotion of health and well being as well as featuring the beauty of our great state to visitors. The Tour of Missouri bicycle race was lost due to ignorance, let us not repeat bad mistakes. Please support this trail development for the good of our people

This is a wonderful project. It will bring life and some opportunities for economic success for these communities!

We initially saw similar resistance to the Katy Trail, but we have seen the windfall of success occur in the towns along the trail. There is a new awareness of long forgotten whistle stops that were decaying. Now there is new life and new opportunity. Missouri has the ability to set in motion a leadership role to make the Rock Island Trail happen. This is great Eco-tourism and provides a wholesome way to gain exercise, see nature and do a safe family outing with little cost. It is a win-win for the State and benefits everyone. What people feared with the opening of the Katy came to pass as unfounded. We need to continue forward and this is an opportunity handed to us on a silver platter. It will cost money, but it is money well spent.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Return on investment for the KATY trail is very high...this is good for the state and the communities along the route. People from all over the world use the Katy trail. It's a huge draw for Missouri. We have the longest trail in the country, let's not let any other states pass us up!

This is a wonderful idea. We live in SW Missouri and our family loves to ride the Katy trail and support the local businesses there. The addition of a new trail system like the Rock Island will provide us with more destinations and

opportunities to enjoy this fantastic state. Please help make this happen.

I support the Rock Island Trail. I feel that this trail would be a wonderful addition to Missouri and our local area of Beaufort. The recreational trail would allow the people in our area and state access to family recreation and exercise. Please work to see that this project is implemented. Thank you for your consideration of this worthwhile project.

Please support this trail project. It will provide connectivity and opportunities for people to be active improving their physical and mental health. It will also provide new opportunities for small towns along the trail to host trail riders.

I couldn't be more excited to ride the Rock Island trail. As a Columbia resident and frequent user of the MKT and Katy Trails, this represents a real gem in the future of recreational opportunities (and tourism) in our state.

We love walking and camping near the Rock Island Trail. We believe this is a FANTASTIC benefit to Missouri Residents. Also, the RIT brings in additional revenue from out of state to these small communities. WIN - WIN for everyone.

Please except the trail.

We would love to see this rock island trail in place. My friends and I go riding on the Katy trail quite often and would support this trail and the businesses along the trail this would be a great addition to the trails in Missouri. ?????????? I wish I could go to Jefferson City to support this trail I am there in spirit !?????????☀️☐ We live in Krakow MO so this would be close to us to use ????

Please do develop the Rock Island Trail.

I ride the Katy trail almost every weekend and it is getting crowded. Having the additional trail will reduce congestion on the Katy trail.

Thank you very much!

I'm 67 and the trails keep me off the roadways and not a nuisance to drivers. I ride 40 miles three days per week and the trails have saved my quality of life putting strength in my old legs. Another trail will bring more restaurants and b & bs everywhere the rock Island would be adding another trail for people like me to stay strong and healthy and keeping bikes off of the roadways.

All my family would love having the Rock Island railroad corridor converted to a recreational trail. We would use it constantly as a safe alternative to street cycling. We strongly request your support and approval for this project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It's good for tourism dollars, economic growth, and even can create jobs due to higher sales in local establishments. It's healthy for people and the environment to use trails and can cut down on automobile traffic. People who drive through are less likely to stop and spend money on things that slow moving bicyclist usually purchase. It is not unusual for people like me to commute long distances by bicycle and I enjoy exploring new trails and

always like trying out the local restaurants and businesses along the way.

Please approve this agreement. As a life-long resident of Columbia, the investments in local and state trail resources have made a visible impact in the activity levels of many Missourians. I've met people from all over the world while they are crossing the state on the KATY Trail, but I've especially been impressed by the people I've met from Missouri who've driven to the KATY Trail to enjoy a day of activity and natural beauty with their family in one of their Missouri State Parks. The KATY Trail has proven to be an effective magnet for travelers and locals to visit and enjoy Missouri and it is still being proven as a tool for economic development.

The Rock Island Railroad corridor will add SO MANY dimensions to the trail system in Missouri. The connectivity it provides to the KATY trail will multiple the value of both resources and truly establish Missouri in a leadership position in a unique part of outdoor activity, natural resource enjoyment. I'm already excited about the opportunities this will offer for uniquely-Missouri "loop rides".

Please don't let this opportunity pass, and thanks for all you do to make Missouri State Parks such an enjoyable resource for all of us.

Useful resource, minimal cost as grass root organizations will provide the infrastructure set up

This will be a great benefit to our state. I use the Katy Trail and it really is amazing that I can run or bike for so long through such a pretty landscape. I've met many tourists on the Katy who came here specifically to bike the trail. I've dined at many of the restaurants in tiny remote towns solely because I was on the trail. The economic benefits of the Katy will also occur on the Rock Island Trail. It will be a boon to the state and revitalize the rural areas it touches.

Several friends and I are planning to bike the entire Katy in a few months. If the Rock Island Trail comes to be, we'll have to bike all of it too. We are by no means biking enthusiasts so if we do it, many others will be ahead of us.

Please approve the Rock Island Trail Project.

There is so much good that can happen in these communities if the trail goes through. These towns were thriving when the railroad was there. Many of these towns could use the revitalization that the trail could provide. I am looking forward to riding my home town of Eldon. Thanks.

I am retired, a recent convert to cycling, and 100% in favor of preservation of this resource. It makes economic sense and is a wonderful draw to our state.

Please provide me miles to safely bike away from tweeters and well into the zen of Mo.

This is an opportunity to expand what the State of Missouri has to offer.

This is a tremendous opportunity to expand tourism and breathe life into small towns in the middle of the state. The state of Missouri bends over backwards to provide tax abatements to corporations that offer jobs. This project has the

potential for far greater economic growth. The Katy Trail has been a life saver for many towns. The Rock Island Trail can do the same.

I am strongly in support of the rails to trails project for the rock island railway. I own a farm just outside of Meta and will be retiring there in the next few years. I am looking forward to having such a wonderful place to ride my bike. I have utilized the Katy trail since I moved to Jefferson City in 1992.

Please reckons the MORIT using the land Ameren wishes to donate. I enjoy having safe trails to bike...

This is a positive for all towns involved there should be no hesitation or question! It needs to be done!!! ASAP

I live on the Columbia spur of the Katy Trail. We have, in the past year, met cyclists crossing Missouri who come from England, China, and Poland, and all over the country. Having the 400 mile loop opportunity will only increase the interest in coming here for long bike rides or hikes. The state nearly chose not to create the Katy Trail, and look what a wonderful resource that has been for the state! Let's not miss this opportunity!

Yes, please create the Rock Island Trail.

Use the Katy Trail as an example and the benefits it has brought to the State, Economy, and Citizens. The nay-sayers to the Rock Island Trail can be addressed by the ACTUAL positive experience of the Katy Trail. Use history to consider plans for the future and quit recreating the wheel. Proceed with the Rock Island Trail.

I am excited about it. My husband and I are looking forward to biking and walking the trail. I would love to see historical information about the railroad as it was in the area as it goes through the old line. Example of pictures of the towns, what the depots, general store etc looked like. Historical information as to what the trains provided the towns.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. The small towns along the trail need the economic boost. And Missouri needs the tourism money.

Please Support the Rock Island Trail Project.

We enjoy the Katy Trail and are loving the connections with the Rock Island Trail! My husband I have had the pleasure of enjoying the newly open trail at Pleasant Hill. Keep this going!

This is a wonderful idea

I think we need this trail. Please accept.

Please ensure horses are allowed to use all additional 144 miles of the Rock Island Trail.

I am a member of the Eldon Rough Rides Saddle Club, and we are willing to adopt a portion of the trail to assist in cleaning and maintaining.

There are sections of the trail that should also allow Amish to drive their carts on to get them off the dangerous sections of road such 52 highway.

This is a win, win for everyone.

Please allow horses on this trail.

Occasional signs showing correct right of way for each group (pedestrian/equine/bicycle) I do all three and it never fails to amaze me how many people do not understand the correct way to pass an animal.

Hitching posts.

add a few campsites in the park(s), which is connected to the trail, and convert some of the stalls to accommodate horses.

Parking big enough for trailers - the park at Lake of the Ozarks has the WORST "trailer" parking I have ever seen. Barely big enough for anyone to get in and out safely.

Equestrian campground and use would be a great revenue for the city as well as a great new addition for the equine community. Having more trails in our own state would be amazing.

Please leave it open for equestrian use, great access for all to get along

Please allow horses and horseback riding on this trail. Thank you.

Please consider equines in plan for trail riding. There are so many opportunities that could emerge from this with 4H and FFA group involvement that would not only engage our youth but promote community support. There is a huge opportunity to promote awareness through our youth and to engage youth involvement in supporting trail maintenance along with building a sense of community. When children and animals are involved, the whole family and community come together.

The addition of campsites and stalls at trailhead sites would be a great addition for horseback riders!

Would be great to allow horses as well. Kansas did this and it is working out really well

It is import to consider equestrians as well as cyclists when creating this trail. Certainly equestrians should have just as much access to the same state funded trails.

Please make this trail equestrian useable as well as condider putting in some camping areas and pens or stalls. We would ride this often.

This would be an excellent thing for horse riders from all over, would bring economic growth to the area.

I agree it should be done. My family are avid horseback riders. We would enjoy new trails. We would also spend money in fuel and more equipment, which in turn puts more revenue in the state.

Campsites, both primitive and electric, in several spots on the trail would be great, as well as stalls. Hitching rails would also be a great addition

I think adding a few stalls and overnight camping at the trailhead and end would be amazing, horse people are very

conscious of the environment and leave nothing behind that isn't organic (lol),

Would love to see equestrian access in public parks. Promotes "getting outdoors" and supports constituents (most horse owners are registered voters)

Please consider allowing horses on trails.

Please, please don't discount the impact of the equestrian travel, camping, competitive, and recreational industries on the future of these types of agreements and developments. We are out here numbering tens of thousands of individuals looking for new and interesting places to visit, overnight, and ride our horses. We might be attracted by the handful or by the hundreds for competitive (endurance) events. We appreciate the history, peace, and beauty of these potential trails and are for the most part extremely conscientious and safety-minded. We acknowledge the need to considerately share and maintain these precious paths from the past into the future.

As a Missouri resident, I would love for the Rock Island Trail to be multiuse including horse riders, bicyclists, and hikers

this additional trail will be a HUGE benefit to the small towns along the route, & Missouri's status as a cycle touring destination when combined with the Katy, and the Great River's Greenway. Let's make this happen!

I wholeheartedly support this trails effort. Please keep in mind that emphasis on the public good is a part of the state motto.

Trailer parking for horse riders. Maybe even camp spots and stalls or high line areas for overnight.

Please consider making it accessible for horses and bikes!

If the original agreement was to return the land to the owners once the railroad would gone, I'd mostly love to see some accountability and see that happen. Too often, it doesn't. If that's not the case, I'd love to see this open to horses, as well. The equestrian economy in this state is tremendous, and offering more places will only continue that trend.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I had thought Rock Island was already a state park. DNR needs to finish the job and do this. What a wonderful finish this would be.

We live right on the trail. I know myself and many other have been hoping this would be equine accessible! It will be put to great use! Could bring in possible tourism to the area and raise revenue for local business. Also gives the opportunity for new business. Camping. Hiking. Biking. In the area. We normally have to travel to ride places like the Katy trail and it is often an inconvenience. PLEASE FINISH ROCK ISLAND TRAIL ????

I would like horse back riding to be allowed on the Rock Island RR corridor. Trail riders spend money at local restaurants, feed stores and campgrounds not to mention gas

stations and convenience stores. Horses, bikers and hikers can share the trail, with 144.3 miles, there is enough room for all. Look to the Katy Trail near Sedalia, it is open to horses, bikers and hikers and it works there.

Please make sure that equestrians also have access to your trails. The benefits are as follows:

1. Income for areas around trail head.....gas, snacks, drinks, meals, etc
2. Allows people who are not in good enough shape to walk, run or bicycle the ability to enjoy the trail.
3. The more users on a trail, the better for everyone.
4. These trails go through and by people's property that own horses, so they should be able to utilize them or at least enjoy the sight of the horses going by.
5. Equestrians contribute large sums of money to the economy. If you don't believe this, just own horses and mules. The more places that are open to equestrians, the more people who will ride, which in turn puts more money into our area.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail!

Please open these trails to equestrians. Trails for equestrian use keep getting closed, we'd like someplace beautiful to ride too, just like the bikers and hikers. Equestrians will travel several hours to find nice trails, and add to the local revenue base.

I am not able to make it to the meetings to share my interest in also having Equestrians use the trail. It could be very beneficial for businesses like restaurants to add hitching rails so we could have lunch at their establishment. Also great for FFA and 4H kids to come and have functions. Campsites along the trails would be great too.

Please make available for horse use as well. Thanks

Please accommodate equine use and camping along the trail.

Please develop and complete the proposed Rock Island Trail. The KATY trail has substantial economic benefits for the towns that it runs through, encouraging tourism across Missouri. The Rock Island trail would benefit additional rural communities, and make Missouri the premiere destination for serious biking enthusiasts.

What a tremendous opportunity this is for the State of Missouri.

I think the addition of the Rock Island Trail Project to the Missouri State Park system would be a great move by Missouri. As a cyclist and runner I could foresee the large trail loop created to be a major draw not only for residents, but national and international visitors. People could easily spend a week doing the trail loop.

I would encourage the development of trails along with campsites and stalls for equestrian use. The equestrian community is extensive and many are looking for pleasure trails to ride/camp. This would generate revenue and provide a great privilege to the equestrian and other communities.

I am very much in favor of DNR taking over the trail and it becoming a state park. My family often drive to other state parks to go hiking and we know many others that do the same. Passing up this opportunity would be unfortunate.

Please advocate for horse use trails! We riders are conscience folks & love to get out of the ring for the health & well being of horse and rider alike. You do a great job & this Missourian really appreciates it!!

It makes sense. It makes money for the towns that are along the route. Just ask Kim of Kim's cabins in Windsor. Before the Rock Island trail opened the town of Windsor was a pass through on the Katy from Clinton to Sedalia. Now Windsor is a destination. Why deny this economic opportunity to the small rural towns along the Rock island from Windsor to Washington, MO?

The bike trails create money where no money is being spent now. I road from Kansas across MO this past June on rural roads from the KS line to Pleasant Hill then on to Windsor, MO. At that point I road the Katy all the way to its terminus and then on to Portage De Sioux, MO. Five days and 317 miles and it was great. I also spent money at restaurants, hotels, bike and breakfasts, bike shops and convenience stores across the whole way.... and I am not alone.

We saw amateur, professional and tourists over the entire distance of the trail. The shuttle that dropped me and my friends off in KS had people from Maine, Florida and Washington State with us... We were the only Missourians in the shuttle van.

Bike trails equal tourist dollars

Great opportunity for adding more equestrian trails to the parks system!

I'm totally against it.

(1) It violates the covenant made with the original land owners, when their property was taken, to return their property to them if the railroad was ever removed. If I made such an agreement with the government I would be bound to honor it; the government should be held to the same standard.

(2) Any economic benefits will not flow directly to the government in order to pay all costs to build and maintain it. It will become a perpetual drain on the taxpayer whose funds should be used for higher priority items.

(3) It creates an open-ended license for people to trespass, go to the bathroom, and leave their trash on any land that the trail will cross.

(4) Rules for usage will be very difficult to enforce. It's not like having a Ranger in the park or campground where he maintains a presence and is readily available.

(5) I believe the estimates for the amount of usage it will get have been grossly overestimated.

I would love if these trails were open for equestrian use. I live in Shiloh, IL but frequent the trails across the river in MO.

This sounds like a wonderful project. My husband and I ride and camp with horses all over MO. If you could consider putting in a campground for horseback riders it could be a nice source of revenue.

The thought of 144 miles of new trail in Missouri is very exciting, and I hope this entire trail will be open to horsebackriding. I participated in endurance rides on the Katy Trail and enjoyed the experience immensely but understand that equestrians may use only a small portion of the total trail. A major new trail within an easy drive of St. Louis would be wonderful and greatly appreciated.

I so hope equines will be allowed on the Rock Island Trail. There are many avid equestrians in the state that would love this opportunity!

Would love more access for me, my horse and my friends who ride. Please consider making it equestrian friendly.

This is such an important asset to the state and the people of Missouri. I think the state would be really remiss in not acquiring this for us. As a state, we need to be concerned with the ability of our citizens to have high quality outdoor experiences for their health and emotional well-being. In addition, this resource will be a great asset to tourism and provide many dollars to our economy in the future. If we do not make use of this possibility, it will surely be a mistake.

Trails provide a clean method of travel. I would rather ride a bike to my property outside of Versailles for a short vacation on the lake. Providing you travel w/ company, it can be safe too! There could be rest stops along the way for camping and light supplies, which would bring in a little tax revenue. Also, it requires light forestation, which helps keep our trees rooted and our air fresh! I see no negative consequences of building, expanding and promoting a healthy alternative to driving!

Equestrian trails usage camping spots would be great and generate revenue

It would be a wonderful thing if the trail was opened up to equestrians also with some camping areas with corrals or stalls along the route.

This is a great idea!

I am an avid bicyclist and love to travel by bike. I have ridden the entire KATY Trail at least 7 times since 2007. I spend a lot of time on it near my home two to three times a month in Spring, Summer and Fall; more often in cooler months. I absolutely adore the small towns and businesses along the trail and know how much they rely on trail users for their livelihood. Additionally, I almost always encounter someone who is visiting from outside the state of Missouri, and the majority of them are having a wonderful experience. The addition of more trail that will travel through more towns will bring travelers back several times, it will get more Missourians out participating in healthy activities and enjoying nature, it will give more small towns revenue from trail users. What's not to love about all that? 400 miles of trail puts Missouri on the map as a "go to" destination for outdoor recreation.

We would welcome horse trails!

When you see horse trailers think of the businesses we support: the fuel we buy the food and ice!

We bring friends along with us to ride our horses and mules. Some of us hope to drive their wagons and buggy teams along this corridor!

Would love to have more trails in MO. for riding our horses. Can't get anymore natural n so much freedom than being on the back of our horses in the natural environment !!

Please support the Rock Island Trail Project.

This would be a great expansion for equestrians. We are in Franklin county. And are looking forward to this

I live in Eldon, right across from where the rock island trail will be built. I have three children and would love the opportunity to ride across the street and ride bikes with my kids. We live on a gravel road so this is not something we can do safely without loading all our bikes and driving into town. The trail will make a positive impact on our family and many others in our community.

Horse campsites please. I know a lot of cyclists won't be happy but if you really look at what equestrians spend it's FAR MORE than bikers and hikers. We by 3/4 and one ton trucks, big horse trailers, tires, fuel, food for camping, shoes for our horses, vet services, saddles and such which are pretty expensive, then clothing to wear while riding and we haven't even scratch the surface in what we spend of feed for our horses of grain and hay. A bike purchase with exception of a new chain or tires every now and then pales in comparison to what we spend From spring to fall.
If you would make this trail accessible and usable for equestrians it would greatly boost your local economy up and down the area of access points to this trail.

I am so excited for this project! I am also hoping that the committee working on this project will strongly consider equestrian use on the trail. There is a large economic impact that the many trailriders could bring to these communities along the trail. Camping, point to point riding, use of services could all help to bring income to the state. And in return we get a nice trail on which to ride. Thank you for your consideration.

Please stop wasting money on these stupid trails...if there is no money in the budget for it...don't do it!!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I live about 20miles from the North Jefferson City trailhead, so am a fairly frequent Katy Trail user. I understand and support the idea of 'rail banking' and also I believe that the Katy State park has been good for the many towns along the old railbed that would otherwise be in even worse shape. So, I support the state accepting the Rock Island corridor donation from Ameren to hopefully duplicate the success of the Katy Trail.

PLEASE ACCEPT THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL.

I would ask you to please accept the Rock Island Trail. I have rode the current portion of the RIT and it is a great benefit to

the state of Missouri. As a recent resident of Missouri for over 10 years I would hate to see this opportunity for the state and its residents lose the opportunity to make this trail bigger and better. This amazing trail and new donation will help so many communities to find a new revenue stream and renew interest in some forgotten towns. I think of all the amazing thing that the Katy Trail has done for the state and its small communities and the Rock Island Trail could do the same thing. So I ask you to please accept the Rock Island Trail for the betterment of the state of Missouri, the surrounding states and communities and for all who enjoy the great outdoors. Thank you.

The land should be given back to the landowners since it is no longer being used as it was originally acquired for

Please make the Rock Island Trail happen!

I am in Bowen Missouri. Living in the rural area and having the Rock Island Rails turn into a trail means that my grandaughter and myself will be able to ride together and feel safe. Riding a bike on country roads is not applicable. This is a great thing for families and small towns to reunite. Thank you sincerely.

I would love to see the Rock Island Trail approved.

I am always looking for a place to go riding and camping with our daughters. What better way to see different areas then on the back of a horse. We all see beautiful scenery and our girls learn to be responsible of taking care of their horses and taking care of the land around them.

I think that is a wonderful idea. The trails are providing many people the opportunity to ride out into our rural areas, see how we live and become friends with many. a good way for tax payers to see how monies are spent.

It is good for the health of Missourians and business.

The proposed trail offers exceptional recreational, tourism, and local enterprise opportunities for local and regional impact.

I want to Thank You so much for the Trails! SO good to see Young and Old out enjoying Missouri's Trails by Walking Riding bikes or by Horse back its all good! A good to use our Natrual Resources!

Please complete the Rock Island trail.

This would be a wonderful addition to the park/trail system in Missouri!!

It's a great idea ! My wife & I have visited the towns along the KATY trail several times the last 5 years. How great that is! We eat out, stay at motels & shop at area retail stores .

This trail will be very close to where I live, so I am super excited about it opening soon! I believe you should continue with the construction of the trail, I believe it will be a big

boost for MO. Bicycling is a big activity these days and people will use it alot I believe. The small towns along the trail will also benefit from this trail. I am definitely for the trail!!

Please accept this agreement. It would be a boost to all communities involved along the trail. Thank you!

I would like to see horses allowed on the shared use trails.

IT would be nice to have more options of walking, hiking, and biking trails through out Missouri.

I am enthusiastically in favor of this project for the Rock Island Trail. It will revitalize small towns on its path.

I am for the trail and have supported it for years

I rode the Katy Trail from Clinton to St. Charles and it was one of the most amazing experiences I have had. I spent a week of my time and hundreds of dollars. The Rock Island will provide the same. This needs to be approved and opened as soon as possible. Dont let politics screw this up. This should be a no brainer decision.

I would love to see this proposal come to reality. My wife and I love riding our bikes on the KATY Trail, and can see what a valuable resource that it has added to the State of Missouri. I see that the same can happen with the Rock Island Trail Project, bringing some life back to areas and small towns of Missouri that have become ghost towns and corridors.

Go on rock island ASAP!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I have been looking forward to using the Rock Island Trail as a walking trail. I live just outside of Owensville, walk every morning. Feel it is a good investment for our area

I sincerely hope that horseback riding is allowed on the trail. Riding is a great opportunity for young people to stay out of trouble and the trail would be a great place to encourage safe riding.

I am long time user of the Katy trail and finally this year was able to ride the majority of the trail over Memorial Weekend. (Windsor - Defiance). What I experienced was rather interesting. The majority of the people I met were not from MO and I found out the Katy trail is now on people's bucket list. 25 years ago when the trail first started to open the various segment I did not believe it would be a boom for the small towns, but I am seeing evidence now that it can be. Whether its a small hamburger joint in Portland or a B&B in Hartsburg. Cycling is growing very fast and Missouri has the opportunity to take advantage and become a go to destination. The addition of the Rock Island would make Missouri a cycling destination and give a lot of struggling towns an opportunity to add commerce. Google Top ten cycling trails and Katy is always on the list. The Rock Island would make us number 1.

Hello

I am from extreme SW MO. I actually work in OK. I make a pilgrimage to ride the Katy every 3-4 years. I enjoy the trail and the people. The DNR takes great care of the trail just like they would the Rock Island Trail.

I am going to ride some or the Rock Island trail this fall and the whole Katy. I will be staying at multiple campgrounds and at 2 B&B's. I will also be buying my food from businesses on the trail. I will be getting a shuttle ride from St. Charles to Clinton.

At the very least I will be spending 6 days on the trail and spending about \$450. If the Rock Island project goes through I could easily double that amount. The round trip would bring in multitudes of people from all over the USA and even the world.

Lets make Missouri even better!

Businesses benefit from the trail anyway you look at it.

A Missourian for life.

██████████

Think it is a great idea

That would be incredible!

Not sure if I had filed this before-but very much support the trail creatin

Please please make this open to equestrian use. Equestrians bring a lot of money into an area with a good trail, especially if there is a good horse camping site.

I support trails to rails. Get trucks off of the highways and more trains hauling freight. That saves fuel and tax payer funded infrastructure.

I think it's a bad idea. At least the Katy trail goes along the Missouri river for most of it's length. The Rock Island trail goes through some fairly bland countryside that is not really visually appealing. The cost of restoring and making safe the 3 tunnels and the Osage and Gasconade River bridges would be astronomical and I don't think it is a wise taxpayer investment. I was on the abandoned Gasconade River bridge about 10 years ago and it was in very poor shape back then. I think tax dollars would be more wisely spent on another recreational project that would appeal to a greater slice of the population other than just bicycle riders.

I support this trail! Can't wait for it to be completed!

The trail is great. I like it.

Please develop the Rock Island Trail. This is a worthwhile project. I have been riding the KATY trail since 1993, I do not live near the trail. I drive to the trail, or more appropriately I take advantage of the trail when I am close to it, I am one of those who bring my money and spend it at restaurants and gas stations near the trail. I would do that with the Rock Island Trail as well.

When I am on the trail I meet others that like me are taking advantage of this great park. I have met riders from all over the country and the world. It would be such a unique thing to be able to ride the loop of the KATY and the Rock Island trail, It can only increase the beneficial economic impact to all of

the communities. It would attract other businesses to build more services along the trail, which would in turn attract more riders and walkers.

I would even support adding equestrian use to this section of the trail....

This would be a great win for Missouri. It is easily accessible by virtually everyone in the state from Kansas City to St. Louis.

Yes there is a cost, but once built maintenance would not be as high as with the KATY, since flooding is not as much of an issue.

I love riding the Katy trail. I've ridden the DNR sponsored ride 5 times and I'm sure I'll ride it many more times. I've put 1,000's of miles on my bike on the Katy alone. I would really like to see the trail grow and add more offshoots and extensions to ride and explore. This is a great State Park for Missourians to enjoy the State's great outdoors and escape the fast paced hustle of everyday life. It's very relaxing to ride on a dedicated trail, take pictures, meet others, explore small towns, and restaurants/diners along the way you might not ever have seen otherwise. Many of these small towns have really benefited from all of the riders that pass through their borders.

I am in favor of this project and look forward to enjoying the final product.

Missouri has an opportunity to the creation of the new Rock Island Trail to provide more opportunity for the Missouri citizens to exercise outdoors in the great show me state! Missouri ranks as one of the more obese states in the country! It's incumbent that our civic leaders recognize the importance directions size for the health of its citizens now and in the future!

What a great way to reclaim his stork railroad tracks to allow people to continue to travel along them in enjoy the amazing natural resources that the state has to offer!

As a lifelong Missourian who grew up in mid Missouri, Jefferson City, I hope we can show the rest of the country are intentions to help improve the health and welfare of our citizens! Politically, Missouri is taking to be here the last couple of years and I believe creating this trail will be a positive moment for the state when it most desperately needs positive media coverage.

This proposed project would provide work to local contractors all along the course of the trail. Jobs that are much needed in rural Missouri.

I have ridden the current stretch of the trail from Pleasant Hill to Windsor and enjoyed every minute and mile of the trail. Please consider bringing rural jobs to Missouri by funding this infrastructure project!

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

This addition to the existing trail system will add value for those who ride and economic opportunity for the state and many small town along the path. I am an active user of the Katy Trail and do ride in other states as well. Hope this addition to the trail system will be successful.
Thanks

Walking and biking make for healthy and more productive people. This is a great move! Please come to my area and create more trails.

Another bike trail in mid Missouri would be very good for the economies of towns located along the trail. Despite what some people say/do this is an excellent use of our tax \$. And, yes, an investment for future generations!

I hope that the DNR is successful in entering into the Interim Trail Use Agreement These rails to trails assests provide wonderful resources for Missourians of many different interests. Please do all you can to preserve these one of a kind treasures.

PLEASE get this done. It will boost the economy, presumably help with our obesity issues, and be an incredible addition to our state!

My hope is that the DNR will move forward with the development of this trail. I bicycle the Katy Trail as much as possible and on each ride I am amazed by the absolute beauty of the trail. I love the variety of the Katy Trail and I have no doubt that the Rock Island Trail would be the same. It is more than just the landscape, it is also the people that you meet on and along the trail. I also see a number of businesses that flourish because of these trails. I would love more trails to ride, every ride is an adventure and it is good for ones soul. I am also very impressed as to how the Katy Trail is maintained.

My wife and I often use the Katy Trail, so times with friends, and will definitely use the Rock Island Trail if it is constructed.

Move forward - this would be an incredible asset. Both Missouri and and visitors to Missouri would benefit not to mention the towns along the route. I'm an avid user of the Katy and am very excited about the Rock Island Trail! Bring it on!

We first started riding bicycles again when we moved to Willard Mo. I rode the entire length of the Old Frisco Rail Trail from Springfield to Bolivar many times but mostly on the 8 and 1/2 paved portion. I'm 74 years old and now ride about 200 miles per month. I think the rails to Trails projects are a very important step in keeping our nation healthy. I have also gone to Herman Mo and rode to Jeff City and back on the Katy Trail.

Extending the Rock Island Trail is an absolutely fantastic idea. With its connections to the Katy Trail, it would become a Mecca for cycling tourism. Please support it!

Please don't pass up this extraordinary opportunity to develop the Rock Island Trail. It will complement the KATY Trail and provide more opportunities to ride through Missouri. Just like the communities along the KATY Trail, the communities

along the Rock Island Trail will embrace it and welcome the steady stream of tourists.

We support the Rock Island Trail and urge you to allow the development to continue beyond its current length. We have ridden the Katy Trail from end to end, spending thousands of dollars in the communities of Defiance, Augusta, Hermann, Jefferson City, Rocheport, Booneville, Sedalia and Clinton. An extension of the Rock Island will serve the state with tourist dollars and healthier residents.

My name is [REDACTED] I'm 63 years old. Bike riding is the only thing, as far as exercise goes, that I can do. Please help people like me that want to ride out in nature. Its a beautiful thing.ri

Hundreds of such projects all over the United States and ones here in Missouri have proven time and time again the long term cost / benefit of such rail conversions for all the citizens of a given area . The Katy Trail is living proof of the viability of such projects. Don't understand the 'new politics' of opposition to the development Rock Island Trail but they are simply rehashing false narratives and half truths that time and time again have proven to be false. Think long term and the benefits speak for themselves !

Please complete this Rock Island project for the benefit of all Missourians and visitors. It will be a GREAT addition to our MO trail system and encourage more people to use cycling for both recreation and transportation.

I am all for it! The DNR works hand in hand with MO state parks on the Katy, correct? I'm of the opinion that the Katy is of the most well kept railtrails in our nation! Let me keep working together. The joining of these two trails will make Missouri a destination vacation for cyclists. I have goosebumps.

I strongly support DNR entering into an an Interim Trail Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project. I support making this final agreement which will be huge asset for the State of Missouri.

My wife and I use the Katy trail and would use the Rock island trail a lot. It would help tourism in Missouri and the Ozarks

Yes.

Missouri should definitely build this trail. It will be of very little cost, as Ameren is giving Missouri the land. Also we would have one of the longest trail systems in the world if the trail is built, since it is completes a nice loop with the Katy Trail, which could lead to a major influx in the tourism industry in towns such as Hermann, Columbia, St. Charles, and Jefferson City. For the aforementioned reasons I strongly urge you to build this trail.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]

I do not live in Missouri but have driven 250+ miles to ride portions of the Katy Trail with my family. Also, I have driven

over 500 miles to ride former rail trails in other states including IL, MN and Iowa. (Fwiw I am close to 60 years old) Some of these trails I am planning return visits. It's seems a bit crazy to drive 500 miles to bike 50 miles but that's what bikers do. Of course, we tend to stay one or more nights in area hotels (or other establishments) and spend like normal tourist while on vacation.

If you complete the Rock Island Trail, I can assure you it will be a destination for many people from hundreds of miles away, including myself. I hope you will make this investment so that many people will have the opportunity to use this trail in the decades ahead.

I encourage the DNR working to develop the Rock Island Trail. I am 68 and a bike rider who would use the trail to remain health and fit.

I think this additional trail will have a positive impact for recreation and tourism. I'm an avid cyclist and travel to states where great trail systems exist. I ride portions of the Katy Trail 3-4 times per month. Creating a loop with ths existing Katy Trail and the new Rock Island Trail will mean exciting new opportunities for cyclists, business owners, and communities. It will also create more safe riding opportunities for youth, something that is clearly needed in our state.

Enjoy the use of Missouri rails to trails. From Kansas City there are not many close but it allows us bike ride across the state to experience small town Missouri several times of year. We would embrace the opportunity to have more trails to use in Missouri.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project to be implemented for the state of Missouri

Our family loves bicycle touring, and we support developing more trails in Missouri!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail

I agree that this trail should be completed.

This trail has to be made a priority for Missouri. This trail not only offers potential for communities but also offers outdoor time,in nature,with our families and friends.

I would like to support the development of the Rock Island Trail project. It is and important public resource that will make Missouri a leader in transforming stagnate infrastructure into a valuable asset. I support the use of tax funding to accomplish this important goal.

It would be a great addition to the current KATY trail. As with all public projects, it must be value driven and not done unless astutely evaluated on the cost to construct now and to maintain in the future.

In favor.

I have biked Missouri rail trails for years and wholeheartedly support the Rock Island Trail Project.

we have so enjoyed the katy trail and use it alot. I also recomend this trail to my customers.I work at walmart in Osagebeach mo. the rock island trai would be a great addition that trail bicycling and hiking is a healthy , educational , and inexpensive activitiy for all ages. please continue on with the plans to make this come about

Thank you

I'm very much in favor of adding to our current trail system. We all need to encourage healthy life style and more trails will do this.

I would love to have an opportunity to ride my horses on this trail.

These trails bring people and recognition to MO.. There are something special. Even though many Missourians don't use or may not even know about them, they supply recognition and Income to them.

I am in favor of the Rock Island Trail Project. The history of the Katy Trail shows the benefits of such a project, and the misleading allegations of trail opponents.

Rock Island RR: accept this donation. As time passes, even a few decades, it will be recognized as a major asset to Missouri.

Missouri has already shown the benefits of converting rails to trails. The Rock Island Trail will connect many communities in south central Missouri. Many of which already have a fair amount of recreational activities. The trail will not only benefit the locals with additional forms of recreation, it will improve the economy of the area by bringing in additional tourists.

Looking forward to riding the Rock Island Trail I am in support of all efforts to make this REAL and USEFUL)

My wife and I are in our 60's and use the trails 2 to 3times a week walking from 6 to 10 miles each trip.

The sights ,people, and places are forever in our memories. We look forward to new trails and places to see and often take our camper to other cities for a base camp as we explore trails farther from home that we want to do in 1 day.

[Redacted]

Columbia Missouri

I think that the trail will be another great asset for the states park system. I ride on the Katy trail frequently and really enjoy.

Hello MO DNR,
Thank you for the ability to provide feedback on the Rock Island Trail Project.

Being a Kansas City MO resident and long-time bicycling enthusiast we have long dreamed of leaving our driveway to trek to St. Louis via Katy Trail. This trail would obviously be a major connection for us. Any consideration has, and is, appreciated.

We look forward to following and supporting this development including thoughts of a user volunteer donation/fee concept.

Best Regards,

[Redacted]

Sounds good. I assume that the Rock Island Trail Project also includes the completion of the line from Windsor To Kansas City. This would make for a GREAT trail system across the state.

Pls accept the rock island trail

I've ridden the Katy Trail many times as well as other rail - trails throughout the country. Nothing compares to the Katy in terms of distance and the scenery is second to none. It definitely is a destination ride for many people across the country because of the length alone. I've seen first hand what it has done for local businesses along the trail. The addition of the Rock Island Trail will truly make a total trail like no other in the world.

Thank you for providing and maintaining the trails we ride on. Rode from Pleasant Hill to St. Charles this summer and had a blast. Was surprised by the number of people that were doing the same thing I was and of the number of people I met going from St. Charles to Clinton or Pleasant Hill. I camped at Windsor and Pilot Grove and enjoyed the conversation with the locals and how they had taken such an interest in the trails. Stayed with my sister and her husband in Jeff City and at the Harbor Haus in Hermann before arriving at St. Charles on the 5th day out. Went to my grand daughter's baptism in St. Louis and that's something I'll always be able to share with her. Rode my bike from KC to St. Lou to see you baptized. Thanks for all you guys do.

The proposed trail will benefit Missouri by 1) land conservation of an extensive, existing corridor; 2) providing immediate and proximate access for a large number of Missouians to a facility that will enable regular exercise resulting in better long-term health; and, 3) providing economic opportunity to cities, towns and private land owners that would establish trail visitor support services as has proven to be the case with existing rail-trail conversions. All of this at a very cost-effective investment on the part of the State.

Please please accept the Rock Island Trail!!!!!!

A hiking/biking trail along this corridor would be a great added asset to trails in Missouri that many, including myself and family, use often. Adding this to the Katy Trail State Park system will allow people to view the countryside in a way that has been unavailable since the passenger routes stopped operating. The views as they were seen from the trains, awesome!!

I have used rail trails often in Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Virginia as well as many sections of the Katy Trail. These trails are worth every dime spent on building and maintaining safe attractive ways to abandon vehicles and see more of our country. The economic benefits have been proven and more

and more people are supporting the trails as more become available.

It would be amazing to have accommodations for horses to use the trails too...this is one of the most beautiful parts of MO. The great part about making some modest accommodations for horses is it will generate more revenue for you all with very little investments!! Just campsite with water and some stalls and a compost pile and most horse people are happy to pay!!!

I'm from Tulsa, Oklahoma. I am currently planning a bicycle trip along the Rock Island Trail that should bring tourism dollars to Missouri.

While I'm not a resident of Missouri, I felt this information was relevant to this issue. I would highly recommend maintaining and expanding the Trail Project.

I'd like to see the agreement signed. Travel by bicycle across the county is booming and towns along the trails do well. I personally would like to ride this trail and I hope this project moves forward.

If this trail existed and had provisions along the route for places to see, eat, stay or camp, I'd drive from Iowa to ride it. That's money brought in to the state it otherwise wouldn't have. I am not alone in this.

Please build this trail.

Absolutely in favor of this project. We love the Katy Trail and have used and enjoyed it's entire extent.

100% agree on moving forward with trail! Will be such a boost for MO tourism and outdoors enthusiasts!

I am an avid long-distance cyclist from Oregon who has travelled thousands of miles to ride interesting routes. I frankly don't know much about cycling in Missouri .. I've never had a reason to visit Missouri to cycle. The Rock Island Trail Project, joined with the Katy Trail, could be a reason.

Rock Island Trail we need it.

Excellent concept ! I made a point of visiting the Katy Trail during my month long camping trip following the Lewis and Clark trail along the Missouri River. The RITP could have the same or even more potential....a scenic route through the Missouri heartlands, inviting tourists, linking towns and countryside, stimulating businesses...yes! Long range, with the KT, it could be a world class bike tour circuit destination beginning/ending with easy access to historic St. Louis.

This would be a great addition to the Katy Trail and be used often.

I fully support the Missouri/Missouri State Parks/MDNR to enter into the agreement to develop the entire length of the trail. I use the Katy Trail and love it. I do not see evidence of people trespassing off the Katy trail or damaging people's property. The Rock Island trail will be a huge asset for

Missouri. Great recreational opportunities and economic development.

[REDACTED], Jefferson City, MO

What a wonderful project. It is a once in a lifetime chance to make and develop an epic trail for Missouri

This will bring an economic boost to the area and also give current residents another place to get exercise and enjoy time outdoors

Please take on the next 144 miles of the rock island , we ride Katy trail a lot and ready to ride more of the rock island . It will be great for all the small towns bringing in people from around the world, you can check on the towns in the first 47 miles we have already rode on it ready to go from pleasant hill to Windsor spend the night and ride back.

do it for the betterment of the great state of Missouri and therefore the USA! You have an opportunity that is not only once in a lifetime but also will enrich Missouri businesses and towns along the trail!

I would like to see more horse trails

I have been watching the progress on this trail for the past two years. I would gladly travel from Michigan to Missouri to ride this trail and hope to do so someday soon.

Trails like this improve the economy, health, and provide recreation

We need this trail

This would be a great addition to the trail system in Missouri. My wife and I enjoy rail trails and visiting the communities along them.

This trail is just what Missouri needs. We here nothing but praise for the Katy when we travel around the country.. This trail will be even better..

Anyway that we can make the Rock Island Trail to move forward is a great investment in the state of Missouri and those who will come utilize this trail for its intended build purpose.

Please develop the Rock Island Trail. It will be a wonderful addition to MO and connection from Windsor to Beaufort.

I strongly believe that the addition of the Rock Island Trail will enhance the quality of life both for residents of and visitors to the state of Missouri. Some of the great advantages we have in the state are our open space, parks and rivers. This project would build upon these strengths. Making Missouri more welcoming to cyclists would also project a positive image of a forward looking state. Personally, I look forward to not having to leave the state to participate in some of my preferred recreational activities.

The addition of the Rock Island Trail to the Missouri Trail network creates an exceptional opportunity for Missourians and people that travel to use trails. This is an opportunity to increase tourism in Missouri and to improve the economy

along the corridor. It also provides additional transportation opportunities where downtowns, schools, and other attractions are near the trail corridor. Please proceed with the acquisition of this rail corridor for trail use. Development could initially occur through partnerships between state and local governments to provide trails near towns and attractions, and at a later date provide connections between the initial trail segments.

I live in Bland, MO and would know first hand the benefits the trail would bring. The last few years I live in Bucharest, Romania for work. All over town they began to put in bike paths and communities began to develop and the entire town cleaned up more.

Also, currently to ride on a trail we have to drive to Jefferson City. I have two young boys who love riding their bikes. We cannot drive there, ride, and come back without the boys being utterly exhausted. If the trail was put in running through Bland we would have access just a quarter of a mile away.

I grew up in Michigan but love Missouri. Being a father with a young family I know that a trail like this will draw more young families to live in Missouri.

We love to see it! We come to Missouri once a year to ride the trail. Hundreds if not thousands of Oklahomans do the same thing. Rail banking is the way to go!

Very rarely does Missouri get to be on "top" of the list of anything. That's because we have become the "Make Me" state, rather than the "Show Me" state. Just because another administration started this process doesn't mean that this administration can show some leadership by actually getting it accomplished. Parks and trails should not be a political "football", especially when it provides the opportunity to revitalize some of these small towns long abandoned by the rails. Furthermore, don't use the excuse of money or budget to justify NOT doing the right thing. The politicians always seem to be able to find money to give to their cronies in tax breaks and tax credits.

Create a legacy, not a sound bite. Make the Rock Island Trail Project happen!

I support the Rock Island Trail and I vote (not only for elected officials, but also for your beloved Parks and Soil Tax.

I support this project as long as it continues to be open to equine riders.

This is a beautiful stretch of Missouri that will be enjoyed by thousands and bring people to towns that they have never experienced. Please develop the Rock Island Trail Project.

I love the idea of making this a week long cycling vacation! But I also need to check that I'll be able to take the train to and from the trailheads.

Trails are healthy and good for communities everywhere. The Rock Island Trail Project will be an asset for thousands to enjoy. Please go ahead!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project

I am in favor of entering into an interim trail use agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project let's proceed with the trail project immediately.

I fully support the Rock Island Trail as a walking and bicycling trail and expand the coverage already provided by the Katy Trail. The Katy Trail is known nationwide as a bicycling destination. Those tourist dollars will benefit our state in taxes and as revenues for many local businesses. Not many states are lucky enough to have this kind of opportunity available to them.

Do it. I've biked the Katy trail three or four times, and it is a Missouri jewel. Having a trail that intersects the Katy trail and that makes more of rural Missouri available to the public would stimulate tourism and bring hikers and bikers into rural small towns. It would be a shame for Missouri to miss this opportunity.

I have ridden the Katy Trail since the '93 floods covered it. Been a sponsor (mile 49-50) almost as long. I have met so many people from outside this area who have come just to ride there. Tourism like that is needed in those small old railroad towns. Any chance we have to extend and preserve it must be taken.

Yes I agree with developing the new trail

For nine years my husband and I lived within 15 miles of the Katy Trail. We spent many happy hours walking along the trail with our dogs although the majority of trail users we met were cyclists, an amazing number of cyclists. Many of those cyclists crossed a bridge and came into Hermann, the town we lived near, and spent money at the town's shops, restaurants, and B & Bs. Because of my experience living near a trail, I see trails as sources of healthy recreation and sources of financial gain for the cities and towns located along them. Therefore, I favor the DNR entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project.

I live in Sunrise Beach, MO during the Summer. Please develop the Rock Island Trail Project. It will make the combined KATY Trail and Rock Island Trail a world class bicycling destination.

Now while riding the KATY Trail I meet people from the entire United States that come to Missouri to bicycle the Trail. They spend their vacation dollars on lodging and food while riding the trail.

More tourists will visit Missouri if the bike trails in Missouri are expanded.

Sincerely,



Sunrise Beach, MO 65079

I resolutely support the development of the Rock Island Trail. I am an avid cyclist and spend both hours on the Katy Trail every month and dollars at towns along the trail.

Last summer my wife and I took the Amtrak train from Kirkwood MO to Sedalia. We paid for nights lodgings in Sedalia at the Hotel Bothwell then at the Hotel Frederick in

Booneville, then at the Globe in Hartsburg and finally at a bed and breakfast in Rhineland.

Along the way we spent money on lunch, breakfast and dinner. We loved it.

Missouri has earned WORLD WIDE praise for the Katy Trail. I urge you to simply visit the Trip Advisor website to read the reviews of the Katy. Please read Lauren Cook's blog about the Katy at Backroads.com.

Missouri is perceived as a national leader in trails. Missouri is recognised as one of the most progressive (non-political definition) states in the nation for hiking/biking in large part because of the Katy.

The towns south of the Missouri want in on (and deserve to be in on) the action. These towns deserve the same attention and economic influx as Rocheport, Defiance and Augusta, etc. Please approve the Rock Island Trail in order to further cement Missouri's reputation as a "go to" destination for outdoor adventurers

Just looking at the success of the old KT line turned to Katy Trail, many will aspire to cross the state using this expanded trail. Not many states can claim the existence of such a trail.

Please do this, parks benefit all generations and give us the opportunity to enjoy the land this state has to offer. Trails can be enjoyed by all ages.

Per the Mo State Parks 2012 environmental impact study they had 400,000 "visitors" to the Katy Trail. The Katy Trail's impact has only been boon for Missouri. Adding 144 miles of intersecting trail to the Katy makes a 381 mile trail system that will have a wider regional economic impact, and the potential to make Missouri a tourism destination for cyclists of all levels. I'd like to see Missouri think big, and take this step toward becoming such a tourist destination There are many communities along those old tracks that could benefit from it just like those along the Katy have.

I'd like to put it on my bucket list of trails to ride in Missouri. This will be another great feature encouraging people to tour more.

This sounds awesome I love our trail system and this would be a great asset for our state.

This is such an exciting opportunity for the state of Missouri to expand it's great rails-to-trails system. It would make Missouri a wonderful destination for cyclist around the county.

Outstanding use of existing area, will be a great draw for Missouri tourists, bicyclists, and triathlon events!

I believe this would be a great idea. We live in a time where watching t.v. indoors is the norm. Every where you turn there is civilization. This includes roads, stores, strip malls, trash and every other footprint of man. There are numerous benefits to establishing more natural places for others to enjoy. We get to mentally escape from it all. I get to take my son to enjoy nature and learn what things looked like before man. We get to exercise in fresh air. Overall, preserving a natural world is best for our health.

I have seldom taken the time to enter into any government-associated project discussions, as I see most as just the Department going thru the motions as required by law. THAT SAID, the repurposing of our historic rail system for another, and healthier mode of transportation, i.e. riding and walking trails, is both NEEDED and DESIRED by many, many citizens - including ones like ME who typically don't take the time or energy in the formulation of such a project. We usually just hope that others do it for us!

I am now asking that the Department of Natural Resources ENTER into a Trail Use Agreement with the Railroad, with the intended goal of converting this one-chance-in-my-lifetime right-of-way to a Trail, to be used by all !!!! There are too few of these opportunities that will benefit not only me, but MY children, grandchildren, and their children! Please proceed. I will let my old friend Speaker Tim Jones know also. Thanks you all!

The proposed trail would be an wonderful addition to the State Park system and to Missouri's trail network. Missouri is known around the US and the world for the KATY trail and the Rock Island Trail project has the opportunity to make Missouri even more popular with tourists, bringing much needed economic development to many of the small communities along the route. The trail would provide jobs for local residents in trail-related tourism and would take underutilized infrastructure and make it useful again for Missourians and visitors to enjoy the scenic beauty of our outdoors as well as our small towns and farms.

I strongly support DNR entering into an interim trail use agreements for the Rock Island Trail Project

Please go forward with this project as I believe this would be a great asset for our state.

We just rode from the Kansas line to the Rock Island spur then back home on the Katy Trail. We met so many people from all over the country that had come to Missouri to ride this amazing trail and spend money in the towns and cities along the way. The proposed new line will only bring more visitors and revenue to our beautiful state. Every town on the Katy is already benefiting, let's keep this trend moving up.

Definitely yes! There should not even be a discussion. We owe it to our grandchildren and their grandchildren. We should be moving Missouri forward, not backward.

Make the agreement. Build the trail. If ever needed for rail again, the ROW is intact. When I next Visit the state; bring my bike; ride; spend money.

Yes!

Please support the Rock Island Trail. These projects keep Missouri in the forefront when it comes to active tourism. Thank You!

Do it. The Katy Trail has been an unqualified success. This will be one as well.

Yes this should go forward!

This project for converting the former Rock Island Rail System would create an absolute jewel for MO State Parks. It will open up more opportunities for tourism in the State. With the rise of off-road cycling endurance events, this could open up an opportunity to establish an ultra-endurance race that would draw interest across the country like the premier gravel race The Dirty Kanza in Emporia KS.

Please do it!

Please expand the trail system in Missouri. The Katy Trail, Ozark Trail, and Rock Island Trail are prized assets to be expanded for future generations to enjoy.

Yes! I am a nurse leader in Missouri and I support this project. We have seen epidemic increases in obesity, suicide, drug use and mental health behavioral issues in our community and I believe the solution lies in the great outdoors. Getting outside and moving triggers endorphins and serotonin in our blood stream. These are proven to elevate ones mood and decrease suicide, obesity and drug addiction. Sitting in your front yard doesn't do that, you need to be part of something greater than yourself and an open trail provides that...

This would be another great addition for MO. Please go through with it. I have spend countless hours on day rides and ridden the entire KT 3 times. Would love another way to spend time in MO instead of leaving the state for activities.

Our trail system is becoming increasingly crowded--especially those trails that are easily accessible and multi-use, such as the KATY trail. Although I consider myself to be fiscally conservative, I whole-heartedly support expanding our trail system with the Rock Island Trail Project. Recreation is key to mental and physical health. We need trails like this. It is also a great way to bring "gentle" tourism to these rural communities.

The KATY trail is hugely popular. It draws tourism from around the country. This trail will enhance the KATY and promote additional tourism.

I use the KATY Trail often for bicycling and was one of the first to ride its length when first opened from Sedalia to St Charles. The economic development of villages like Defiance and Mokane since then is astounding. Europeans plan bike vacations on the Trail to see Missouri. I foresee the same for the new Trail and am heartily in favor of its development.

My family uses the Katy Trail regularly and appreciates the foresight of people who planned and implemented it for Missouri. We believe that leaving another statewide trail system is something our generation can offer for the next generation of Missourians. We support the creation of the proposed Rock Island Trail system.

I am in favor of continuing the Rock Island Trail project.

There are so many good reasons to support the opening of the Rock Island Trail. Please add my support.

The Katy Trail is such an asset to the State of Missouri; we should capitalize on its popularity and invest in the Rock Island Trail.

Sounds good to me. More trails for running and biking are always welcome.

I believe this is good for the state of Missouri. It will bring more tourism to the state and help the small towns along the trail. It will offer safe trails for bikers.

This is great opportunity for the State and these small communities. Don't throw it away!

Please move forward with this project! Missouri trails are crucial to the enjoyment of the state's beauty for generations into the future.

I think this is a no-brainer, you should absolutely build the bike trail. What an amazing stretch of land!! I think this trail would be another wonderful asset to our great state. Please build it.

This is an awesome idea, more Missourians need to get out and enjoy the beautiful nature the state has to offer and what a great way to see the countryside and also get some great exercise at the same time. Many old railways have been converted into biking trails across the country. Don't let this opportunity get away.

This trail is vital to the growth and future of our town-Rosebud. We have one industry and that is tourism. We depend on the steady stream of visitors to our town to purchase antiques and eat in our restaurants. We have built a nice destination, but the trail would open this up to real growth for the future.

Little towns like Rosebud that were built on the backs of the railroad have suffered over the past 40 years, but this trail gives them the opportunity to grow and thrive again. Not developing this trail would set Missouri commerce back both now and in the future. I truly believe it would be a devastating mistake.

The Trail will be a great asset to the communities and to help draw visitors to the area. The many businesses along the route will benefit from the increased traffic and allow new businesses to open up.

I strongly support and encourage the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. I recently biked the Katy Trail from Sedalia to St Louis, and I was amazed at the scenery and solitude along the way. The Katy is definitely a National Treasure, right here in Missouri. Expanding to the Rock Island Trail would be a wonderful addition. Please put Missouri dollars towards the types of parks and conservation areas that people can actually get to and utilize.

I would like to lend my support to the Rock Island Trail Project. It would make Missouri a great cycling destination and support businesses and tourism.

I do not think this should be done. The area this travels through is not able to be safely patrolled. It would not be safe for people to use. The money it would take to develop would be better used for maintaining the existing parks and rivers that have public access better than they are now.

Of course! I am an avid user and fan of the Katy Trail and would LOVE to add another trail system to Missouri. We have a unique landscape that draws cycling and hiking tourism from surrounding states. We're not making any more land, so we need to make sure to preserve what we can for future generations.

Yes, do it. There should be no question on accepting this. There's no new land being made and we may never have this opportunity again. Take time to develop it but accept the land....

Please develop the Rock Island Trail Project. It will help every citizen in the State of Missouri in one form or another. Thank you.

Do this! Our trails and natural landscape is the major draw for MO. It's a beautiful countryside.

You only have to look at the success of the Katy Trail state park to see that adding additional miles of recreational trail would be a great thing for our state. It very well could be another source of tourist dollars flowing into our state just like the Katy Trail. Being able to ride from St. Louis to Kansas City on a trail would be a great adventure that could encourage physical fitness for citizens of our state and visitors.

I am a regular user of the Katy Trail State Park, and have seen a huge increase in use of that park since it opened. I have had friends of mine from as far away as Georgia who traveled to Missouri specifically to ride that trail. I believe that the Missouri Rock Island Trail would be a similar success, and support economic development along its path. It would also create synergy with the Katy Trail, since bikers could make it into a big loop trail. Let's not lose the opportunity to establish this new state park, which will serve Missourians for generations to come!

Dear Governor Greitens, Director Comer, and Director Ellis, I am writing in support of the Rock Island Trail on behalf of Adventure Cycling Association, the largest bicycle nonprofit organization in the U.S. with over 53,000 members. Once complete, the 144-mile Rock Island Trail will be a trail of international significance. The completion of the first 47 miles is an achievement to celebrate, and together, the Katy and Rock Island trails will create a world-class loop that will make Missouri even more of a destination. A study from 2012 reported that the Katy Trail generates \$18.5 million for the state and the many communities it serves. The study also found that over 400,000 people visit the trail annually, 85% of whom bicycle the trail, and that number has only grown in the last five years.

Additionally, these trails will someday be part of U.S. Bicycle Route 50 (USBR 50), an officially-approved, cross-country bicycle route that will eventually connect San Francisco to Washington, D.C. Currently, over 700 miles of USBR 50 have

been completed from DC to the Ohio/Illinois border. And with multiple connection points to Amtrak's Missouri River Runner route which offers carry-on bicycle service, it will be easier than ever for visitors to travel to the trail with their bikes. Bicycle tourism, and bike travel in particular, is a form of geotourism that supports local communities, businesses, and economies because of its slow pace and the frequent need for services like food and lodging. Bicycle travelers stay longer and spend 40% more than the average motorized tourist. Active tourism is growing in popularity and bicycle recreation accounts for \$97 billion in spending in the U.S. each year, according to a new study by the Outdoor Industry Association. The Great Allegheny Passage, a 150-mile off-road trail connecting Maryland and Pennsylvania, generates \$80 – 100 million return on investment each year, and 95% of its million visits each year are by bicycle. With the development of the Rock Island Trail, Missouri would be tapping into this market and could potentially see a similar return on investment. Thank you for making the right decision and moving forward with developing the 144-mile Rock Island Trail. It will truly be a gem of the Midwest.

Sincerely,
[Redacted]
Adventure Cycling Association

I think further rails-to-trails acquisitions are important for long term conservation, tourist/economic growth, for outlying areas that are near the trails.

The think that the acquisition of Rock Island Railroad corridor would be an excellent addition to the existing Katy trail. It would create a loop that would be far more versatile than the straight line route that the Katy trail provides. The Katy trail already provides a strong boost to tourism in Missouri. The National Sierra Club organizes trips around the world. In Missouri national trips go to the Katy Trail. I personally have been on several vacations that were organized around the Katy trail. Having a looping route would be better to avoid having to back track or shuffle cars. Missouri should not pass the opportunity up. There may never be another like it.

Eric Greitens, Governor, State of Missouri
As an avid commuting, recreational, and self-contained touring cyclist, I enthusiastically support the conversion of the Ameren gift to the State of Missouri into another trail system. I hope I can count on your support as well.
Thank you,

Please build this trail! I live in Iowa, and I will travel to your state to use it! I will enjoy Missouri's wildlife and spend my money at Missouri businesses!

I love the idea of developing additional park land and the expansion of the recreational trail. Missouri's park system is important to me and my family - we have two young children and use our parks frequently, and we support its expansion.
Thank you.

63132

Missouri attracts tourism from across the United States and the world as I witnessed on my third trip over the length of the Katy Trail this summer. The 4 of us on this trek spent about \$1000 each. The rural communities we visited rely on the income provided and expanding the trail to a complete loop would increase the tourism dollars to those communities as well. Such a trails network would be world renowned. This trail would expand the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities, and I support the agreement between the DNR and MO Central Railroad.

Boy, I think any time you can make more recreational trails, it's a good thing. It gets people outdoors and gives an incentive to get healthy.

This would be a wonderful tourist attraction, especially for fairly well-off retired bicyclists who like to take fairly lengthy vacations, but who could manage the shorter distances between these rail trail towns. They have the time, money and physical means to make a Missouri Loop bike tour.

Please proceed with securing and developing the Rock Island Trail. I believe it is an important opportunity to invest in Missouri's future especially the areas surrounding the trail. As a resident of South St. Louis I have visited Washington and Hermann to use the Katy Trail. I would definitely bike or run on the Rock Island Trail. The Rock Island Trail is a good investment in the future of Missouri parks.

Do it

Please do this!

This is a win win for Missouri and it's residents.

I'm very much in favor of the Rock Island Trail project and look forward to riding it.

We have spent countless hours as a family in our state parks and on the Katy trail.

We can't go wrong by preserving our green space - conserving our beautiful state for not just our generation but for future generations.

We recently had the county come in our neighborhood and cut down dozens of trees, with countless others on the chopping block. There are measures to cut down more green space for another building at Creve Coeur Lake - please conserve our green spaces. Donated land - particularly one that will add to the Katy Trail is a MUST!!!!

Rails trails provide a non-trafficked (for the most part) and accessible environment for cyclists and pedestrians of all types, promoting fresh air and an active life-style. The nature of rails trails gives the users an indirect education about areal topology and geography, while the towns that the trails pass through benefit economically (at the very least) from the user population. In the Spring, I rode 45 miles of the Wabash Trace trail in Iowa, spent money at both ends of the journey, thoroughly enjoyed the varying terrain, and encountered users of all types, including age, gender, and activity. Communities that have facilities such as these are healthier, in general.

Please consider this agreement for the betterment of the state's population, and all that will make use of the trail.

I don't understand how anybody could be against this proposed park. The success of the Katy trail should be evidence alone at the desire of Missourians desire for more recreational opportunities such as this.

Please accept the gift of the Rock Island corridor. The jobs potential (and political goodwill) is enormous, as is the economic impact to the small towns that make up the real part of Missouri.

Please enter into the agreement and do it. Forget about greifers and his attitude against everything good Gov Nixon stood up for. We need more like Jay Nixon and less greifers.

I support the Rock Island Trail Project and am a member of MORIT. Eventhough I live in Kansas, I will use the trail and support the businesses along the way.

Redevelopment of the long dormant Rock Island Railroad right-of-way is overdue. Hopefully this project will advance to fulfillment without further delay.

This is a terrific idea! With all that is wrong with Missouri, we do one thing right: our wonderful hike/bike trail system!

Please add to this great feature of Missouri. The Rock Island Trail project will draw tourists, build business in the area, and serve as a win all around!

I support the Rock Island Trail" For the benefit of all Missouri residents and visitors to enjoy nature and see/visit our beautiful state.

This trail project is important to our economy, our health, and our ability to attract tourism. I hope the state agrees and takes advantage of this great opportunity.

It is a no brainer, the land is currently not useful, why not turn it into a major source of income for the state and local communities.

I hope this happens! It is a safe, beautiful way to be a part of Missouri. What a great healthy, atheletic way for Missouri to be known.

It is true that a trail can bring economic benefits to the area along the trail. Had the Katy trail not been developed, I would not be headed to Missouri this September as my group of five plans a leisurely bike ride along the entire length. Our group will likely spend \$3,000 or \$4,000 during our seven day visit, including lodging, meals, and other touristy things along the way.

The new connecting trail would give options to Katy Trail riders and spread the cash riders bring to a new area.

I am from Iowa. I frequently some of the most popular trails here. While cycling this week my biking partner and I commented about the economic growth of the elite town we were in over the past 5 years. Growth brought about by the trail. Then other spectacular sight was the nature we observe

on these urban and rural trails. Super beneficial for all to promote outdoor activity and preserve a little of our history of the railroad at the same time.

Rail trails are a wonderful recreational feature and have been the key highlights in both of my last vacations in the USA. If the Rock Island Trail is completed soon, Missouri will be at the top of the list for my next vacation destination.

This would be a fantastic asset to MO residents. It would be a wonderful attraction for cycling tourists and bring economic benefits to rural parts of MO. It would promote exercise and outdoor activity enhancing the physical activities available for everyone. Please add this excellent trail addition to our state parks.

The RIT has the potential to be an economic catalyst for cities and towns negatively impacted by the departure of the railroad. This is a tremendous opportunity with the railroad and Ameren UE willingly handing over the land for this venture. Let's not miss this chance to enhance Missouri's tourism image by increasing it's attractiveness by creating a trail through some of the most beautiful landscape in our state.

I have made one journey to Missouri to ride the Katy Trail and I certainly would make another to ride the Rock Island Trail if it was completed. I live in California and rode Amtrak to Kansas City in 2016 to ride the Katy Trail. I am 67 years old and enjoy the ability to talk with fellow riders and not have the worry of impeding or having to avoid automotive traffic, not to mention the natural beauty of the trails.

I rode the Rock Island and Katy trails in June, and spent tourist money exemplifying the economic benefit of such developments (not to mention health, environmental, etc.). Having a loop off-road cycling route would bring so many visitors to Missouri that I consider utilizing the rail corridor to be a "no brainer" decision. Much research documents the benefits of rail-to-trail conversions but here is one anecdotal success story: The Virginia Creeper Trail is an economic boon for the small towns nearby, bringing in hundreds of thousands of visitors and generating tens of millions of dollars per year in tourism revenues. Watch the video.

We have lived in Lenexa, Kansas for a long time. We ride the Katy Trail. We bring our family and friends from other states. We have taken the state sponsored week-long ride in June. Please finish the Rock Island trail. Think about what the Katy Trail has already done for tourism dollars in Missouri. You have the opportunity to help make Missouri great again. Thanks!

Yes, please! Like the Katy Trail, it will bring economic opportunities to small towns, tourist dollars to MO, and help the state become a premier biking destination for cyclists from around the world. I first hosted out of country guests in 2003 to bike the Katy, and our state's reputation continues to grow as THE location to enjoy groomed trails in the U.S.

Please move forward on developing the Rock Island Trail project.

I have been following the development of the Rock Island Trail and as both a transportation historian and a cyclist, I will definitely be on this trail when it becomes a reality - I will make the trek from Arizona to enjoy this trail and the communities. I am extremely jealous of Missouri and its many fine rails-to-trails projects.

This park would be great for small-town entrepreneurs! We want this park!

Please build the trail. It will bring an economic lifeline to the small towns.

Dear madam or sir:

My personal thoughts are: 1] Missouri holds a high place in bicycling due to the Katy Trail, 2] but that's old news now, 3] adding the Rock Island Trail would be great. 4] Missouri would then still be a leader in bicycling.

I believe there are lots of cyclists in MO, and (even more important) there are lots of cyclists who would visit us if we had another cross-state trail.

Missouri needs this!

This is a rare opportunity and should be given proper consideration.

MO would be the only state that we could cycle across, without cars, and return by a mostly different, new, exciting route, again without cars. How wonderful for friends and families as more people are seeking an adventure within their vacation. With a little tourism advertising the towns along the new trail could benefit financially.

Illinois had an opportunity, in the 1960's, to acquire an abandoned railroad, which would have gone from Chicago to Galena. Can you imagine the number of people who would have accepted the 140 mile adventure, the meals and lodging they would have purchased?

I hope someday I can cycle this route... I won't come alone!!!

I am a weekend user of the Katy Trail. My husband and I have put our bikes on the train in St. Louis and traveled as far as Jefferson City to bike back to the St. Louis area. We have also biked the Boonville and Rocheport sections of the trail. Along the way we enjoy stopping at restaurants and inns, exploring the small towns, and experiencing rural Missouri. The thought of having a loop trail that passes by more towns would be amazing. Completing this loop would help boost the economy of the towns and promote more "through bike" opportunities. The money and effort would be well worth it for Missouri.

I plan to come up to ride the rock island trail this fall . I come up to Missouri to ride the Katy trail a couple a time a year would like to have a new trail.

Yes , more rails to trails biking is needed in Missouri. I love to ride and the more trails we have , the more people will ride, get exercise and be healthier! Less illness in people who exercise regularly.

Yes Enter into the Agreement for the Rock Island Trail. Last May I was in Wisconsin central and crossed and saw the benefits of the Main trail from La Crosse towards Milwaukee. Missouri has the Katy Trail and adding the Rock Island will bring so much tourism to MO. The DNR needs to lead the way in trail development.

I believe it will help Missouri much as the same way the Katy Trail has, it is a great idea and it would be a great addition to our already awesome rail to trail system and positively affect the small towns on the trail!

as an equestrian, we have enjoyed the rock island and Katy trail system. hikers bikers and horse folks get along well on the trail. the trails provide safe way to exercise . please give more folks in the state the pleasure of using this wonderful benefit!

We encourage the continuing development of rails to trails. We seniors are living longer and our bicycles help keep our legs strong and greatly improve our balance. We are also not always that comfortable riding the sides of highway as a lot of young people seem to do. We love the open spaces of these old rail beds without a lot of steep grades to climb. Healthy seniors are better for the community and less expense. Thank you for your efforts to develop this Rock Island Trail Project.

██████████ 78 in Oct

We visited the Katy trail last year and rode the whole trail. We had a great time spending ten days in your state. We look forward to riding this new trail on completion.

This sounds like a fabulous trail. My husband and I ride trails all over the US. We spend money at B&B, grocery stores, restaurants, gift shops. We have seen small communities bloom again thanks to bicycle people. This trail will be great for the communities along the route.

I very much support the development of the Rock Island Trail Project and I would be an occasional user of the trail.

Please consider the benefits to the communities the trail will provide.

I am not a Missouri resident, but I am exactly the sort of user you want for this trail: someone who will spend multiple days on the trail and contribute to the local economies. Longer trails such as the 144 mile proposal will draw users from the entire country and provide tourism and economic development benefits, along with recreation and health benefits for both out-of-town visitors and nearby residents. Programs such as the Trail Towns along the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP trail) can show the potential benefits of long-distance trails.

We support the conversion of the Rock Island Railroad corridor into a recreational trail. Our extensive trail system brings visitors to our state and provides a great recreational opportunity for residents.

Thank you for all the hard work on the trails for walking, biking, and horses! Around mid Missouri, these trails give a

very safe place to exercise, be in nature, and meet up with family or friends. The towns along the trails are gaining from the people using the trails. I realize it takes time, money, and passion to do these things, but keep it up!

If it's anything like the Katy Trail it will be a huge success. Please do it!

Revitalizing small towns, giving people from all walks of life, and from areas near and far the chance to visit places they might never have heard of, providing an opportunity for everyone to get outdoors, enjoy nature, AND get fit all at the same time; it's a win-win situation!!

I travel for work, live in communities for months as a time. I am considered a senior citizen, numerically. As the bulk of our citizenry matures, we are looking for ways to get out and enjoy nature. I happen to live bicycling, as many in my age group. Missouri is noted for the Katy Trail. How great it would be to be complimented with another trail. I bring my bicycle and ride these routes, and spend money a long the way. Bike trails are a great investment and I urge Missouri to adopt all the rails to trail it can. You have the opportunity to become the greatest cycling State in the Nation!!

Sounds like a great idea to me. Katy trail seems well used and easily maintained.

As a retired UP train engineer from Council Bluffs Iowa, I am very familiar with the Midwest typography. The terrain of these trails is on the easy side compared to others in the country, therefore drawing more riders. I am an avid cyclist usually leading a group of riders traveling to the many trails our country has to offer. I've been to Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, South Dakota, Iowa and the Katy trail. We plan on riding the Katy end to end next year. Cycling allows me to stay fit, socialize, and travel to these little towns. I enjoy meeting the people, eating, staying over night. Without these trails I would be on the interstate driving to some type of resort or National Park. The economic value that cycling provides to these little towns should not be overlooked. Missouri will have the distinction of providing the longest connecting cycling trails in the country. Please approve of the Rock Island Trail.

I wholeheartedly support the trails. As a person with MS, biking is the only form of exercise for me. I use the trails as a safe place to ride without auto traffic.

I have already rode the "opened" portion of the trail and it was fabulous! It would benefit greatly everyone's outdoor experience!

This trail will be EPIC in increasing tourism in Missouri as well as a great place for native Missourians to ride across the state if they wish. Lots of small towns will benefit from this tourism influx of cash and revive some towns that are barely surviving. Please help The Rock Island Trail Project!!

My wife and I rode the entire length of the Katy Trail last fall. We met many wonderful people along the way. The positive

economic impact the Katy Trail provides the small communities along the trail, was evident every where we went. Just like the Katy Trail, developing the Rock Island Trail would provide much needed jobs for the communities along the route. We would love to come back to Missouri and do a loop ride on the Katy and Rock Island Trail. Would like to make one other comment. When my wife and I decided to do the Katy Trail, we went on their web site. The web site provided all the information we needed. The web site provided one stop shopping. Where to stay, where to eat, mileage between towns, and places of interest. We planned our entire trip along the Katy in about an hour and a half. Hopefully, when the Rock Island Trail is completed, the people in charge will use the Katy Trail web site as a template for success. Good Luck !

I like this idea very much. I am new to the trails in Missouri since I am increasing my activity level. I am hoping in a year I will be able to do a trail like Rock Island. Trails are a safer way to bike.

This would be a gift to future generations which would only get more popular and used yearly. These trails have been proven to increase property values and encourage families to exercise which is badly needed to counter the increasing obesity of our populations. When young professionals consider moving into rural areas the first thing they ask about is recreational opportunities and the number one thing they are interested in is rail trails. In Dodge City Kansas the city fathers have told me that by far the most popular thing they have ever done is to build the trail. If it is not preserved now it will never be available again. I am a dentist and plan to retire in several weeks. When I do I plan to start using lots of these trails.

These kinds of projects only enhance our state. These projects serve to make our population healthier. Please complete this project!!

Springfield, Missouri

You often only get one chance to add certain parcels to public lands. This is one of those cases. Not accepting this offer does not serve the citizens of Missouri or their children well. In November of 2016, Missourians voted to support the State Parks sales tax by 80.1% of the vote. This sends a strong and clear signal Missourians value their outdoor spaces. Any opposition to this by current politicians would put them on the wrong side of this issue for the overwhelming majority of Missourians.

In November of 2016, Missourians voted to support the State Parks sales tax by 80.1% of the vote. This sends a strong and clear signal Missourians value their outdoor spaces. Any opposition to this by current politicians would put them on the wrong side of this issue for the overwhelming majority of Missourians.

The proposed Rock Island Trail Project is an exciting prospect, one that could potentially increase tourism in the state and enhance the already iconic Katy Trail. Please help make this a reality!

Completion of the Rock Island Trail will bring tourist dollars to Missouri. The interest in long distance cycling is increasing. Many long distance cyclists are professionals with high disposable income.

Continuing to build Missouri's trails is a wonderful thing. Part of the process is buy-in of those along the trails and the good people here appear to be all in. The proximity to the already successful Katy Trail promises to bring more people to the area.

Please support this trail. It will benefit all those who use it and the communities who are lucky enough to be near it.

Please make this happen. So very proud of Missouri for being a rails to trails leader. :)

Yes, please do this! It'll be such a great addition to our state and bring in riders from neighboring areas and help stimulate revenue!

In November of 2016, Missourians voted to support the State Parks sales tax by 80.1% of the vote. This sends a strong and clear signal Missourians value their outdoor spaces. Any opposition to this by current politicians would put them on the wrong side of this issue for the overwhelming majority of Missourians.

In November of 2016, Missourians voted to support the State Parks sales tax by 80.1% of the vote. This sends a strong and clear signal Missourians value their outdoor spaces. Any opposition to this by current politicians would put them on the wrong side of this issue for the overwhelming majority of Missourians.

As a citizen of Missouri I totally support the creation of the Rock Island Trail! I would encourage the DNR and any other agencies included in this process to support it as well. This will go a long ways in bolstering the image of Missouri along with encouraging tourism from those that live here as well as those from other states.

Please do it. The Katy trail is such a fantastic trail. Please please do this project.

Yes, do this! The revenue brought in to the small towns along this corridor is very important. This will make Missouri the premier rail to trail state in the country.

In November of 2016, Missourians voted to support the State Parks sales tax by 80.1% of the vote. This sends a strong and clear signal Missourians value their outdoor spaces. Any opposition to this by current politicians would put them on the wrong side of this issue for the overwhelming majority of Missourians.

I hope the DNR will move forward with the Rock Island Trail Project by accepting the land from Union Electric. The trail will be good for the health of Missourians and most definitely good for the economic health of the state. With the link to the Katy Trail, this trail will draw bicyclists from all

over the world to our state. It will also allow other communities like Lake of the Ozarks, where I live, to link to the trail, potentially tapping into a whole new market. There is no "down-side" to this project - it will bring only good things to our state.

I support the conversion to a recreational trail.

My husband and I rode on the Katy Trail a few years ago when we were driving across country with our bikes and visiting family and friends along the way. Our plan after he retires next year is to return to that area again and again over the years to ride all the trails in the area. We set up our own two day, two night ride this summer in Pennsylvania and we plan to do that while riding the Katy Trail, Rock Island Trails and other connecting trails in that area. Stopping at towns along the way is part of the fun. We are 100% behind trail development!

I support converting the RR corridor to a trail.

I support the above. I live in NW Missouri, but developing bike routes is important for all of Missouri and the US, for energy, efficiency, health reasons.

Hello

if you want to make an investment in the future of Missouri Tourism you should except this property from Ameren Mo. It seems they want to give it to the state for what they did to the park in southern Missouri.

All the towns along the trail want it in their town for economic reasons and a trail for their people to enjoy.

You have to accept this property for now at least no matter how long it takes to get the trail in place for public use. There are many reasons to make this a beautiful trail that you are already aware of so there is no need to list them all.

Thank You

I am fully supportive of the development of the Rock Island Trail system. I've ridden the entire KATY trail and would love to have more trails that are similar to that experience available.

I fully support the development and use of all efforts, such as the development and completion of the Rock Island trail, to provide recreational and tourists opportunities to enjoy our beautiful state through biking, walking and wheeling. Thanks for your support as well.

I am supportive of the rock island trail project and would vote yes on a proposal if need be.

In November of 2016, Missourians voted to support the State Parks sales tax by 80.1% of the vote. This sends a strong and clear signal Missourians value their outdoor spaces. Any opposition to this by current politicians would put them on the wrong side of this issue for the overwhelming majority of Missourians.

The Katy Trail attracts visitors from all over the country. This source of enjoyment and revenue is a great asset for our state. The Rock Island Trail would do the same.

I am excited to see this trail open/extend what is already an awesome resource with the Katy Trail. My family is planning on riding this often when it opens!

I'm all for it. It's an great recreational opportunity for Missouri residents and also a great economic opportunity. Also, it should be permanent, not "interim".

You have seen what the Katy trail can do for Missouri tourism. Imagine what another trail can do. I went to Minnesota this summer to ride on their trails around Duluth and Minneapolis. There are many of us with similar interests.

The DNR should enter into this agreement as it will get more people out and doing things.

A must do Project for Missouri. Tourist bring money to the state. What better way to entice them than a low impact entertainment system. Natural environment, wild life, beautiful native vistas, fresh air with natives sharing the benefits! A win-win situation ??????????

The Rock Island Trail Project will be a wonderful addition to our Park's system. Tourism is vital to Missouri's economy and the Rock Island Trail will be a welcome tourist attraction for many communities.

The Katy Trail is a great economic driver from small towns and cities in northern Missouri. Developing the Rock Island corridor into a similar, high quality recreation trail would allow more communities to benefit from cycling tourism.

Additional trails that provide opportunities for safe walking, running, hiking and bicycling are good for Missouri residents and tourists alike. I feel it's important to provide such opportunities to encourage an active lifestyle in order to counter the trend toward obesity and sedentary lifestyles.

What a tremendous idea! The KATY Trail has proven to be a tremendous resource for tourism, and getting locals out actually improving their health by biking and walking the Trail. Few things are so available, to so many, for such great results!

Let's get Missouri known for its outstanding natural resources, healthy living, and entrepreneurs along the Trails, all of which moves this State in positive directions.

This type of opportunity comes around once a century and it's incumbent upon the state to seize the opportunity for future generations. Expanding our nation leading trail system is good for all of Missouri economically and recreationally. Please expand the trail system, allow multi-use including equestrian, and help keep our great state the nation's leading trail state.

This is an opportunity for future generations. It should not be passed over because of current short-term revenue problems that can be addressed in a positive manner. This is an opportunity for Missouri to have the best connected rails to trails system in the country. We need to take advantage of this opportunity now and if that is not done it is unlikely to be available in the future.

The added Rock Island Trail to our state park system would be a wonderful asset. Stretching more than half way across the state, the new trail would provide numerous access points for citizens to enjoy the great outdoors in this beautiful state and create a biking/hiking loop unrivaled in the country. It would make Missouri an even better travel destination for biking enthusiasts drawing tourists from outside the state. It would create another venue for people who live near the trail to get outside and to exercise and provide comparatively inexpensive access other Missourians for day or overnight trips . The Rock Island Trail addition would provide a great recreation outlet for the average citizen.

I retire in less than a year. One of the first trips I am planning is to head to South Dakota for the George Mickelson Trail in the Black Hills and then to Minnesota to ride the Paul Bunyan Trail. (Both trails are just over 110 miles and will bring my travel dollars to those states. There is no reason for Missouri to not offer the longest trail (loop) in the country.

Finally, I am a life-long conservative. But if our governor and legislatures are so shortsighted that they miss this tremendous opportunity, I will have an extremely difficult time ever supporting any of them ever again.

Thanks for your consideration.

██████████

I would greatly appreciate equine trails to be included
Thank you for considering

I have a twofold interest in seeing the completion of the Rock Island line bike trail.

As an avid bike rider I have thoroughly enjoyed the use of the Katy Trail throughout the state it have spent hundreds of dollars in different communities in the eating and lodging

I also set on the tourism board for Benton County. We have been surprised by the number of people we have been able to attract to our community with our biking trails that we have locally. We are very enthusiastic of the additional people dollars that we could bring to our community by having a spur of the Rock Island Line trail that would pass through locally.

I ask I encourage your support for the continued development of trails state wide that only for the enhancement of our people's lifestyles but also the economic development that comes along with it.

I think it would be a great impact on the economic growth of our small towns along the trail. I have traveled the whole length of the Katy Trail and was amazed at the small towns that have continued to grow due to the trail system. I have lived in Missouri all my life and had never heard of some of the towns along the trail. Each time we went through a town we took the time to sight see the towns history, tried to plan it that we ate in a restaurant in that town, and also went in some of their shops to take a break from the ride. The scenery along the trail was beautiful and peaceful. Everyone I have met along the trail has been very friendly, and I have seen people come from all across the United States! I am not an avid fast rider, I just started riding 4 years ago after retirement. I enjoy the exercise and friendships I have made along the trail. I hope we do continue with the Rock Island Trail as I am excited to see a new area.

The Rock Island Trail would be a great addition to the Missouri park system. One only needs to look at the popularity of the Katy Trail Park to see this. These trails draw people from across the United States and abroad to our state. What better way to show case all that Missouri has to offer.

A great idea!!!!

We cycled the Katy Trail in 2005 and it was a terrific trail and a great route. We strongly believe that in addition to the obvious health and recreation benefits that Trails provide, the Rock Island Trail Project would provide a significant economic benefit to the communities along the route. We hope the Department of Natural Resources proceeds with development of this trail!

This would be such a huge benefit to our small local communities for SO MANY REASONS!!!

Missouri would be blessed to have another great trail. Yes to the trail.

As a local small business owner I feel that is would be a huge benefit to our small community. With small towns across the country becoming a thing of the past lets preserve everything we can and not lose anymore.

I believe the trails would be a great asset to all the communities on or near it's route. It's a get healthy project and encourages people to get outdoors. Being form a small community, I believe it would benefit our small businesses greatly.

Rail banking is critical to the future of this country when the Interstate system is crumbling and gridlocked. IT will serve as a valuable health resort for walkers, hikers and bikers in the interim.

I am an avid user of the Katy Trail and would love to see the Rock Island corridor turned into a recreational trail. This would be another huge draw for Missouri Tourism and a corresponding economic advantage.

As a participant in RTC's 2017 PA Sojourn, I would simply offer that in the course of one week approximatley 200 riders rode through and spent their dollars in small towns all along the route... and that number was just the folks participating in the Sojourn, not counting the "freelance" riders. The whole concept being addressed by these rail trails and the opportunities they provide for recreational riding around the country, not to mention the benefits to the communities they run through, is SO exciting to my wife and I. We can't wait for retirement and fully intend to ride as mant of the Rail Trails as we are able!

I have lived in these smalls towns all my life. This trail would allow people from other cities an easy access to these small gem towns! We have so much to offer here, especially in Cole Camp! There are festivals all year round, activities, and amazing shops and restaurants! A great place to experience new things and bring more interest to our area!

The inclusion of a spur into Cole Camp would provide a boost to the economy, not only shops, but also services. The banding together of communities working toward a common goal would be valuable for many reasons.

Creating a positive space for healthy activity would help toward a healthier population - lower health risks and costs would help all community members.

This is not only a great idea for cyclists of all ages, it is a great idea for pedestrians, hikers, and Missouri overall. With such bad publicity the state has received over the last couple of years this would be a positive. At a minimum it would make news on social media, the internet, cycling magazines, and running magazines. The trail has the potential of providing additional employment for Missourians who elect to establish or expand business opportunities due to the new trail system.

I absolutely support this agreement. The Katy Trail has been a huge success. Reclaiming this land for public use is a huge win for the state.

I am in support of this. Rail trails are a valuable asset to the communities, the state and our nation.

I would love to see the Rock Island Trail by Cole Camp. It would benefit Cole Camp in so many ways. I see it for area business and families enjoying the trail.

I think this trail would be an amazing asset to Missouri. I live 45 minutes to the closest Katy Trail access and it is sad because it prevents my entire family from riding it more than once or twice a year. The Rock Island Trail would go through my town and we would be able to ride it at least every week. Please put the trail in.

as long as it doesn't mess with existing agriculture land, or can be incorporated in such a way as to not damage agriculture land, this is a great idea. the outdoor sporting value would be tremendous, and long long distance bike tours of large groups bring small towns like ours a lot of revenue from touring groups.

I believe that the Rock Island Trail extension would be a great benefit to the people of the State of Missouri and that the DNR should accept the property from the Missouri Central Railroad.

It is something that will help our health system. It's a great place for "families" to take a day vacation, it brings people from all over the world, Missouri can get this money or they will spend it elsewhere. It is everything our Governor believes in health, exercise, families, bringing travelers to Missouri.

Please develop it into a park similar to MKT

Protecting and enhancing Missouri's outdoor spaces should be an important part of who we are as citizens and leaders of this state. And if those projects encourage tourism and business, which this project seems to indicate that it will, it only seems like a win-win.

This would be a great agreement to enter into for all involved. I live in Cole Camp, MO and would love the opportunity to

have a safe and accessible trail to walk with my family. I would love the opportunity for those walking the trail to come into the small towns along the way and the benefit that would be experienced from our local businesses. We live in a world where so much is being built and it's crucial to keep our natural resources natural and available for future generations to enjoy.

My family loves riding bikes on the Frisco Trail, as that is close to home. Next weekend we will have the opportunity to ride the Katy Trail during the MoBike organized ride at Rocheport. Adding the Rock Island Trail would be another fantastic opportunity for my family to spend time together while riding our bikes. We love Mo for the beautiful scenery and having trails to ride.

As a bicycle enthusiast and Sedalia resident, this would be a great addition to the good trails in our state...notably the Katy Trail. Bicycle trails bring added tourism to Missouri, which means additional revenue for the towns along the trail. I support DNR bringing the Rock Island Trail Project to fruition.

This proposed trail would be a huge boost for this state. I support the project. Let's make it happen!

It would be great for the trail to come through Cole Camp, MO. This would bring more customers to our downtown area as well as and most importantly a local place for individuals and families to get outdoors and enjoy the beautiful area.

Please do this. It's really important for economic development in Missouri.

please include our Town of Cole Camp deep rich in history with many local families brought here by the Rock Island line. It was a pillar stone for the development of early railroad communities, to be not considered in this spur would be a huge historic mistake with all the great restaurants and shopping in our area mostly visited by travelers to Lake of the Ozarks. Cole Camp was blessed by the Indians of the time the Iron Horse Ghost must be included in Cole Camp Culture Sincere [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Cole Camp Mo. 65325

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project

I believe this is something that will definitely benefit our state. Please continue!

Dear DNR and Governor Greitens, Active life styles contribute to our physical and mental health well being. Having a dedicated bicycle trail free from road traffic encourages the young and old to get out and peddle or walk the trail. Please endorse this project for the health and enjoyment of Missouri citizens and visitors. Thank you!!

Have a world class trail system that all the world comes to by finishing the rest of the trail.

Great idea anything to get people outside and be active.

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in South St. Louis County. Bicycling is one of my favorite outdoor activities. I've ridden my bike on the Katy Trail and I expect that the Rock Island Trail Project would be even more scenic.

I think that it is likely that the communities along the Rock Island Trail would benefit from influx of tourists. And I would like to think that the adjacent property owners would not be adversely impacted by trespassing and trash.

In summary, I hope that the State decides to proceed with the trail.

Thank you.

One only need look at the success the Katy Trail has had in the State of Missouri since its inception more than 20 years ago. Trail use brings a wide variety of individuals who look to stay healthy and active thru cycling, walking and running. Please consider the Rock Island Trail to become a part a Missouri State park that all can enjoy. People who use the Katy Trail spend money in the many towns along the way, and share their experiences with other individuals that have similar interests. Check out the license plates of cars parked at the trailheads during the summer months, people come from all over to use our fine trail. The Rock Island Trail will further that enjoyment of nature and the outdoors in our great State.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

I am all for the Rock Island Trail! First, I am a bike trail enthusiast and make wide use of bike trails both in the St. Louis area and throughout the state. I've biked the entire Katy Trail.

I have driven by this old rail bed many times and always think what a great bike/walking trail it would make.

Please go forward with this project. I feel it would be a tremendous asset to both the area and the state.

I think it is a great idea!

More jobs and economic growth through increase in tourism for Missouri!

I support this project.

Please support this project! Having this unique trail system provides two huge benefits to the tax paying citizens of MO. One tourism. Two healthier people. I have gotten a number of people to visit MO and bike the Katy trail. People that don't normally bike ride use these type of trails as well as those they bike alot. Without these options nearby many would not ride or be on more dangerous roads or in IL on the MCT trails. Longer routes with more options keeps people coming back for more. Having only one route limits your options and leads to burn out easily.

Thank you for taking the time to hear from your taxpayers.

The use of the old Rock Island Railroad as a recreational trail is a win-win for all of the citizens of Missouri. The trail will generate much need jobs, and will be an economic boom for all communities touching the trail, not to mention a tax revenue generator for Missouri. Please proceed with making this project happen.

Upon hearing the news of the potential conversion of the abandoned Rock Island Railroad tracks into another great trail for the public, my entire family was thrilled. We immediately began planning future cycling trips to cover much of the proposed trail. This will provide us with the opportunity to visit and support many smaller communities within the state via our bicycles. Frankly, we probably would not travel to these towns without the trail. Our family has strong ties to some of the communities that were previously served by the Rock Island Line. Adding a path of potential commerce and interest to the towns of Meta, Argyle, Freeburg, and Owensville, should help to sustain these once much more thriving communities. We are also excited at the prospect of getting to see more of our state. I STRONGLY urge the state to accept the RIRR Rails to Trails from the Missouri Central Railroad.

It would be great for the communities bringing in revenue from bike riders across the state. It would give Missourians another opportunity to explore the state on a new trail system. It would be widely used by biking and recreation enthusiasts.

What an excellent idea. Since retiring 14 years ago, I have been biking at least 3 times a week. Much of my riding has been on the Katy Trail, which my wife and I both love. Every year, I have noticed more and more Missourians are cycling many are couples and entire families. Any additional trails in Missouri are a plus to the state. We recently visited a number of trail loops in Edwardsville, IL and found the different riding opportunities offered in Illinois outstanding. Do not let Missouri fall behind. My wife and I encourage you to convert the former Rock Island Railroad corridor into a 144.3 mile long cycling trail that is proposed to run from Windsor, MO to Beaufort, MO. Thank you for your consideration.

We utilize the Katy Trail on occasion, and would GREATLY like to see this expanded to include the Rock Island Trail also. It is closer to my home and I think would be a wonderful additional asset to our Parks and Trails in Missouri.

As roads become more congested and bicycling becomes more popular we've seen an increase in fatalities. Building viable off-road options for cyclists will improve safety and can potentially be a tourist draw.

a multi use walking, hiking bicycling trail is a tremendous resource for the state and will have a multitude of benefits both financially as well as recreationally. Please develop the Rock Island Trail!

My whole life I have been waiting for this old railroad location to become a trail. I can only imagine being able to ride bikes and walk on the trail and having an outdoor recreation area in our rural community. We are excited about this and hope to use it in the future here in Cole Camp!

I think this would be a great idea! Do it!

I've seen the amount of people consistently using the Katy Trail and would like to see the Rock Island Trail get established in the same way. There are so many nice areas along the trail that would allow people to see other areas of the

state and in particular, the community of Cole Camp. The town has embraced remembering its heritage with welcoming others. This could be an important step in helping the community thrive. Thank you for your consideration.

The Rock Island Trail will provide economic benefit to the towns along the trail and also help promote a healthy life style. The outdoor industry is on the rise, contributing \$887 billion to the US economy and creating over 7 million jobs. Missouri citizens serve to benefit from the Rock Island Trail.

It would be a great asset to have this agreement in place. As an avid rider, I see it as an opportunity for Americans to see our country as it should be seen.

This would be a great addition to the state of Missouri. We travel from Oklahoma to ride the Katy often with more miles and more places to see it would mean visiting more often.
Thanks,

The Rock Island Line would be a wonderful addition to the Katy trail. Missouri will have a prime linear park asset to attract tourist's. Everywhere I bicycle, other bicyclist talk about having ridden the Katy or wanting to. The Rock Island would make it even better.
So please accept and develop the Rock Island line!

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Yes, please accept the 144 miles for the Rock Island Trail Project!

This trail will be good for the communities along the trail, good for the health and well-being of Missourians, and good for tourism into our state.

My family & I have made several short (5miles+/-) trips along the Katy Trail both hiking & biking, and have enjoyed the experience a great deal. We are looking forward to the new possibilities for the Rock Island Spur. We heartily recommend you take all possible actions to bring it to fruition.

Heard about this at the Missouri State Fair. Sounds like a good idea. We enjoy the Katy Trail around St. Charles.

The state of Missouri needs more bicycle trails, some states have many times more than we do.
Please, accept the Rock Island trail .
Thank you,
[REDACTED]

SUPPORT THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL!

My husband and I enjoy the trails and would love to see this section added. We live in Pleasant Hill and will be riding to Windsor Friday!

I think this would be a bad waste of money and time for a very few people to enjoy at the expense of many. By all rights the EPA should make this project a supper fund site and clean up all the contamination that lies on the track. With over 100 years of oil spills, railroad ties that are full of chemicals that have been long outlawed we have land that should not ever be

touch or used by the general public. I live along the track and for one say give it back to the land owners along the track so the eye sore it is now can be cleaned up. If given the chance to vote I would say no. Please elevate this to the EPA and let them perform a public service that would be of service to the general population along the track.

Totally in agreement with this

It would provide a scenic pathway for cyclists and allow for increased tourism to the areas along the path, as well as providing a venue for non-profit fundraising. I think it should happen.

I live in Bland, one block away from the old Rock Island tracks and yes I want the trail. Already new businesses are being built in both Bland and Owensville in anticipation for the trail. The idea of the trail has sparked excitement in the rural towns.

I like to walk as a form of exercise and would love to have the trail connecting Belle and Bland, or, Bland and Owensville. I have lived in Bland for 20 years and before that in Eldon for 20 years. The way the area running beside the old tracks has been let go of maintenance in the rural towns is a disgrace. Overgrown brush and weeds have taken over. And because clean up had already started in preparation for the trail, now to leave the brush chewed up along side the tracks looks worse than it just being overgrown.

Please give us the trail!!!

Fantastic opportunity! Positive prospects for tourism adjacent to and near the trail for all associated services. Beautiful scenery with minimum road contact very appealing to bicycle and foot traffic. A great addition to existing Katy Trail, and intersects it, for even more options. Economics extend beyond trail boundaries to bike and hike suppliers, and communities they serve at home. Katy already a destination and bucket list item for people across this country, as well as those from other countries, I have met on the trail. Currently observing positive effects in Chilhowee community as direct result of trail development. Health benefits of using trail not to be underestimated. Many train year round to stay in shape to utilize, and recruit others to begin activities.

I am supporting the Rock Island Trail Project as more trails will bring more people visiting our state. Love the Katy Trail and am on the spur of it into Columbia everyday.

Governor Greitens,

Please do accept this gift of the Rock Island Railroad corridor for development of a recreational trail. Central Missouri needs this trail! It will enhance mobility and health for people biking or hiking on the trail, and boost the economy for cities along the trail. It will draw bikers from other states to our state to use the trail, thereby boosting the economy of the entire state. People are counting on you to make the right decision and accept the trail, and develop it. Please do not pass up this opportunity for our State!

I am really hoping that you do the extension. I live in Chicago and travel down to Missouri because of the great trails that

you have. I would definitely include the Rock Island trail extension in my travels.

I hope that the Rock Island Trail can replicate the Katy Trail in its ability to go across the state, reviving the small towns that it passes through and providing the longest rails to trails in the country. I absolutely love the Katy Trail and allows spend some money in the little towns we visit so that local support stays strong.

Please support the Rock Island Trail, it will be a great boom to rural economic development. Thank you!

These types bike trails support exercise and create green spaces for all to enjoy. I have personally bicycled thousands fo miles on these types of trails across Missouri.

I would very much like to see this trail project happen. I believe it would be a great addition to our community.

I think this is a great idea. It will give people another place to walk, run, bike, etc. and promote healthy lifestyles. I am so excited and hope this agreement works out!

I think the addition/ expansion of the Rock Island Project is a good idea. I mean it appears to be a classic win-win. It would be good for the local economies of rural communities along the route. It would also be a great addition to the marketing of Missouri as a tourist destination for bikers from all over the world. But I tire of justifying everything from a monetary standpoint. In addition to the economic potential this would provide a wonderful resource and incentive for people to get out and maintain a healthier lifestyle by walking or biking in the outdoors, and wouldn't this reduce cost of health care, dang, another economic benefit. In summation, I strongly support the expansion of the Rock Island Trail Project as an investment in Missouri's future.

Hello! I'm writing to voice my strong support for the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. These projects have a wonderful history of simultaneously encouraging economic development, exercise, and conservation. The unbelievable success of the Katy Trail which passes through Sedalia is an example which we should strive to emulate. This day and age, when it seems that so many people are finding solace in electronic devices, it is more important than ever to offer access to healthy, wholesome entertainment. There are few development opportunities which offer so many and such diverse benefits to such a large group of people. Please continue with the development of the Rock Island Trail Project.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts!

This would further Missouri as an cycling/trail destination

I think this is a GREAT Idea. This trail would allow our state to have approximately 400 miles of converted rails-to-trails for recreational purposes and healthy exercise. It would allow a bicyclist to follow a 400 mile journey through beautiful and scenic mid-Missouri. I think it would attract many tourists and visitors to our state as well as bring in many tourist dollars. It would have a great impact on the many small towns along the

trail network as people would start to invest in small businesses, restaurants, B&B's, camping and hunting and fishing supplies. All of this would be a great economic engine for the state. I wholeheartedly support thie acquisition and investment by the State of Missouri.

I would very much like to see the development of the Rock Island Trail.

It will act as a catalyst for users (AKA consumers) to use both the Rock Island and Katy Tails in tandem.

There were similar misgivings by naysayers at the development stage of the Katy Trail, and virtually everyone (even the farmers who opposed it initially) now realize what a good thing it has been for the people of MO.

Please accept and develop the Rock Island Trail!

Anything that Missouri can do to promote a positive image of activities for tourists and locals, such as developing the Rock Island Trail, would be a plus for our entire state. My husband and I travel around the US and out of the country at least once a month, and it's amazing that, ever since the Michael Brown shooting in Ferguson and riots, how many people think that the St. Louis metropolitan area is one of the most violent areas in the US. If we can get people to enjoy biking on trails that are connected throughout Missouri, and then connect to trails in our surrounding states, then we can work together to help our economy grow in urban and rural areas. Promoting small businesses along the Katy Trail has done wonders for many small towns, so now we need to help the small towns along the Rock Island Trail. We biked along the Katy last summer, and ended up in the sad little town of Windsor where only one restaurant was open and just in the evening. Every small town along any bike trail in Missouri could probably use a tourism boost so more B&B's, bars and restaurants could blossom. Our favorite small town to stay in and bike to along the Katy is Augusta, but if the Rock Island trail can be expanded, then maybe Beaufort and Union could become our new favorite towns to bike to.

I have ridden the Katy Trail. I stayed at 6 hotels along the way. I want to do the same with the Rock Island Trail as it develops.

Please except the Rock Island Trail. This will be very beneficial to our state park system.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I agree that an interim agreement for the rest of the Rock Island Trail Project will be of great economic benefit to the state of Missouri, just as the KATY has been. People wanting to gut the Missouri State Park System are just flat wrong. It advances no economic nor social good by doing so.

I use and support Missouri state parks. We recently bought a bike rack for our car and we are using our bikes much more. We look forward to enjoying the Katy Trail and other state park trails in the future. For this and other reasons, I strongly encourage DNR and Missouri State Parks to enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement and take possession of the corridor in order to secure it for the future. I have heard that funds are not likely to be available for immediate development

except as particular segments can be developed and maintained through partnerships with other organizations or governmental entities. I encourage DNR to secure the trail and pursue partnerships to make this trail available to Missourians and visitors to our state.

We need more trail. Trails should be available to everyone regardless of where they live. Access to free trails lead to people getting more exercise and a decrease in health issues and obesity. The addition of Rock Island will bring more tourism to Missouri.

What a terrific opportunity for Missouri. Friends and family visiting here marvel at our Missouri State Parks and hiking and biking trails, and make this state a destination for that reason. The Rock Island Trail would serve as yet another enhancement.

I completely support the rock island trail. I would even offer help with maintenance on the trail near me.

I believe the Rock Island Trail Project is a very smart investment by DNR. This proposed trail along with the Katy trail will make Missouri a premier destination for bike touring, bringing in tourism from other states, as well as providing a great outdoor rec opportunity for Missourians. Completing this project soon is critical to establish Missouri as a great bike touring destination as this style of biking and tourism is growing rapidly in popularity; if this opportunity is missed, other states and locations will capitalize in the growing popularity of cycling.

I have been a "rider" for many years and have enjoyed watching the popularity of biking grow. The Katy trail stands as a monument to that interest and gives Missouri national recognition among bikers. The Rock Island trail seems like a wonderful addition to this legacy. Looking at the map i see it goes through some beautiful country and could be a treasure. I support strongly the effort to bank this land and perhaps develop it when funds are available. Once broken, it cannot be put together again. I thnk biking will only get more popular. As we have seen along the Katy trail, it can be the spur to future business development along the trail, bringing in out of staters to ride it and bring tourists to Missouri.

I hope this can happen

I love hiking in Missouri's wonderful trail and park system, which is a great economic asset to the state. I strongly support the Rock Island Train Project and hope that Missouri will do everything possible to ensure its future development as a public asset.

I support this agreement. I believe it is a good use for existing resources that no longer are used for the original intent. It will provide safe riding trails for bikes away from heavy traffic and bring new awareness of Missouri's beautiful terrain. In addition, I support any endeavor to increase the economy wellbeing of small towns and this has the potential to do so for many communities.

Please do enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad to develop the Rock Island Trail

Project! This trail will attract hikers and bikers and recreational users, which in turn will bring economic benefits to many small towns along its path. Many city and town groups are already on board, and many conservationists are, also. The Meramec Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalists has plans in place to restore a section of the trail to native plants as a demonstration project to recreate pollinator habitat, for example. I urge you respectfully to proceed with this project, and thank you!

I owe property at Crest. Looking forward to the future trail. Hopefully this will happen!

I strongly encourage the DNR and Missouri State Parks to enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement with MCR and take possession of the Rock Island Trail corridor in order to secure it for the future, recognizing that funds are not likely to be available for development except as particular segments can be developed and maintained through partnerships with other organizations or governmental entities. I also believe that partnerships with other natural resource protection groups and concerned individuals might further development of sections of this area for posterity.

████████████████████

To the DNR and Missouri State Parks:

I am an avid cyclist and hiker as as such frequently use local Missouri trails. I believe the addition of the KATY trail to Missouri has afforded endless hours of healthy recreation for Missourians and those who come from far and wide to experience this lovely trail. I am also a member of the Missouri Parks Association.

With that as my background introduction, I encourage you to enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement and take possession of the above-referenced corridor in order to secure it for the future, recognizing that funds are not likely to be available for development except as particular segments can be developed and maintained through partnerships with other organizations or governmental entities. I also encourage you to partner with local organizations and individuals regarding development of particular sections of the trail.

Sincerely Yours,

████████████████████

Please do not let this opportunity pass Missouri by!! A network of trails is a wonderful amenity for our citizens and to attract out of state visitors and ultimately businesses. Please do something progressive for the long-term good of our state.

This is a tremendously fantastic idea! The best use of old abandoned railroad corridors for the citizens of this state and the country is to convert them to trail transportation use and public/state park allowing the public to see the state and country without going by automobile at 70 mph seeing nothing but pavement, billboards and gas-stations. This type of conversion will create a tourism access into the heart of Missouri into small towns where real hospitality exist and a true image of the state, and middle america can be found.

This looks like a win-win situation. With the state obtaining the land and saving it for the development as a trail that will later be developed by trail groups or local organizations is

looking towards future goals. It will open up natural areas to people who have never been out in nature and bring tourist to the area. Small towns would really benefit and it might help these rural area from losing population. Go for it!

No to the RITP. It is not and will not ever be free. Land litigation, maintenance, liability insurance, startup work to make it safe with only 1/10th of one percent tax funding. Claims of use and economic impact are inflated. It is a free ride for out of state user's.

Excellent Idea!

I have mixed feelings about the rail line. I grew up without the rail running in my life time. I would have loved to see the trains run through and be able to ride the rails. The trail would be a huge boost to our area for tourism. We have many other things around to help draw visitors and therefor business, this would be a great addition to it. We also need fun ways to encourage people to get off their couches and do things. The health of our country is getting worse. I hear a lot of people interested in being able to travel the old lines and see the country side. Here in lies the other issue. As a farmer I am concerned for those along the line to feel confident that measures will be taken to keep them protected. The main issue is the threat of bio-termism. It would be very easy to go down the trail undetected and cause catastrophic issues with those that product food next to the rail line. Provided that issue could be addressed and assured some protection to those producers, I believe they would be willing to get on board.

finish the Katy Trail first! It was advertised as the longest State Park in Missouri and yet it is not fully connected on a stretch between Sedalia and Grecian road that is riding a dangerous road!

I believe it is a good idea, as long as it is used as a hiking and non-motorized biking trail. Most hikers and non-motorized bikers tend to seek solitude and an exploratory adventure when they use the trails. On the other hand, MTV users tend to utilize the trails to get from one place to another in as fast as time possible. So I suggest it be used for hiking and non-motorized purposes only.

This would be a spectacular addition to a state park system that is already exemplary. Missouri would benefit from another reason for people to either stay in Missouri for their vacations or to come to Missouri as tourists.

Even if the trail can not be fully developed right at the time of hand-over it still would be a great addition for the state to hold for the public trust.

I strongly support the development of the Rock Island Trail Project from Windsor to Beaufort, MO. My husband, our friends and I have enjoyed many years of pleasure and exercise while riding our bicycles on the Katy Trail. The Rock Island Trail would provide the same benefits to Missouri citizens and out-of-state tourists. In addition, the conversion of old rail corridors to recreation use provides economic benefits to the towns along the route as numerous visitors use lodging and restaurants, etc., in these towns. Please continue Missouri's stellar history in creating these wonderful

recreation and tourism opportunities through rails-to-trails conversions.

Please enter into this agreement for the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. Missouri is earning a great reputation for a trails state, and the old Rock Island line will make a terrific addition to our trails.

Please, make it so.

YES YES YES to building this trail! This would be a fantastic MO asset, for families, tourism and new business

I believe the Missouri Parks Association and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources should accept the 144-mile eastern segment of the Rock Island Trail from Windsor to Beaufort. Even though it is not possible to develop that segment at this time, I believe they should take possession of it and develop it as partners and resources are able to be found.

Please, please, please do this. You can make a wonderful resource out of something that has laid fallow and wasted all of these years. It will stimulate health, access and the economies of so many somewhat stagnant, smallish towns

I am a bicycle tourist. The longer and continuous the more attractive the trails. I bike B & B or Motel to Motel and eat out along the way while including nearby points of interest. I have done the Katy trail but this would be great for longer continuous trips

This would be a tremendous asset for the state of Missouri. Do it now while the opportunity exists.

It has Ben amazing what this Trail has done for the little town of Chilhowee. As a business owner I can't imagine how tight it would be for store without the extra business we receive from the trail.

I believe this is a wonderful idea DNR should continue to develop the Rock Island Trail it will bring economic growth to the communities in the area it is a beautiful area to bike I feel it would be a disaster if they quit doing it the state of Missouri pisses money away on more ridiculous things like welfare at least this is doing something for the surrounding communities it's just my personal opinion let's see if the state can get off their ass and actually do something right for once

I am strongly for the new trail. It will bring many times the original investment back to the state. Please move forward.

How is this a question? OF COURSE make this a reality.

I think developing such venues for communal public activities would both positively benefit the health and well being of local families and communities as well as providing new economic opportunities along the extent of the trail.

Additionally such low cost civic developments are likely to appeal to young professionals looking to put down roots in Missouri just as I am, by giving them a safe venue to enjoy Missouri's natural beauty with their families.

In Owensville and other trail adjacent communities, children will have a safe route from the downtown area to the local schools that with appropriate stewardship could be extended to serve the entire communities.

I would like to see such opportunities cultivated because I believe they would do much for the good of us all.

I hope the DNR will enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement and related Rock Island Trail Project. The expansion of hiking and bicycling trails around that state, and especially near our most populated cities, is of great benefit to Missouri citizens. Such expansion offers improved access to the beauty of Missouri's natural terrain, opportunities for amateur study of natural science, and room for life-enhancing exercise. Please do not refuse this offer.

I'm in full support of the State of MO accepting this "gift" from Ameren. One needs only look at the Katy Trail and the significant impact it has not only financially to the State and the various towns along the route but also culturally. Towns that had been in decline have found another source of income and people are getting out and enjoying the trails from all socioeconomic backgrounds. This project is a win-win from any angle you look at it!

This is a once in forever opportunity. Do it and build an amenity that will serve the whole state for decades to come.

I think the State of Missouri should work on developing the Rock Island Trail project. We have seen a lot of economic impact in the town of Windsor because of the Katy Trail and now the Rock Island Trail. Many other small towns along the Rock Island Trail could also benefit from the additional trail from many other states and countries. Please consider supporting this project to help those small towns.

Don't pass up this opportunity to make Missouri great again!

this is a wonderful opportunity that we should not pass up. what a great tourism and health opportunity for the state of Missouri. Please support this trail!

Our rails to trails are amazing. People who know nothing about Missouri know about the Katy Trail. as more and more families are taking on biking adventures, we should definitely add these 144 miles to our MO tour!

Not only is it a healthy to bike, it's a healthy economic impact!

The Rock Island Trail Project is a MUST for Missouri. This should be at the top of the budget priority for Missouri government.

Please acquire this valuable asset. I recently bike the Pleasant Hill to Windsor trail and was amazed at the beauty and diversity along the trail.

This project would have an immensely positive impact on the public perception of Missouri's recreational facilities, directly leading to increased tourism from visitors across the US and, as is already evident, internationally.

I am very much in favor of the 144 mile long rails-to-trails development known as the Rock Island Trail Project. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and the opportunity of a lifetime is only good for the lifetime of the opportunity.

PLEASE START THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS TRAIL ASAP.

Thank You,

██████████
Harrisonville, Mo.

I see the Rock Island Trail opportunity as benefiting so many Missourians today and endlessly in the future. Not just all my biking friends and family who have decided to action more often at home rather than traveling out of state but all the small rural towns who are along the trail will benefit from this trail. At a time when fitness, family entertainment, community, and Missouri in general need our support, Missouri would be recognized as a state who wisely supports its citizens. This is a positive unifying project that will rally support from sponsors in America and bring honorable recognition to our state. Economically it could be the boost Missouri small towns need. Safety wise, we are seeing an increasing number of bikers on highways in Missouri such as 13 hwy and a safer biking option needs to be available.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. 25 years living in the DC area. The rails to trails parks are the most loved and used parks in the area. Consider moving home to Missouri.

Would be a great investment for our state in many ways. It would spur growth in small towns that were previously rail towns. For example, many of small towns along the Katy trail have restaurants and B&Bs. It would attract people from around the nation and internationally that will put money into our economy. Finally, probably one of the most important is the health of our citizens in the state. Residents that live near the trail will use it and this will help in the physical health of our state. This is especially true in small towns that don't have access to nice parks or gyms.

This will be an invaluable asset for the state of Missouri. It will draw the type of visitors the state wants and will be a source of pride and enjoyment for Missouri citizens. Rails-to-trails projects are a growing trend and Missouri should be sure to take advantage of this gift and opportunity.

Absolutely support the rock island project!

A project like the RIT is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the state of Missouri. Yes, the trail will cost some to complete in the beginning, but if you look forward to the long term outcome, the benefits of the state could be massive. More than a million people use the Katy trail each year and the Rock Island could double that number. This would bring areas of economic growth and travel to many of the smaller towns throughout the state. Personally, I have used both trails to train on for marathons, and the peacefulness and scenery of the areas the trails traverse are hard pressed to be matched anywhere in the state. To me, it seems that this is a no brainer, take the deal and create something that changes the face of the state for the better. How many other states could boast a trail system that connects most of their major municipalities and is over 400

miles in length? Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this and i know that the state will make te best decision for the people!

This is an amazing opportunity for Missouri to gain another huge trail!

Whether to enter this agreement depends entirely on the terms of said agreement. I encourage the DNR to place a copy of the proposed agreement on this site for perusal by the public. I can neither support nor oppose without complete details.

This sounds like a good idea. However, the devil is in the details.

Note: providing the information required, name, phone, email, does NOT constitute authorization for the DNR or any other organization to contact me about any matter other than specifically in reference to the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please accept the donation of this trail. What an opportunity to add this to the wonderful Katy trail! This kind of opportunity so rarely comes along, please take advantage of it! Among other things, the economic benefit to the small towns near the trail will be wonderful!

I am in support of this Edition. This would allow families to view and enjoy Missouri's Beauty. We live in a time that Civilization encroaches upon our rapidly dwindling natural resources. I think we must all make an effort to try to preserve them.

I've biked the Katy trail with my son. What a treasure! Let's expand it.

The trail would be a wonderful draw for people both in and out of the state. Just as the MR340 river race draws in people from all over the country and the world, people will come to Missouri for this one of a kind trail. They already come from out of state to bike the Katy trail, but having it start in Clinton is awkward. Hooking Kansas city into the trail makes the trail much more appealing as it links the two major metropolitan cities in MO. People would come just for the bragging rights to say they biked from KC to STL.

I would love to see the proposed Rock Island Trail project be completed in its entirety. We certainly are creating a treasure in our state with the Katy Trail and now the Rock Island Trail. My brother-in-law from Connecticut is eagerly awaiting the Rock Island portion to be completed so he can travel out and we can bike a nice week-long round trip. The biking and hiking community would certainly be supporting our local communities!

Great idea. Acquire and develop when funds become available.

I support the trail project!

We want the State of Missouri to accept the offer to donate a stretch of the rail line from Windsor to Baufort or what is known the Rock Island Trail Project. This could bring in money for the state and eventually pay for

itself. Plus, it will put Missouri on the map and show off the beauty of our state!. Please post your survey.

Please accept this agreement and preserve the corridor. It will take time for implementation but the asset needs to be preserved now.

To have a recreational trail that my family and others could use would be absolutely wonderful. It takes a railroad with an extensive history that no longer was being used and turns it into something that promotes physical fitness and quality time for families and friends to share. It will add revenue for some of the small businesses and towns along the trail. It may cost a lot of money upfront and minimal costs to maintain while promoting a great deal of benefits as a result.

This project will serve not only to enormously boost the economies of the small towns in its path but also to provide health boosting opportunities for the citizens of Missouri and visitors to our state.

As a longtime (and aging) cyclist, the Rock Island Trail has been a gift. Not only is it a great way for cyclists, hikers, runners, walkers etc., it's wonderful for families. The last time we rode it, we saw multiple families with kids taking advantage of a safe, beautiful way to spend time together outdoors.

With the onslaught of media options, if we let places like the Rock Island get away from us, we will (in my opinion), pull even more into our own worlds. This last trip, we not only saw families, we helped a kid about nine with his chain, leading to a brief conversation with his parent whom we had only smiled and waved at before as we passed each other. Even though the odds of running into them again are beyond slim, it was a connection and enhanced our day and hopefully theirs.

Please support this trail. If nothing else, the popularity of the Katy, the Wabash Trace in Iowa, the trails out of Ottawa, Ks. and others are a sign that the Rock Island is part of a serious recreational venue accessible to all generations.

Thank you for your time.

Max Garrison

I believe this agreement will help these little communities and provide more appeal for tourism provided we tie into the Katy Trail.

I support the development of a Rock Island Trail and committing public funds to it. This trail would increase the visibility of Missouri as a destination when considered along with that existing Katy Trail. These opportunities are rare and should be seized upon.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, DO THIS!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Katy Trail is an amazing project that many folks were convinced would do nothing for Missouri. Now it is a \$19 million boost to the Missouri economy and is a national treasure. Adding the Rock Island Line trail to this would be an outstanding investment for the citizens of Missouri. This is a NO BRAINER. DO IT!!!!!!

This should be approved...Missouri is a wonderful state and this would be a welcome addition to our state park system!

An excellent plan. Please do It!

The state should accept and develop this trail. As a nurse, I see the implications for better health in areas that embrace outdoor activities like hiking and biking. The trail would serve as a needed greenspace for residents of the state.

As well, the economy of small town Missouri along the proposed trail would get a much needed bump. The Katy has proven to attract scores of tourists to areas that would otherwise not have a tourist industry.

A few million dollars to develop this trail is well worth the investment. Increase taxes if that's what it takes.

Take a positive step in state history and growth: build this trail!

This would be a great investment in Missouri's future!

Thinking long term, and big picture, this is an opportunity that Missouri CAN'T miss. The costs that have been mentioned are stupidly small compared with the extraordinary value. What does Forest Park mean to St. Louis, or Loose or Swope Parks to Kansas City? This corridor would take Missouri recreational trails beyond "critical mass", and make that whole recreational sector of Missouri a go-to destination, for people inside and outside of the State. It would be of enormous long-term value to the image of Missouri as a desirable place to live and work. Yes the economic value is obviously overwhelming, but the quality of life improvement for Missourians by itself would be extremely cheap at the price, even ignoring the economic benefits.

Without a doubt, the Rock Island Trail Project is something that should be embraced and pursued. We as Missourians should not let go of this unique opportunity to provide clean, wholesome recreation for generations to come. Although it will take several years and many dollars to accomplish, the Rock Island Trail Project will give people of all ages reason to be outdoors engaged in healthy activity. People from all over the state would have access to it and it would tie in with the Katy Trail. What a boon! Please add my voice to those in favor of this investment by the state of Missouri.

This is an awesome opportunity that cannot be set aside. We must spend the money now to accept Ameren's offer. It will bring in millions of tourist dollars annually to Missouri coffers. What a wonderful asset to have.

It's a great idea!! It would be a wonderful tourist attraction for Missouri.

The State of Missouri would be foolish to not take advantage of this opportunity. The Katy Trail is an unqualified success. The Rock Island would serve to make Missouri even more of a destination for avid bicyclists. I live in Clinton and have seen the impact the Katy Trail has had on our community and on the State of Missouri. Let us be progressive. Let us be forward looking. Let us make Missouri the number one destination for trail riding cyclists. It is not just the traveler who will use the Rock Island. Local use predominates. The trail system

contributes to the overall health of our community. It gives people a safe place to walk, jog and cycle. I am aware of the fact that the state is short of money because of tax cuts for the wealthy. The government needs to find the money for this project that will be of tremendous benefit to the entire population of our state.

Missourians have an incredible opportunity to expand our trail system and ultimately feature an unbroken 'world class' trail system the spans the entire state. It will take vision and the decision to invest in a project that likely will take decades to fully realize. My hope is that our legislators see the merit of investing in a once in a lifetime opportunity that will serve generations of Missourians and attract tourists to our wonderful State.

I have used the Katy trail frequently with friends and family (many from out of state and international visitors) and they all were impressed with the beauty of the trail. A significant amount was spent in Missouri during those trips as well. I think that adding the Rock Island addition to our trail systems would be an enduring benefit to Missourians that we should not miss out on. Even if it takes years to develop, get it before we lose the opportunity. Thank you

We strongly support acquisition of the 144 mile Rock Island rail right of way. As baby boomers approaching retirement, we believe the added trail would be an attraction to thousands of people like us from across the Midwest and the entire country. The enhancement of Missouri's reputation and the economic impact would, in the long-term, justify the investment of tax dollars in the short term.

This is good for economic development in rural MO. Also good for public health. Totally worth the costs to State of Mo. Get it done. Please.

Think it would be a great asset to the state of Missouri and great opportunity for economic impact.

A great opportunity to enrich Missouri's culture and attract future economic impact. Missourians should be forward thinking. I'm fully supportive of going forward

Governor Greitens,

As a frequent user of the Katy trail across Missouri and a longtime resident of Kansas City and several year resident of St. Peters, MO our family would love to see you support the Rock Island Trail effort. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to secure what would be an international draw to our great state. I encourage you, if you haven't already, to ride across the state over a long weekend on the Katy to appreciate just what we could have in a larger loop with the Rock Island trail. Even if you can find an afternoon to take in just a short sample of the Katy at Boonville or across the river from Jeff City or especially along the trail near Rocheport you would be a life long advocate for rails to trails in Missouri. We have something special here that the Rock Island opportunity could push us to a 'only place in the nation' position on rails to trails. Thank you for your Service to our country and your time and consideration in this matter.

Please develop the Rock Island Trail Project. It will provide an economic boost to our State, both by increasing tourism but also by attracting businesses and people to MO. Recreation can be a strong economic engine; the Rock Island Trail be an economic plus for MO just like the KATY Trail, Lake of the Ozarks, etc. Businesses want to be where their people want to be and recreation is a major attraction. Also, the more trails we have the more likely cyclists will ride on the trails and not on the roads, i.e., safer for everybody. This is an investment well worth making for our State.

These trails make a difference now and for future generations to enjoy Missouri. They attract out state visitors and promote a healthy lifestyle. Missouri is a national leader in conservation and the preservation of our natural resources. Government leaders who want to steal tax dollars from Missouri Parks and Conservation are merely promoting self interest agendas of the wealthy. Our Children and future Missouri citizens deserve a legacy of the outdoors that we can leave with these types of projects.

The Rock Island Trail project would be a huge benefit to the State of Missouri long-term. Please develop it like the Katy Trail to attract the tourists that enjoy our beautiful state.

I fully support the proposal for the State to take on the Rock Island Trail Project. I have hike on the Missouri Ozark Trail and biked on the Katy Trail, which are tremendous assets for the State and its citizens. They both also attract visitors from out of State and make the State a better place to live. Missouri should and needs to invest in opportunities like this.

Please enter into this agreement and complete this trail. The Katy is world famous and a destination for Missourians and tourists. Increasing the length of the trail will only improve it and bring more users who will in turn spend tourist dollars on food, lodging, and transportation. A 400 mile dedicated bike trail is indeed a destination only to be found in Missouri. Already known for our trails, the Rock Island will increase our popularity substantially.

I live in Kansas but travel to Missouri to ride my bicycle on the Katy Trail with others from Kansas and Missouri. I have spent nights in bed and breakfast inns along the trail and have eaten in restaurants near Clinton, Sedalia, Booneville, and Rochport. In the last few months I have ridden along the Rock Island Spur Trail twice and would definitely look forward to riding further along the possible new trail. Even if the trail takes years to fully develop, please take this opportunity to secure this treasure.

I LOVE the Katy Trail. As an active Boy Scout leader, having this asset gives us an annual activity that exposes the heart of Missouri to young men and their parents (who spend money at campsites and other venues).

Let's add more trails! The effect can only be positive for the environment and the economy.

Thanks!

Please take this opportunity to boost the economy of the rural sections of this great state. Thanks

I support trail development and would hate to see Missouri lose out on this opportunity.

Missouri should do everything possible to make this project a reality. This will be a great addition to our already wonderful park system and will be a huge economic asset for the state. Let's build off the successes of the Katy Trail and get this done.

I support the creation of a biking trail along the old Rock Island Railroad line. This trail would pass through some of the most scenic lands in Missouri. The overwhelming popularity of the existing Katy Trail speaks volumes why this new trail would be a great addition to the state. Please take advantage of the availability of this right of way and secure it for the use of future generations.

Great idea!

I think it is vitally important that the Rock Island trail project is funded and constructed. The existing Katy trail is world famous and generates millions of dollars from people all over the states. The addition of the Rock Island trail would only increase the level of usage, especially if spurs were built connecting KC and St. Louis to the trail.

Please support the Rock Island Trail Project. The Katy Trail is a proven nationally known tourist draw and an economic and recreational asset for our state. To make such an addition would surely place Missouri on the international map for biking and outdoor enthusiasts. I live in Missouri and have biked the Katy Trail and would be very excited to see such an addition.

I think this is a great idea and should be done. A very good idea for this state and people here plus people who would come to see it and use it. Great for the state and all!

I heartedly support the DNR entering into an interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project. I have a grandson and his wife who use trails and are coming to bike the Katy Trail. They would love to continue on the proposed trail.

This would be a great opportunity for Missourians to leave something for generations after. What better way to explore the beauty of the state.

The state should do this project. Generations of Missourians and visitors will enjoy our state's natural beauty by using the trail. There will be positive economic impact -- just as there has been with the Katy Trail. Yes it will cost money to develop the trail. But preservation of this unique resource is worth the cost.

This is a wonderful trail system, well used and will provide much better acces to the Katy trail from KC.

We've been on the section south of pleasant hill and it had lots of people on it. Our family of 5 loves it.

Please don't pass this opportunity up, Missouri. MO residents need recreational activities desperately, as our Midwest

location doesn't offer the much desired mountains, beaches, or deserts. Acquiring this trail will help attract and keep the nature-minded people in the state.

Missouri needs this additional hiking and biking trail. It will draw people from all over the U.S. and become an economic engine for the areas surrounding it. The Katy Trail is a jewel on its own. Adding Rock Island Trail to it will be enough jewels to make a crown. Yes, it will cost a lot out of the pocket to make it a reality but we need to go for it while the getting is good. How much better can we get with this being handed to us on a silver platter by Ameren. Hey, Gov, we say don't let this (Rock Island Trail) slip by us. Grab it by the horns and tie it up.

Do not pass up this opportunity to create one of the greatest trail systems in the world right here in Missouri. Just do it!

I fully support this project. The Katy Trail is a treasure to Missouri and surrounding states and is important to the tourist economy. Extending it with the Rock Island line is a no-brainer.

This would be a great benefit to Missouri and well worth the cost. You might even get some private funds to complete the trail.

I rode the Katy Trail for the first time this year. I had a great time and plan to ride again next year. I was excited at the prospect of a lengthened Rock Island Trail; and now I am disappointed by the delay. I saw economic development along the Katy, eateries: B & Bs, gift & snack shops, campgrounds, bike shops; this kind of small business development could expand to towns along the Rock Island. And the addition of the Rock Island Trail would create a bike loop in Missouri which will attract even more bicyclists.

I am an aging baby boomer trying to get in shape before I retire. The (flat) Katy offers me a place to safely gear up to my highest speed and blast through the woods on a bright white trail. It's fun. Childhood revisited. I believe there are many retiring baby boomers like me. I think the expansion would be great for Missouri.

I fully support the development of the Rock Island trail. While it will be a long process, the development of this trail will be a valuable and significant asset for our state. Please have the vision to support this important project that will be valuable for future generations!

I would love to see this trail come about. When I was in the scouting program, one of the most anticipated campouts was riding the Katy Trail. This would let other scouts in other areas of the states have a similar experience.

The Rock Island Trail project would make Missouri a premiere destination for national bike tourism and provide a wonderful way to keep our state engaged in healthy lifestyles. I believe it could have long-term economic benefits in addition to being an amazing resource for Missourians. I fully support entering into the trail use agreement.

Please enter into the agreement for the trail

Project.

Considering the success of the Katy trail, adding the Rock Island trail would make the state a vacation destination !! We must take advantage of this opportunity.

I've biked these type of trails all over the country. What an amazing opportunity for Missouri! I love the Katy Trail, please say yes to this donation!

I am a person who has worked to get the Katy Trail on the West end done for many years. This project must be done to The Kansas City stadiums The trail will intersect with the Santa Fe Trail in Raytown and make the Katy Trail even more important, because they can get on Katy trail and bike to Santa Fe, NM. on the Santa Fe Trail making it the longest bike trail anywhere. I hope the Governor will look at this and see what a great opportunity this could be for Missouri. Keep Missouri moving forward.

The project would be a great addition to the state of Missouri for generations! This should be a priority for all people who care about this state and keeping land for everyone to enjoy! Please take the offer from Ameren!

The Rock Island Trail Project benefits everyone. I'm a retired Missouri citizen who recently discovered the health benefits of riding. The health of our citizens is improved when we have resources such as this available. Plus, continuing to develop the Rock Island Trail Project gives an economic boost to the Missouri's communities that it passes through as well as the state in general.

Knowing how much our trail by our house is being used and how much we should be promoting a healthy active lifestyle it's essential to continue these kinds of projects in the future. I would support an interim trail use agreement for sure!

I support this Agreement. Similar to the existing Katy Trail, it will provide not just recreational opportunities, but economic development for the communities along the route. Much of the development cost will be borne by the businesses and communities along the route.

It would be to Missouri's credit to acquire the use of the Rock Island property to add to the Katy Trail. The chance to add this land to the park system is important to tourism and the state.

This has long been a dream of mine. A full route across Missouri on mostly protected, non motorized trails. The Rock Island Trail would be a HUGE step in that direction. I believe that having this as an option would bring a lot more cycling tourists through Missouri, instead of them skipping north or south to more established routes.

I think the DNR should enter into an interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad Rock Island Trail Project. It benefit and promote the state of Missouri.

Since retiring in February 2016 I have taken up bike riding for exercise and enjoyment. I have been on the Rock Island spur many times and it is one of my favorite trails to ride. Further

developing the Rock Island trail is an excellent idea, with it connecting to the Katy Trail it would be a wonderful draw for Missourians and out of state guests.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. I have enjoyed the Katy Trail - biking/walking. I know it might take decades to develop the Rock Island Trail like the Katy Trail waiting for the funding both private and public. Let's be sure to have the option to develop the Rock Island Trail in the coming decades by accepting it.

It is neat to have the option of picking up the trail at different locations. Rocheport is my favorite on the Katy Trail with the river and scenery. I hope in the years ahead to have more options with the Rock Island Trail added to Missouri's Trails.

I grew up in St. Louis and plan to return to Missouri as a bicycle tourist to ride the off road trails, like the Katy. The Rock Island Trail would be an important additional inducement for me to spend my tourist dollars in Missouri.

PLEASE DO sign an interim trail use agreement to signal department support for future trail development! Missouri has greatly benefited economically from the Katy Trail (close to where I live, in Callaway County) and you have the proof from the solar eclipse just last week! We benefit so much from our state parks, as a native Missourian, I'm very proud of Missouri's commitment to conservation and resources.

This latest opportunity serves as another big red flag to remind us that our state parks deserve - on many levels - an increased sales tax percentage, entirely dedicated to park infrastructure - as the vote indicated last November.

As a Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri member, Missouri Master Gardener and Missouri Master Naturalist, I have heard local leaders in Eldon endorse this project, and seen their grass-roots support. Please use DNR resources to help support the Rock Island Trail.

I fully support pursuing completion of the Rock Island Trail Project to its fullest possible public use. The Katy Trail System has been a stellar example of well-maintained and well-utilized trails in Missouri. This potential expansion would only add to the current benefits. I believe many in the Kansas City area and eastward would take advantage of these great trails for the benefits of being out in nature, exercise and recreation (bike riding, family gatherings, etc.). Please pursue adding this to the Missouri trail system as fully and quickly as possible.

I am definitely in favor of this I don't use the current trail as much as I once did but it would be an incredible opportunity to capitalize upon ...a safe place for families to bike and likewise a national destination for others that love that lifestyle, we must take the opportunity.

We support the Rock Island Trail project. We've ridden on many rail-trails in the U.S. and believe this will be a boon for Missouri... both for Missourians and for travelers visiting our State.

I rode the first rails-to-trail bike path, The Sparta -Elroy Trail, the first years it was opened in the late 1960's. I led many rides and rode the Prairie Path trail in Illinois. I was on the inaugural Grand Illinois Trail & Parks Ride in 2003 which was 456 a mile loop in northern Illinois that never left a bike trail from eastern Illinois near Chicago to the Mississippi River and back. I led a bike tour on the KATY Trail in the 1990's with a bike club from Elmhurst, Il when I lived in Illinois before moving to Olathe in 2006.

Please proceed with this agreement. This is important.

Please take advantage of this huge opportunity for the state of Missouri. Once its creation is paid for, this project will be an economic draw for generations, and a state jewel.

The long-term benefits we will reap from this trail far outweigh the short-term financial costs. The Katy Trail is adjust a major asset and this opportunity will turn it into a major tourist draw. It will cement MO's place as a state that values its unparalleled natural beauty.

I live in Warrensburg and support additional trail projects in Missouri including the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please support the trail and the expansion of the trail. It is a great opportunity for Missouri and the residents. I am very excited for this trail and the opportunities it comes with.

This project would add to the world class public lands we have here in Missouri. Governor Greitens has a rare opportunity to put his name on a once in a generation conservation effort.

The Katy Trail has become a must do biking experience for bikers all over the USA and many of our foreign neighbors. Many hikers use the trail for daily runs to stay in shape or just to get out and see nature. The Rock Island loop would make Missouri a must see and do biking and hiking experience. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and should not be missed.

For the state of Missouri to make money we have to invest money.

This project is an investment to attract people to the state (we make money); and, an investment for our citizens and future. This is not spending for frivolity. It is investing in land and assets for a return. I know this from being a small businessman and working in real estate. Please support it in a way it will succeed.

This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase our state and the natural beauty it contains. It will bring international attention and millions of tourism dollars into our state economy annually. What a great way to stimulate and sustain our rural communities that are currently dwindling away to nothing. Plus, it'd be nice to see Missouri in the news for something positive for a change. You're either growing or you're dying and right now it's hard to tell which course Missouri is committed to. Let's send a clear signal to the nation and the world that Missouri is dedicating itself to a better, more interesting future.

Please accept the 144 miles for the Rock Island Trail Project! This will be good for Missouri!

We fully support conversion of the Rock Island Railroad corridor to a recreational trail. The development of this segment of trail will substantially enhance recreational opportunities for Missouri citizens as well as providing economic development throughout the targeted area. We fully expect the current Governor to continue progress towards an agreement to insure completion of the Rock Island Trail Project without delay.

I think the Rock Island Trail is a no-brainer in being unique upon completion. No other trail system will have such a loop, along the Missouri on one side and along the northern edge of the Ozarks on the other. I'm heartened to hear the enthusiastic response from the towns along the way. On the other hand, while there needs to be a funding commitment for the eventual completion at the start, the most use will be gotten from the system if built from each end towards the middle, since that will entice traffic from the Katy. In particular, I've heard there are conflicting right of way usage concerns with Union so connecting Beaufort directly to Washington will go a long way to proving the project can be finished.

I fully support creating a bike & hiking trail along the Rock Island line. It would create great opportunities for people to enjoy the beauty of our state. I think it would stimulate the economy due to the tourism along the trail.

I am in favor of the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please consider this as a positive addition to the Katy Trail. It would be wonderful for future Missourians and others from out-of-state.

This to express my support for the proposed conversion of the Rock Island line to a walking and bicycle trail. This is a one-time opportunity for Missouri to establish itself as a leader and a destination in the rails-to-trails movement. The Katy Trail has established the economic viability of such projects and the addition of the Rock Island line would greatly enhance it. As a Missouri voter and taxpayer, I strongly urge you accept the Ameren proposal.

I think this would be a wonderful opportunity for the state and its citizens. If we don't take advantage of it now, it may not present itself again. It could provide revenue from increased tourism in the state, as well as provide generations to come wonderful recreational space. Please pursue this!

As a resident of Missouri, I think the Rock Island Trail would be good for the state both in terms of return on dollars spent, and utilizing our natural resources to the benefit of Missouri residents and tourists. Small towns along the trail are already inspired to create new businesses related to biking and tourism.

I am, therefore, in favor of entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project.

I am convinced that the Rock Island Trail Project would proceed, without a lot of government funding, if the individual towns or areas were allowed to work on the trails in their

vicinity. There is so much interest in Morgan County, that I think the preparing of the trails would progress nicely with local involvement.

For safety's sake, I am so anxious to get walkers and bikers off the public streets and highways before someone is badly injured or killed. Separation of the personal traffic and vehicular travel would be a huge blessing for everyone.

I am [REDACTED] a resident of Lone Jack in Jackson County Missouri. I regularly travel the 8 miles down to Pleasant Hill to use the Rock Island trail and the cities MoPac trail. So I am an example of the type of visitor to these areas. The Rock Island and MoPac trails take me to Pleasant Hill where I spend money on gas, I buy groceries there as I combine my trips, and also utilize the Newtown Bike shop that sprang up because of the advent of the trails. These are all economic benefits to Pleasant Hill and Cass County from a local tourist. Other tourist from further away would have even larger single visit economic impacts.

I realize that the money may not be currently available to develop the eastern portion of the trail but to fail to secure the corridor for future use would be a crime to outdoor recreationist and the local communities along the route. I am a user of long distance trails in that I have hiked the Appalachian Trail and the Centennial Trail in South Dakota, biked the Katy Trail, and paddled the Missouri River from Gavin's Point Dam to St Louis. So myself, and many I know would eagerly ride or hike the new Rock Island extension. So I am one of the users that would be denied another great state resource if the trail corridor is not secured. The communities along the trail would also be robbed of the opportunities to capitalize on the additional tourism and traffic to their communities. I am aware of the plight of rural America having lived in small communities of Kansas and Missouri. Any chance to add economic stimulus to these areas should be embraced.

By entering the Interim Trail Use Agreement the state would be securing future development opportunities for MDNR but it would be also allowing the above mentioned local communities the opportunity to provide for their own future. These communities could develop sections of the trail in their own areas and provide a resource for the people in their communities and a possible draw for others. There could be grant monies that these communities could tap the MDNR can not. Maybe once again their will be ISTAP money available, grants from local health care facilities for recreational trails, partnering opportunities with local schools on cross country courses, or Rural Development Grants from the USDA. This local development could proceed while MDNR is unable to act. These local efforts would also reduce the end cost to MDNR.

The state should enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement for the Rock Island Trail Extension, to not do so would be short sighted. The agreement would allow local communities to guide some of their own futures. It would also secure the trail corridor as a gift to future Missourians. Sign the agreement.

The cost of the trail will be high. But the return that local communities and the state will receive from tourism will be forever lasting. It will be a trail network like no other. It will attract people from all over.

My husband and I are Kansas residents but have been very excited about the proposed Rock Island Trail. Rail trails are vacation destinations for us, and I think they are for other people too. When we biked the Katy, we met people from all over, even a group from Canada. The new trail would make Missouri a desirable place to live or visit for adventurers and families who love the outdoors.

I have family living in Missouri and intend to travel to Missouri to ride a rail trail. Having the Rock Island Trail as an option makes that even more attractive.

I live in Kansas, but our Lravenworth Bicycle Club regularly travels to Missouri to ride the existing KATY Trail and to either camp out or take a room. Having a trail connection from Kansas City would be awesome and would expand our excursions into Missouri. Money invested into the new trail would be returned through more tourism coming not only from Missourians, but also from bicyclists and their families who would travel to ride it. This benefits more towns near the trail.

Please develop the Rock Island Trail Project! I have met so many wonderful people riding the KATY Trail, both around Columbia and the week long annual KATY Trail Ride. People from out of state are pleasantly surprised by the beauty of Missouri and the friendliness of the people. Many return to ride the trail again. The ability to ride a long loup would be very appealing to riders. If we miss this opportunity to connect two trails it will probably be lost forever.

I support the Rock Island Trail Project. It will be great for Missouri's tourism industry, and an invaluable resource for local residents. Tens of \$ millions is nothing compared to the long term benefit the state would reap. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to leave a truly valuable living legacy to the future generations of Missourians. It would boost the housing markets and the economy of the local towns and cities along the line.

Adding this trail would be a huge asset to the state for tourism and recreational use. All sorts of establishments would pop up along it's route to support the people using it, much like the Katy Trail. Only good can come from this kind of endeavor. I sincerely hope it comes into existence!!!

Yes, the trail should be built! Acquire the corridor!

Please build the trail. We love to use them to safely ride bikes and walk without the fear of being run over by texting and distracted drivers.

whatna great chance to increase missouri biking opportunities. please dont let this go!,,

I think this would be a wonderful benefit to our state and would bring in a lot of tourists and also would be wonderful opportunity for its citizens.

I support the Interim Trail Use Agreement in hopes it will be developed in the future,

Great plan! Many business opportunities along the way. Exponentially safer than roads shared with motorized vehicles. Would attract many tourists. Good addition to Katy Trail.

DNR should consider entering into an interim trail use agreement for the time being, and not spend more money on the Rock Island Project until funding has been secured for the defunded sites at Eleven Point and Bryant Creek.

Sounds like a fantastic opportunity for Missouri!!

Please approve all steps necessary to acquire, improve and develop the Rock Island Bike Trail Project. This will be a valuable resource for Missouri residents, help develop some poorer rural areas, and promote tourism in the state. We know there are budget constraints, but Rome wasn't built in a year, and neither will this project. Please approve it and go forward with it a timely, but prudent manner.

Go for it! It will help rural communities

This is an opportunity for Missouri to make a difference in their citizen's lives for years to come. The trails in this state are known nationwide for their uniqueness.

I believe it is in Missouri's and its residents best long term interest to accept the gift of unused railway tracks for ultimately converting to recreational use. The gift would result in a unique and useful recreational asset for Missouri residents and provide an asset that would improve our economy over time.

Great idea! My husband and I have walked small stretches of the KATY trail. These trails are used by bikers and walkers. It's fun to be in the countryside.

Please continue with plans to enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement with MO Central Railroad. As an avid supporter and user of the KATY Trail, I believe that rails-to-trails systems are an excellent way to bring business and pleasure to our state. Even if development funds don't exist at the moment, it is still prudent to conserve this land for future use by tourists to our rural areas. Heaven knows our small, fading towns could use the boost such trails provide. Let's plan for the future of our beautiful Missouri.

As a fellow graduate of Duke I am asking you to support the Rock Island Trail! As a Columbia resident I truly appreciate having easy access to the the MKT and Katy trail. It has provided a wonderful setting for countless hours of exercise as well as relationship building time and good memories with friends. As a physician for Veterans I know that residents having more access to healthy outdoor activities has the potential to improve personal well being as well as physical health.

At 66 years of age I enjoy traveling by selling or biking. This Trail extension would place the Great State of Missouri in the National eye in a positive light. It would make it a destination in contrast to the negative press we have been receiving of avoiding our state.

Yes. I am very much in favor of the acceptance of the Trail by the State of Missouri. Please accept it.

Please accept the Rock Island railroad.

I am a Parkville, MO resident, and I would like more trails for Missouri. Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

I support the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. Walking and bicycling on trails gives people the opportunity to get healthy exercise and benefit from immersion into the natural world. Trails through rural Missouri give people the chance to learn about local history and culture. Trails can give citizens of small Missouri towns new business opportunities.

Please accept the donation of the RIT line and develop it into a Trail that would showcase our state's beauty.

I support the DNR entering into the agreement to develop the Rock Island Trail. The DNR showed wisdom and foresight in its decision to develop the Katy Trail, despite many unknowns at the onset of that project. The Katy Trail is a jewel in the Missouri park system and draws visitors from across the state and country. It was stunningly showcased during last week's solar eclipse, which will only increase its use. The economic benefit of that decision has been solidly proven. I suggest the DNR move forward with the acquisition and planning. Once the DNR is able to unveil a plan for trail development and cost, I think it will be a project that will attract private funding to help offset the cost. I know I would contribute toward its construction, and believe many others would as well.

This would be a wonderful project that would showcase the beauty of Missouri and bring Tourism to Rural towns of Missouri! I am a great supporter of the project and I would like to see the DNR enter into the agreement ASAP!

This trail has the potential to drive significant economic activity, as the Katy has done, and its construction is a worthwhile investment for the taxpayers.

I support this project. It's an investment in tourism and the health and welfare of Missourians. This could be an economic windfall for business owners too

Definitely do it!

When combined with the Katy Trail, the Rock Island Trail proposal represents not a once-in-a-generation opportunity, but a once-in-a-forever opportunity for the state of Missouri. While the costs are significant, the intangibles alone make this a must-do project. Every future generation of Missourians will thank us for having had the vision and foresight to seize this opportunity.

I believe this deal provides a unique and wonderful opportunity for the State of Missouri to provide a world class trail to the citizens of Missouri and the world. I would think that this would also qualify to receive money from the sales tax that supports the Missouri State Parks and could also provide some badly needed jobs for Missouri citizens. How can this not be a win for the state of Missouri?

I fully support accepting this deal and beginning to convert it to a world class trail system.

Please support the Rock Island Trail

We support multi use in particular for equine.

I believe this project is a unique opportunity with vast benefits for the towns along the trail as well as for residents statewide. It would be a shameful crime to waste this resource. Please make this happen!

It seems to me that the Rock Island Trail will be a boon the local economies of the towns along the trail and to the state of Missouri in general. The Katy Trail and the 47 miles of the Rock Island that are already open attracts hundreds of visitors from all over the US and the world. Please help make the completion of the Rock Island Trail a reality sooner than later. Thank You, [REDACTED] KCMO)

It would do very well in this area. We are a highly visited area and could greatly benefit from this!

Please enhance our lives by promoting the rock Island Trail Project!

This is an amazing opportunity to expand Missourians and Tourists access to our beautiful nature scene. As well as expand economies in rural MO. Invest in MO!

The Rock Island Trail is a great development project and would be an excellent investment for the state of Missouri. Please keep this conversion going!

I think this would be a good use of our state money. Anything that shows the beauty of our state is welcome

I think the DNR and Missouri State Parks should enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement and take possession of the corridor in order to secure it for the future, recognizing that funds are not likely to be available for development except as particular segments can be developed and maintained through partnerships with other organizations or governmental entities.

This is a once-in-forever opportunity to create a trail that could be used by thousands and thousands of people for many years to come. If DNR does not take this opportunity, the land in the corridor would likely be chopped into pieces and this possibility could well be lost forever. I have used the Katy Trail many times over the years and it is a tremendous asset for Missouri; it is used by countless Missourians and attracts visitors from many other states. The Rock Island Trail would surely do the same thing for our state. Please, please, please -- for the health of our residents, the beauty of the State, and the economy of the State -- do not let this opportunity slip away!

I strongly agree with entering into this agreement. It will help complete the Katy Trail and make Missouri more of a destination for hikers, bikers, and families looking for an active vacation spot among beautiful surroundings. This can certainly boost the economies of small towns throughout the state by increased bed and breakfasts, restaurants,

campgrounds, and bike shops. It can be another source of revenue for the state.

it seems to be a no brainer that we bankroll any any all properties we can towards the future; costs will only increase and development may make acquisition impossible in the future

As an avid bicyclist, I'm excited to see the opportunity for expansion of Missouri trails. The potential growth for Missouri and influx of tourism dollars is enormous.

Missouri's natural beauty and scenic outdoors are one of the state's major assets, and a highly attractive trail system would be well worth the comparatively modest investment. I would strongly favor acquiring the land and developing the trail project.

I support acquiring this asset and converting it into another successful rail to trail project.

The KATY trail has been a standard annual event for my son's Boy Scout Troop. It is much anticipated and much enjoyed each year. I cannot think of any reason not to investigate the potential of developing the Rock Island Trail project.

This is exactly what the state should do to take this once in a lifetime opportunity to provide recreation and public spaces. If this is not done the opportunity will be lost forever. Set priorities to enhance the states recreational and public spaces.

I would urge the DNT to accept the railroad corridor that is being offered. It would serve the people of the State of Missouri and attract visitors to spend money on Missouri.

Missouri needs to do this. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Even if it takes years to complete it should be done.

I think this is a really great idea that would provide recreation and health building opportunities for many in the midwest region. A trail of this size and quality would draw people from outside the state into the area. I believe it's time to create more biking and hiking trails in the beautiful state of Missouri. It is a worthy project! Please support this wonderful idea.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail Project. The Missouri people are in dire need of a trail for public use. I went to Wisconsin to bike on their trails but I would prefer to stay here and spend my money in Missouri.

Just as the Katy Trail was a long road to finish the Rock Island line will too. But the State will have a resource that generates economic impacts for generations to come. This will far exceed any upfront costs. Plus we need to preserve Missouri's Beauty. Gov Grietens should understand as a military man that we need to establish health and activities for our public to use.

I am in favor of the state of Missouri creating a recreational trail from Windsor to Beaufort and obtaining the land now to make this possible. As a recreational bicyclist I think the addition of this trail would be a great benefit to the area as far

as attracting Missouri residents and out of state riders to the trail. Protected trails are very attractive to cyclists.

I strongly support the development of the Rock Island trail. Like the Katy trail, I think it would be a wonderful addition to the state park system. In addition to the benefits and enjoyment it would provide to state residents, it would be a great attraction to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Chesterfield, MO

I've been riding the Katy trail for many years, and have met people from all over the USA who have traveled into MO to ride it; it's something we can be proud of. Continuing the Katy into an eventual loop via the Rock Island will make MO one of, if not THE biking destination for those that like the Rail-to-Trail experience. It's a win win for us all.

As a Missouri resident and bicyclist I am in favor of anything that will promote bicycling and give cyclist other options. I live in Nodaway county and public roads are basically our only option. The closest trail to us is the Wabash in Iowa. We will drive weekly during the summer and fall to ride this. I cannot imagine the Rock Island Trail would not get a lot of use.

Please do this. As soon as possible. The extension of the Rock Island Trail to Beaufort would be a colossal win for tourism in Missouri!

Living near the Katy Trail has convinced me that the DNR should proceed with the necessary steps for the state of Mo. to develop the Rock Island Trail Project.

This would be a great addition to our states recreational offerings. I'd be in favor of a 1/2 cent sales tax to maintain it.

These are the kinds of projects that can set Missouri apart, and continue success in the state! I support!

I think this is something that the State of Missouri should go ahead with. Economically this would be a great move as it would be a draw for town along its path as well as pull people from elsewhere by being a destination. There wouldn't be that many places that have that much bike trail. This is also an opportunity that will only come around once. Let's not miss it. It doesn't have to be done all at once but can be done in stages. This isn't just money going out but money coming in.

Going through with the Rock Island Trail Project is an absolute "no brainer"--few projects that benefit so many individuals and communities ever have such a low cost to benefit ratio. And the benefit will only grow over the years as more people take to the trail, and communities along the way grow to accommodate the new visitors. For any person representing Missouri NOT to approve the RITP is unimaginable.

I think this is something Missouri needs to do. Personally I've been looking forward to this for awhile. It will spur economic growth in small towns and make Missouri a better place for

it's residents. Please move forward with the project. It will make a state that much better.

I love riding on bike trails, especially rails to trails. I enjoy having a safe place to ride without having to worry about road traffic. The katy trail is a beautiful example of this, I am definitely in favor of this. !!

Please allow the RITP to continue to move forward as a bike/hike trail. I've used the Katy trail before and a similar trail would be great.

This should absolutely happen. We cannot not do this. It is important for the future.

I would love to have another option to take the family to bike. We don't go out that frequently but appreciate the trails that we've used so far. It would be great to have another trail in Missouri that's of substantial distance. It's a bit far from home (Platte City) for a frequent ride but I think it would be good for those once a year trips.

DO IT!!!!!!

I absolutely believe this would be a POSITIVE acquisition for the State of Missouri. Ameren is donating the land, what's not to love. Having the largest Rail-to-Trail line in the country is going to be another draw for tourism, not to mention the economic impact it will have for all the communities along the trail.

The Katy Trail is gorgeous & has been a great addition to the Missouri Parks for individual & family use alike. Bicyclist from around the country & possibly world, I believe, would come to ride this expanded trail. I can't even begin to imagine why the State wouldn't jump on this opportunity. It's a job creator both in development of the trail and jobs along the trail once it's open.

Let's just put this to rest and accept the land donation. If the funding isn't available at the moment, get it in the upcoming budget. This is a resource we can't turn down. It doesn't have to be completed in one fiscal year, the Katy Trail wasn't opened all at once. Possibly consider getting "big" businesses in particular areas to sponsor (fund) a section.

We love and use our Missouri State Parks and this would be a beautiful addition.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yes please and as soon as possible. This would be another amazing feature to one of the nation's best natural resources department

Anytime MO can expand outdoor recreation combined with nature it should be undertaken. This is the type of recreational experience that not only can Missourians enjoy but could be a great attraction for tourists. An administration with vision would support this acquisition.

This is a necessity.

Yes!!! This is absolutely something we can't miss!!

Our family enthusiastically supports the DNR entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project. This project will be a tremendous asset for the state of Missouri!

Please support the Rock Island Trail Project. The long-term benefits include economic benefits to the small towns along the trail, and health and recreation benefits are opened up to people across Missouri. In a sedentary car-rider society, any opportunities to encourage easy access to exercise should be encouraged!

I hope the state will take advantage of this opportunity!

I greatly support this cause and also believe a railway should be built through or adjacent to the Katy trail

Yes. Please move forward with this exciting project. I have hiked much of the Katy trail and have found it to a wonderful experience. Needless to say, I spent money in parts of Missouri I would not have encountered otherwise

Please do it, this would be a great tourism boon to Missouri - bicycle touring is getting bigger every year.

This is not simply an extension of the Katy Trail; there are sections of this proposed trail that are unique landmarks and Missourians deserve access to these treasures.

It's my sincere hope that MO will acquire the Rock Island Trail and develop it much like the KATY trail, giving Missourians access to their scenic state in way they would not have otherwise. It also encourages people to get out for healthy exercise.

There are many positive economic factors as well; tourists on the trail would spend money getting there and at bed and breakfast establishments as well as restaurants.

My wife and I along with our group of friends find the Katy Trail a great way to get outside and see Missouri. We usually drive to a campsite the trail and ride all day, finding the towns and stores along the way nice places to shop for food and small trinkets.

We strongly support the idea of having another trail to ride on and see a whole new part of Missouri.

I strongly support the development of the Rock Island Trail Project. Opportunities of this magnitude are rare and must be pursued. A trail extension such as the one proposed will increase tourism and contribute to local economies along its course.

I like the trail and I am a cycling enthusiast. I hope we get a second trail across the state of Missouri. Two trails are better than one.

I strongly support the DNR entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement for the Rock Island Trail Project. I understand the funds may not be available to develop this resource in the near future, but I believe that establishing and protecting this trail for future development is in the best interest of the state and its citizens. The Katy Trail has been wildly successful, and with the Rock Island Trail Project, we have the opportunity to

expand the economic and recreational benefits to a larger part of the state.

I have biked the Katy Trail on several occasions and visited the small towns along the route. I have many friends in the cycling community who use the trail regularly, and who note that since the development of the Katy Trail, Missouri has come to be known nationally as a destination for cyclists - a fact that I've had confirmed when I've met cyclists along the trail who traveled into Missouri from across the United States (and the world) to bike this high-quality route through the diverse landscapes of our state. This type of trail is not only an excellent recreational opportunity and a way to connect families with nature, but, as I know from family and friends who live along the Katy Trail route, the development of this trail has been a huge economic boon to small-town Missouri during a time when many rural areas have seen job losses and economic downturn. Many rural Missourians have been able to start small businesses that would not have been possible without the trail's existence: everything from bike repair services to B&Bs to restaurants and wineries to art studios. It has given towns a way to reinvent themselves and survive in the face of a sometimes uncertain future. Frankly, things like State Parks and trails seem to be some of the only things that draw economic activity into some of these rural counties; without them, I'm not sure that I would ever be visiting these places more or less spending money there. The Katy Trail has been quite literally an economic pipeline from urban and suburban Missouri into the rural heart of our state. The Rock Island Trail Project promises to expand these recreational and economic opportunities, and it will help solidify Missouri's reputation for having top-notch outdoor opportunities. More generally, I believe that preserving land and natural resources, encouraging physical, outdoor activity, protecting areas that can be used for educational purposes and research, and preserving our natural and cultural heritage are all goals that are worthy in and of themselves. Taking leadership in pursuing these goals gives our state a great and hopeful vision for the future.

This is a golden opportunity to provide a world-class resource. I am very much in favor of the Trail project.

Rock Island trail would be another jewel in a great trail system & would eventually draw needed tourist dollars to area.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail.

We are looking forward to the Rock Island Trail. We think it will be good for our community and a way to bring people together.

This trail would be a wonderful addition to what exists currently, in the state of Missouri. I would love to take my dog on that trail and hike the whole length of it, round trip and possible camp along it. Please make this a reality. There can always be more trails to hike. Encourage healthy behaviors by creating this trail.

I make it my goal to bike every other day as one of the ways I try to stay healthy and in shape. It is hard to bike the streets around where I live because, honestly, it is dangerous. People often are not as attentive driving as they should be. They are

using their phones, in a hurry to get to work and have many distractions along the way. Therefore, I try to bike trails where they are available. It is safer for bikers and pedestrians to use the trails instead of the main streets. Building biking trails also helps the economy of those people located along the trail as was seen in Iowa among their many bike trails they have completed. It is safer for everybody and also helps the economy of small towns along the way. Please continue projects to add or increase the number of trails in Missouri. Thank you.

I think this is a marvelous opportunity for the state of Missouri. It will come at a cost as did the Katy trail. However the impact on tourism and general usage for out citizens is great. Please do the initial survey and accept the offer.

I support the trail project and hope the state moves forward in using this to create another source of tourism revenue.

The more trails the better. They are sorely needed for the physical and mental health of Missouri's citizens. The dollars spent pale in comparison to the benefits to be reaped.

Developing the Rock Island Railroad property into a biking walking trail would be a fantastic recreation for today and future generations. I grew up in St. Louis and now live in Kansas City. The trail would symbolize a connection between two important times in my life. I was an MS 150 rider and would enjoy riding my bike along the trail. Imagine friends or relatives from the two cities meeting on the trail just as trains did when the first railroad crossed the nation.

The value of these trails has already been demonstrated by the KATY. It was a long hard road to get THAT done, with much of the same droning opposition, but no one can deny the economic benefits and sustainability demonstrated by this Missouri showpiece. The Rock Island Trail stands to expand upon this success and open up new a new corridor and make this type of feature accessible to even more Missourians.

Missouri is already a premier tourist destination, enhanced greatly by our unique rail-trail. The Rock Island Trail will only increase this unique reputation and our visibility, and the opportunities for tourism.

I am in favor of the Rock Island Trail. Thank you.

I look forward to cycling the Rock Island Trail. I am an avid cyclist and have traveled to Iowa a number of times to cycle across that state. Having more opportunities to do this ,closer to home is a great way for people to be active, and get out and see our state.

The Rock Island Line would make a wonderful addition to our system of trails, provide recreation for our citizens, and draw tourists from outside our state for years to come.


The West Central Missouri Community Development Corporation is a new nonprofit effort to strengthen the rural economy in our nine counties south of Kansas City and north of Springfield and Joplin (Bates, Benton, Cass, Cedar, Henry, Hickory, Morgan, St. Clair, and Vernon counties). We work

with businesses, local governments, and partner organizations such as the Kaysinger Basin Regional Planning Commission. We believe the 114 miles of Rock Island rail line land to be granted by the Ameren Corporation would be a tremendous gift to rural Missouri communities and businesses as we work to enhance rural economies throughout our region. The potential for business and community development with this asset, even undeveloped to start, is invaluable. We understand further rail trail investments may require additional study and time. This addition to Missouri rails-to-trails will open innumerable opportunities for private and public enterprise that can make a real difference for our small and struggling rural communities.

Rail trail users are looking to experience authentic small town and rural life. We have that. We also have four major recreational lakes that more rail trail users will discover the more we bring them into our communities (Truman, Pomme de Terre, Stockton, and Lake of the Ozarks). We are committed to working with entrepreneurs and community leaders to develop the services and amenities rail trail users seek, such as agri-tourism, lodging, and dining. We see this business opportunity supporting other sectors that are prime for our area, as well, such as retirement living.

The Katy and Rock Island bike trails offer significant economic development potential for our region. A potential 450-mile loop with the additional Rock Island rail line land would give Missouri a unique world-class outdoor recreation asset.

We are ready to work with the state of Missouri, as well as our local communities, to make the most of this tremendous offer. Sincerely,


West Central Missouri Community Development Corp.
Appleton City, MO

The Trail would be worth the investment.

I support the Rock Island Trail project. It would be a great economic development tool as well as a great recreational facility.

I support the proposal, and encourage the Department to continue vigorously its mission of preserving our state natural parks and recreation areas.

I drove out this past weekend from Shawnee, KS to ride the Katy trail. I really think I would come out with friends to ride this new section of trail knowing about the cool tunnels and bridges to explore.

I support acquisition of the Rock Island Trail. I use the Katy Trail on a regular basis, and think that expanding trails in Missouri would be beneficial to the public.

The Rock Island Trail is a fantastic project that will build on Missouri's reputation as the number one trail state in the nation and enhance our status as a worldwide destination. The success of the Katy Trail is beyond dispute and the Rock Island Trail can be expected to have similar success. Please continue work on making the Rock Island Trail a reality.

We cannot wait until this trail comes in; we had visitors that were biking on the HWY to get to the trail in Hermann from Owensville. They traveled it until they got to the Rock Island Spur. If the Rock Island Trail would have been completed it would have been so much easier for them to hop on it and go. We meet great travelers being on the trail, we cannot wait until completion so that we can enjoy local trails instead of having to travel to other towns to enjoy them

This is a fabulous idea! The Katy Trail has brought so many visitors to Missouri and having the Rock Island Trail will bring even more. Me and my friends are all looking forward to riding it

Yes!! Please enter into an agreement with Missouri Central Railroad and begin the process for developing the Rock Island Trail. It would be an excellent addition to the Katy Trail and open the trail up to be more accessible to more people.

Hello,
I am a native Kansas Citian who has lived here for over 30 years. I support development of the Rock Island Trail Project and encourage the Governor to approve this important project for the State. Missourians are proud of the time we spend outdoors, and promoting a healthy lifestyle includes providing destinations to be active outdoors. It is the responsibility of the State to provide these destinations, and as such, the State should be focused on developing the Rock Island Trail. Thank you!

Please proceed with accepting the Trail Use Agreement.

In my international travels I regularly use bicycling trails and paths as recreation. While Katy is a wonderful asset for our state, adding the Rock Island corridor would not only add a loop to the trail system, but also sky-rocket Missouri into a first class status.

As the developer of the 1,200 acre Winterset residential community in Lee's Summit it has been my privilege to protect the one mile path of the Rock Island through the community and to educate our new residents as to the benefit of the future trail asset.

I think this is an excellent use for an out-of-use railroad right of way. It will bring tourists to Missouri and encourage Missourians to get out into nature and get5 healthier!

Fully support the project! The KATY trail has been a huge boon to our experience of living in Missouri and this would extend that to more people and communities.

This will be a asset to the state. Accept the trail even if the actual trail completion takes years. An offer like this doesn't come along often and Missouri should grab onto it with both hands. The smaller cities along the trail will benefit from the additional 'foot traffic' through their towns. I realize and appreciate the trepidation that some landowners face having the trail go through. However, there is a legitimate easement through the properties. Yes, my phone has an AZ area code but I live full time north of the Lake of the Ozarks, just never changed my number...

This would be an awesome asset to the state of Missouri, providing additional areas for Missouri citizens and visitors to see what all Missouri has to offer. We bike the Katy Trail in the Jefferson City area fairly often and this would give us an area closer to home to go to. It would also provide additional areas that local scouting groups could use.

Looking forward to biking across the state

I think it is a great idea! It could bring in extra revenue to the small towns along the way if marketed right and cater to the hikers/bikers

I am in support of Missouri entering into this project, and developing this additional resource for my family and I to enjoy.

Please support this, and help it to become reality.

Though I understand that the cost of this project will be great, and that money could be concentrated in other places that may have a more short-term need, I do feel that adding more hiking/biking/walking trails especially in scenic areas, could help bring people into our State. We need positive reasons for people to come visit, tour, and explore Missouri. Colorado, California and other picturesque states do a great job of marketing their beauty for people to enjoy. This could help do the same thing for Missouri.

I think this is a great idea, but I think its important to consider spacing camp grounds along the trail. Currently, Camp grounds are sparse on the Katy trail, which can be discouraging to people who want to use it.

I support the idea of entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad to develop the Rock Island Trail from Windsor to Beaufort. Missouri is a beautiful state that has some wonderful landscapes that surrounding states do not have. I think it would be in DNR and the state's best interest to develop this trail extension to further our recreational infrastructure for Missouri residents and expand our tourism industry for out-of-state visitors (who create additional revenue within the state).

I believe it would be wise to take the next step in this project.

The worst case scenario seems less severe than not pursuing the project any farther. Many Missouri towns are economically depressed; therefore, any means to try to reawaken local economies through a non-invasive industry such as recreational tourism should be a win-win scenario for locals and recreational travelers.

I hope that Missouri DNR will make the right choice and proceed with this unique opportunity to expand our beautiful trails system which sets Missouri apart from our many neighboring states.

Please keep moving forward with this project. Completion of the project would be a great asset to Missouri and the communities that are along this trail.

We supposed this endeavor for getting the trail across Missouri.

I think we need a wider vision with this project. We need a small tax increase to help offset funding for this trail. The future tourism, morale and ecological benefits to the state will help justify involvement now in this trail. Using Katy Trail as the example, the Rock Island Trail will be a boon to the state of Missouri.

As an avid outdoors enthusiast, I strongly support this initiative and would encourage my network to look favorably upon the administration which approves its funding. MDC and the various Missouri trails organizations do a fantastic job opening the state to exploration, while supporting the physical and mental health of our citizens. As a shining (pun intended) example of this, please seek out the MDC organizers of the Katy trail eclipse ride. A once in a lifetime event pulled off flawlessly by that team.

I am very proud to be a citizen who supports these organizations!

The department of natural resources should absolutely take advantage and accept the offer of the trail.

The acceptance of the Rock Island Trail property would be a great asset to the parks and Katy Trail System. Missouri State Parks create many economic opportunities for communities state-wide in addition to the benefits for Missouri residents with quality of life, recreational opportunities and protection of the environment. As a frequent user of MO State Parks, and advocate to their many benefits, the acceptance of this property makes sense on numerous levels and if not accepted would likely never be available again.

The state would never be able to afford the purchase of a property of this size that will benefit Missouri residents in so many ways and for years to come. The Governor needs to do the right thing and accept this donation and make funding the necessary upgrades and amenities needed to the trail a budget priority.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Missouri. I've been so pleased with the new hiking/biking trails in the Kansas City area. This would give people across the state more opportunities to get outside with a safe place to ride or hike.

Missouri should enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement and do the repairs, bridge buildings, etc. little by little as the state acquires more money.

These trails are one of the best things that are happening around the world. They are clean family living. There is nothing better than going for a bike ride, walking or long hikes with the family. My family loves our trails and makes use of them on a regular basis. We have met wonderful people from all over the world on these excursions. Why wouldn't you do this?

I am very hopeful this Trail Agreement will go through and that this trail will be added to our State's wonderful system of biking corridors. Our trails are beautiful and provide wonderful sources of respite and recreation while also drawing tourists into our State and boosting our local economies.

Please accept the Rock Island Railroad corridor and turn it into a recreational trail. Thanks.

Where I live, the Great Allegheny Passage is a similar long-distance trail that provides tremendous recreational benefits to residents of Pennsylvania and Maryland, as well as out-of-state visitors; not to mention tremendous economic benefits to the small towns along the trail. I have enjoyed the parts of the Katy Trail I have walked on when I have visited Missouri. Additional trails would be additional opportunities for people like me to see more of Missouri.

Right-of-ways are difficult to assemble, and difficult to recover when they are lost. It would be a crime against future generations to miss this opportunity to save the right-of-way, even if it is decades before funding is available to develop it to its full potential.

I am 100% in favor of entering to the agreement with Rock Island. So many reasons good that these Rails to Trails projects bring to Missouri ins that they can't be listed in this brief format.

As Someone who travels frequently to the Katy Trail and has seen the businesses grow up in the health benefits it's provided myself in my children, I look forward to the future trials so that Missouri can catch up with the rest of the United States. Mr. Governor please support this endeavor

no way, a waste of time and money. Would you want someone riding or walking on a trail less that 20 or 30 feet from home or barns. Who can trust people today not to enter where they don't belong. The Katy Trail is good enough.

I feel this contributes to the overall quality of life in Missouri and would enhance tourism in the state. Rail trails have become increasingly popular throughout the country and can provide recreational activities for Missouri residents as well as tourists.

I think this would be a wonderful addition that would connect Kansas City's nature trails with that of the rest of the State of Missouri. Any sort of attraction that can bring people to our beautiful city is a smart one, and this seems like a no brainer. Going to school at Mizzou, it would be a wonderful nature connection to a big city.

I am chomping at the bit to enjoy this proposed trail! I have done the katy several times. My whole family has hiked and camped this trail.

We love spending our money in the local communities along the way. As soon as it is completed I plan to navigate the 2 trails from KC to St Louis and back. PLEASE continue supporting this project.

I believe the state should concentrate on the state employees first. Employees are leaving the state for better pay and this creates a hole within the section they left because that position can't be filled. That position is lost. The remaining employees have to pick up the duties of the employee that left without any compensation of any kind. Also they are forced to do this without proper software or equipment in order to perform those duties. Their duties have increased but the time allotted

to perform these duties has not. This puts more stress on the employees and then makes them start looking at leaving the state.

Please support this worthy project. Our state will be cleaner and become jewel among states with trails. How can I help?

I believe the Rock Island Trail will be a great asset to the State of Missouri and needs to move forward. The Katy Trail is a wonderful asset to the state, one that I am always proud to discuss with people that are not familiar with our state. While I never have had the opportunity to use the Katy Trail, but traversing the full length of it is on my "bucket list". The Rock Island Trail would create great recreational opportunities and commerce opportunities for this state. Please support this proposal.

I believe that anything utilizing the resources of Missouri will be good for the state and the citizens.

Anything that will encourage people to come to Missouri, or encourage healthy options for entertainment will only benefit the people who will use this and come to Missouri from other places.

It would definitely be worth it.

I support the development of the Rock Island trail, including its acquisition from Ameren. Missouri has an opportunity to grow and secure its status as a premier long distance cycling destination in the USA and the world. Additionally, the public health and tourism benefits make this a wholly worthwhile endeavor.

I support state development of the Rock Island trail project. I believe it will benefit the state of Missouri as well as the general region.

I believe that biking has become a major sport throughout the United States and generates significant economic monies to the region as a whole. The small communities along these routes are typically areas that have been devastated by the removal of the railroads and the new income potential is amazing. I would like for Missouri, my state, to be known as one of the best biking states in North America. the further completion of this 144.3 mile long area along with Katy Trail would be a large step in the right direction. Without continued effort in this field we will continue to lose young families to other areas that do offer this type of recreation.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail project. Our small town communities need this. Our citizens need it. And it will bring many visitors from out of state. This will be such a unique attraction that no other state can boast.

It's crazy and hurtful to not accept a gift like the Rock Island Trail!!! Missouri State Parks will never again have a chance to acquire this property unless for a HUGE price. No money has to be spent on improving it until we have the funds to do so. Just how shortsighted can Missouri government be?

People in K.C. really are into paths, sports, air quality, people, etc. etc. What a wonderful

addition DNR, & interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project. Thanks

I am a huge advocate of the Rails to Trails system. Please take advantage of this net positive for the state opportunity for outdoor recreation for generations to come! I have already used the portion that is open bringing income to local businesses. Keep it alive for Missourians and visitors to thrive and enjoy what Missouri outdoors has to offer!

I sincerely hope that MDNR enters into the agreement to accept the trail right-of-way to create the Rock Island Trail. I have enjoyed using the Katy Trail for years and think the Rock Island trail will be as good, possibly better, than the Katy with the long bridges and tunnels! Even though we live in Springfield, MO, my family and I use the Katy trail numerous times per year. Anytime I am at an event or conference in Mid-MO, I bring my bike and ride portions of the trail that are close. Last Wednesday (Aug 23) while at a seminar in St. Charles, I was able to ride the Katy for about an hour then the next day (Thursday, Aug 24) I was about to ride 1.5 hours from Dutzow to Augusta, what a beautiful ride. And during my Thursday ride I spoke with a couple that were riding the Katy from west to east, then returning home to Michigan. They rode the western portion of the Rock Island from Pleasant Hill to Windsor. I also noted a very good article about the Rock Island trail in the recent MO Chamber or Commerce magazine. The Rock Island trail would be closer to my home and our place at Lake of the Ozarks, which would allow a quick trip to Eldon to get on the new trail. So please accept the trail and develop the Rock Island Trail! Thanks,

█

Please support this agreement so that we can make this dream a reality! Families, bikers, walkers and runners will use this to enjoy MO nature and as a destination.

PLEASE don't reject this gift! Why would we NOT accept something that's free and will provide jobs to our state for its construction? And a great way to attract people to beautiful Missouri, boost the economy in the small towns this trail will go through. It's an old railroad not being used for ANYthing right now? Why waste the space? Let's use it for something good. Jobs, economy booster, tourism, and more access to safe biking for outdoor enthusiasts across the state and the nation.

It would be great to ride on the north side of missouri river then at Winistor go on the south side for over 400 MILE TRIP

This would be great for the residence and tourist of MO!

I use trails all the time for walking and or bike riding. I come from Iowa and we had them all over the place. Missouri does not have enough and to get rid of just one is a disservice to all persons.

My family spent six years in Eldon, Missouri. The area is a wonderful gateway to the recreational activities at Lake of the Ozark. The Rock Island railroad served no practical purpose for Eldon. It could have served as a linkage to other area communities or an additional recreational opportunity. Instead, it sits as a tribute to a time that is unlikely to return.

We used to travel 90 minutes to ride the trails by Columbia. As a tourist attraction, niche businesses could populate the gateway towns like Eldon. We live in Kansas now. I know that we would return to Missouri and ride the trails. We use the Spirit trail and the extensive Streamway trails in Kansas. Our use of the trails would create an additional economic impact on a region that lives on the tourist season.

I would ride and camp along the trail. It is always great to see different parts of the state and enjoy them in a natural way. The trails make it easy for anyone to jump on or off, and the gradual inclines required by the trains, make it very rideable. Plus, there are no drivers on cell phones racing up behind to hit me with their car on the trails!!!

Rail trail projects are a great benefit to anyone wanting to better their fitness, get outdoors or even just find a safe place to hike and ride. These projects also benefit the economy and health of the towns they pass through. A great example is the Prairie Spirit Trail in K.S. Iola alone has seen new business in the cycling and fitness genre, active bike share programs and an increase in hiking and biking trails around town after the trail was completed. I have also heard some other towns along that trail have started bike share programs of their own. This is a chance to increase revenue, increase the health of citizens and offers a safe free getaway for anyone wanting to get outdoors. As an employee of a Missouri business I would be glad to see some of my tax dollars going to this project. If you also believe in the health and wellness of your communities I recommend you allow this project to move forward.

Some of my fondest childhood memories are riding the Katy Trail with my family. Being in the outdoors let us become closer as a family. It also helped instill a love of getting out side doing something physical instead of staying on the couch. Everyone should have access to these experiences we need the Rock Island Trail.

I support the resources available to be used in any way to provide in stages, the conversion of the rock island to trails.

I am in support of the Rock Island Trail Project. This would be a great addition to our state park system. The existing Katy Trail is a economic and tourism boost to our state, and I believe this will be just as beneficial opening up more of our state.

THIS IS AWESOME

Accepting this trail opportunity would be a big boost to the economy along the route much like the Katy Trail has been. Sure there will be expenses to rehabilitate the rail bed but that can be spread over years and could also involve volunteer groups to work on some of those projects. It's an excellent investment.

Wonderful opportunity for the citizens of Missouri. Take advantage of it please!!

Develop the trail and connect it to the Katy Trail.

Please push this through! Coming from Oregon, the midwest could really benefit from having this trail built. Many healthy benefits come from being outdoors, exercising and spending time with family and friends. It would bring tourists from neighboring cities that would want to use the trail which is always good for local economy!

Our poor society does not get outside like our past generations, and now we have skyrocketed statistics in disease, anxiety and depression. We are all addicted to our devices, and we are all just getting sicker and overweight. If I have a safe place from traffic to take my kids to bike I can tell you that we would use this trail A LOT, and I know many of my mom friends feel the same way.

Thank you!

I fully support the purchase and development of the Rock Island Trail.

This is a great idea and a trail I will use many times over. Please continue this project!!

This is an excellent use of the land and I cannot wait to see it! A great way to see more of our beautiful state

This is another great opportunity for the State of Missouri to drive tourism, promote outdoor recreation and give citizens a better chance at a living a healthier and active life. It's a win-win-win!

I think this will be an excellent use of this resource.

I believe that the Rock Island Trail Project sounds like a wonderful idea and should be undertaken.

Gov. Greitens,
Please keep the Rock Island Trail project open and active. I've been waiting patiently for this to happen to connect me in Kansas City to the Katy Trail. I drive down to Clinton to get on the beautiful trail, but imagine if I get access it much closer to me here in KC. Please consider the increased economic impacts of extending the trail, not only from visitors to MO, but also those of us here so close in the KC Metro.
Thank you.

As a Missouri Resident that, I am in strong support of the Rock Island Trail Project. The Katy Trail has brought economic growth and sustainable transportation options to Missouri. The Rock Island Project would continue to help Missouri attract tourists which helps support local economies. As an added bonus, the Katy trail has brought safe and fun recreational opportunities for our family. It's one of the things that we love about Missouri and make this state worth living in! We have lived all over the United States, and when others are considering moving here for jobs, I always list the Katy trail as among the top reasons to come. Similarly, the Rock Island Project would add to our state's ability to attract talent from across the country.

This is a perfect use of tax dollars. It would be great if we could do something nice for every day folks who benefit and use this for years to come. Do something for the little guy Governor. It will be greatly appreciated. I have been bicycling

for decades and trails like this greatly enhance the experience as well as make it safer for all. Please give us this trail.

The opportunity to expand the Katy Trail through Missouri by accepting the gift of the Rock Island property from the Ameren power company is one that should be seized as soon as possible. This expansion would provide future generations recreational benefits that would be otherwise lost. The Katy Trail is already a destination for many Missourians and visitors of other states/countries.

Please consider us supporters of this rare opportunity to make our state one of the best!

Please say yes!

Thank you!

Repurposing the Rock Island rail corridor as a multi-use trail will bring tremendous benefits to my home state of Missouri, including making our beautiful natural resources available to our citizens and drawing visitors in to spend money from around and outside the state. It is a gift with very little cost, and should absolutely be approved without delay.

I am writing in support of the DNR entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project. Walking and biking are an increasingly important part of our transportation system for work, health and recreation, preservation and repurposing of land, attracting visitors to Missouri and so on. Like all major investments, it will take time and money from a variety of sources to see it through to completion and maintenance. This also means jobs. Money is always tight, but today there are perhaps more ways of funding such projects than ever. The donation of the land is the first step.

Adding this segment of unused railway would be an excellent addition to the state bike and walking trails. I frequent the Katy trail and think it is one of the things that adds to the quality of life for all Missourians, as well as for all the visitors that come to our state to experience the trail.
Please accept the gift of the Rock Island Trail.

When we travel from our home state of Missouri to other states we always use and check out the quality of their state parks and hiking/biking trails. The trails in particular show how much the citizens of each state care about the natural beauty of where they live because they allow you to slow down and see how the landscape changes. We have been able to see things on trails that we would've totally missed from just driving by. We also research the small towns surrounding the trails to find restaurants, ice cream shops, museums, etc., to spend our dollars at. So it would definitely be a boon to Missouri tourism to proceed with building the Rock Island Trail.

Please complete this trail. Mo is already world renowned for the Katy Trail, so let's take it to the new level.

I personally take one vacation a year on the Katy Trail.

I am in favor of the trail. It will revitalize rural towns that are in desperate need of a business draw. It will also make Missouri a premier destination for Travelers abroad and Boost the economy. The impact to the environment is low and the health

benefits are priceless. Please give the citizens of Missouri another reason to be proud of their state.

Governor, please shepherd this extension through the red tape of the approval process. We need the KATY Trail/Rock Island "loop" which will be created once the donated land is revamped and constructed for safety and function. It really will be highly accessible to locals as well as tourists. And it will help so many small towns and its residents who may never be able to purchase bike racks and drive to the KATY Trail to begin riding. Our state has a very need to encourage physical exercise for all ages. Missourians, as a general rule, just are too sedentary.

I am a competitive cyclist, cycling coach, and regular user of many of the area trails. I currently ride about 12-15 hours, or 200-250 miles per week.

I've used the Rock Island trail multiple times out of Pleasant Hill since being finished, and ridden the Katy Trail many more times. So many people love this trail system, and if more people knew about it I imagine many more would be using it as well. Connecting the trail closer to Kansas City would be a huge step in bringing awareness of the trail to a much larger population (many of which already drive to the trail head in P.Hill). Just in the past year I know dozens of people who've used the trail as an alternative to road cyclist due to increased safety, and I'm sure they've all spent money in the surrounded towns as well.

I would like to see this trail move further north through Lee's Summit and into Kansas City, which I believe has been in the plans already. The connector in Lee's Summit would be near an area which is already a cycling hotbed (Longview Lake), and would surely become a very popular stop for cyclist traveling to and from the area. It's currently a 20 minute drive to the trail head, which deters me from using it as often as I would like (especially since I live right by Longview Lake). If the trail head moved closer I would be using it multiple times a week for 30-60 mile rides.

This is an excellent opportunity to promote health and wellness in the state, as well as providing a corridor for alternate transportation.

I use the rock island trail several times a month since it's creation and would enjoy its expansion

This is an rare opportunity Missouri cannot pass up. Together with the Katy Trail, it would make Missouri the "trails capital" of the country. It would expand tourism as a growth industry for the state, bringing in millions of dollars more for the state economy.

To not accept this offer would be extremely short-sighted.

Absolutely love the Rock Island trail. Ride it weekly from Pleasant hill, typically to Chilhowee and/or Winsdors. Would love to see more expansion and development. You can already see the positive effects its having on the towns it currently goes through.

I am a recent bicycle enthusiast after enjoying a wonderful vacation biking tour. I loved the biking vacation so much that

I returned home to Kansas City, MO and joined Bike Walk KC, ride socially with SPIN bike rides, and another local group of casual by loyal cyclists. I MOST enjoy and feel SAFEST when riding on TRAILS vs city and local streets. I will take more local biking vacations IF TRAILS are available. Note, out-of-state friends have provided to me "Rails to Trails" maps in other states and we did bicycle on one of these in Florida. When Missouri has Biking Trails these "stay-cations" infuse economic development when our money is spent for hotels, meals, accessories, etc. in the communities along the trails. The exercise keeps me HEALTHY, thus a lesser impact on social and health services. PLEASE continue to develop the Rock Island Railroad corridor into a 144.3 mile long recreational trail so that Missourians can not only enjoy Stay-cations, but also bring in fellow bicyclists to enjoy OUR Missouri Biking Trails.

I strongly support entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement with the Missouri Central Railroad and DNR, and also Missouri Parks Association to secure this land for our future use.

I'm all for this trail. What a benefit to residents and way to attract tourists. I love our natural state; a bike trail would allow tourists and residents alike to enjoy Missouri's beauty. Many thanks for all you do.

I'm in favor of keeping the trails we have and address by to the trail system. I have ridden the organized Katy trail bicycle ride two times and just this Saturday, my husband and I loaded our bikes and drove to Pleasant Hill to ride bikes on the newly added Rock Island stretch. We need to keep these trails for exercise and clean living!!

I live in Columbia MO, right near the Katy Trail. I strongly support the Rock Island Trail Project. The Katy Trail is a wonderful resource that has brought safe and fun recreational opportunities for families and individuals, and economic growth and sustainable transportation options to Missouri. The Rock Island Project would continue to help Missouri attract tourists and thus help support local economies.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the state of Missouri! I urge Governor Greitens and Missouri legislation to take advantage of this. Our Katy bike trail is already well known and used by many out of state visitors...this would be an excellent addition!

This is a no brainer. Not everything can be measured in quarterly profit/loss statements or annual budget projections. Yes, this will be an investment for taxpayers. But an investment that will pay benefits to our state for generations. Could we please adopt thinking in Jefferson City that's a little bit longer term than a week or month or year? Universities, parks, schools take resources but they pay for themselves over time in economic development, a healthier citizenry, etc. Don't miss out on the Rock Bridge Trail opportunity.

I fully support the Rock Island Trail project. Such a destination would bring millions in tourism to the state. And would support the wellness needs of the citizens.

WHAT A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PEOPLE OF MISSOURI. DON'T LET THIS SLIP THRU OUR FINGERS.

I strongly support acquisition and development of the Rock Island Railroad corridor to extend Missouri's rail trail system. This would be a valuable asset for Missouri residents and tourists for generations. With the creation of the longest continuous state-trail system, Missouri would be able to attract trail enthusiasts from around the nation and the world. "Trail-oriented development" opportunities would spark new businesses, hotels, restaurants and attractions in many rural towns throughout the state. It is a great win-win.

I think this would be an amazing opportunity!

I urge DNR to enter into an Interim Trail Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad. As a person who lives near the Katy Trail I can personally attest to how it has been a wonderful addition to our community and I think any time the state can secure land for this purpose it is to our benefit to do so.

Please complete the trail. We need bike trails. As a grandmother of married children who bike with their children and as friends with many who bike for their vacations I know we need places in Missouri they can sight-see, ride and vacation in this way. Please develop and complete the trail.

I fully support this project. I believe it supports the health of our community for the long term.

I love the Katy Trail and this would be awesome to have a further extension. We travel from Kansas to ride it multiple times a year.

I love the Rock Island Spur Rail Trail. I ride it 3-4 times a week. I see lots of people on it too. Walkers and riders. With so many motorists antagonistic to bicyclists on the road, the Rock Island Spur is a safe alternative to road riding.

Hello Governor,
The Katy Trail is a wonderful outdoor resource that myself and the community from far and wide greatly values. Please do not dismiss a chance for the region to benefit from another great outdoor resource such as the Rock Island Trail gift. Thank you!

The Rock Island rail line is currently a blighted, unproductive barrier to development in many communities. Providing a productive use for it should be high on the list of state government priorities; it's something that can't practically be done by individual communities.

Progress toward this goal has been incremental but continuous for some time. It would be unfortunate if the Republican party (which I have historically supported) chose to prevent the further development of this project.

When this trail is completed, Missouri will have a biking / hiking trail that transects the state and provides opportunities for physical fitness, interacting with nature, and low-budget tourism.

I love the potential of the Rock Island Trail! I ride 20 miles from Pleasant Hill and return two Pleasant Hill three to four times each week. I would go further if time and my energy allowed. I consider the trail a blessing. I intend to ride from Pleasant Hill all the way to St-Charles before the end of 2018!

This is an amazing opportunity for the state of Missouri. We should jump on it without hesitation. Of course it will take more investment to get it to the level of the Katy Trail, but that is more than worth it as a showpiece for the Show-Me State.

The cost is justified by the benefit. It will pay for itself in time. And not everything has to be done day zero. Get the trail cleared, put down gravel, and do basic bridge work. Even if the bridges and tunnel aren't built immediately, they will get there once other sections of the trail are opened.

Of course Missouri should accept this tract of land from Ameren. How often does this kind of opportunity come along? Even if I will never be able to ride on it, it could be available for my kids or grandkids to ride on in the future. Policies of today shape the future.

Think of the tourist dollars the Katy Trail brings in. How much more tourist dollars could this section bring in? I don't think there are many 400 mile loop trails. For a bike rider, this is much more interesting than riding back and forth.

In 2016, I traveled to PA to ride the GAP. We used an outfitter for planning because of the logistics of starting in one place and ending in another. My tourist dollars went to PA and MD last year.

Please do this. This is an opportunity that should not be missed. I and my family bike, and we will spend money in the local economy if this trail is built. I see many cars traveling down I 70 with bike racks. Our state is and has been in an economic rut, and this new trail would help to bring tourist dollars to this area. It is clean money -- most bicyclist have money to spend, respect private property, and don't make messes.

Concordia, Missouri

Please acquire and develop this destination trail! It would make a wonderful addition to the Katy Trail you presently operate. Many bicyclists will journey to ride the "car free" trails and spend time and money in Missouri. Bicycle tourists on your trails can be a economic engine for communities along the trail. We can be "wallets on wheels" spending money of meals, lodging, supplies, etc.! I am a bike tour guide and we currently operate several fall and spring trips on the Katy from Clinton to St. Charles.

I am a retired Pennsylvania State Park manager and often guide trips on the Great Allegheny Passage rail trail. We have a trail town program to help communities benefit from that 150 mile long bike trail.

I've enjoyed the KATY for it's entire existence and ride it each year. Will ride the new one a bit soon also.

I think the Rock Island Trail project will bring economic growth to the towns along the route. It is good for Missouri. Please support this effort.

I think the Rock Island trail would be a tremendous asset to all areas located along the trail. With heavy traffic on the streets and highways there isn't a safe place for anyone to ride a bike, or walk for any distances safely. I believe it would generate a lot of interest and people would open new businesses along the trail.

Sounds awesome!! I hope this happens.

Please, Please, Please take this amazing opportunity! We need places for families to safely bicycle. Our state is so beautiful and we should be taking every opportunity to provide reasons for people to want to come. Bicycling has become ever more popular and in the age of growing obesity and health problems we need to encourage exercise. The Katy trail is wildly popular and I can only see this enhancing opportunity in Missouri!

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. GRAB IT.

I am in favor of this project. As a Mo resident I have seen the benefits of the Katy Trail and think that this trail will be better than it! The opportunity it gives the towns along the way is great! I realize that this will be a multi year project but I truly believe that our children will thank us for the opportunity it opens up! Please move forward with this project!

I live near the newly opened Rock Island Trail in Chilhowee, Mo and it has been a huge asset to our community. I strongly support continued development of the trail to spur the social and economic improvements of other small Missouri towns.

I'm in strong support of the DNR entering into this agreement. The development of the KATY trail has shown that there's an economic benefit for the communities along the trail and brings visitors into Missouri from across the country. Myself and four of my friends rode the Rock Island - Katy trail from Pleasant Hill to Machens in late June of this year. During this trip we stayed overnight in hotels in five communities and ate meals in those and other towns during the journey. We met several people from other states than Missouri who were also staying nights in hotels and spending money in small towns across rural parts of the state.

Love it ! Love it !! Fabulous project and I am 100% supportive as well as my family.

As someone who has used the katy trail....this should definitely be undertaken.

We are currently in Quebec City on vacation due to the fact the bike trail system is so well developed. We visit Vancouver and other bike friendly areas and see how having a trail system aids to the "want to live there" attitude.

Our family strongly supports development of the Rock Island Trail. So far we have ridden across Missouri on the Katy Trail seven times, and had a great experience each time and met

people from all across the country. The addition of the Rock Island Trail to bicycling and hiking would be a fabulous addition to Missouri recreational experiences for both residents and tourists.

Entering into an Interim Trail Use agreement is an opportunity that Missouri and the DNR cannot let pass by. In the beginning the KATY trail was controversial, but look what a great asset it has become. The new Rock Island trail loop and the spur into Kansas City will make Missouri the go to state for family multi-day bicycle adventures.

DNR's annual Katy Trail Ride is one of the best organized bike rides in the nation. I look forward to the day when the DNR can also offer an annual ride on the Rock Island Trail. There is no better way for out-of-state visitors to experience the hospitality of Missouri than through the very competent DNR staff and the many volunteers that participate.

Our outdoor spaces are important for current and future generations. Please support the Rock Island Trail project.

Having biked from the Gateway Arch to Country Club Plaza using mostly the KATY Trail, I can only say Missouri needs the Rock Island Trail as well.

Please support this! As a 5th generation Missourian it is a tremendous asset to the state, and the entire midwest. A wonderful place to ride and recreate. I have taken my sons' Boy Scout troop on 2 campouts featuring cycling on the Katy Trail. The Rock Island addition will improve and expand the network. Please, please, please -- a solid investment in rural Missouri's future.

Please add this portion of the corridor to the trail. Biking is a passion for many of us in Missouri. It would be great to start closer to home.

Please move forward with the Rock Island Trail development. What a wonderful opportunity for Missouri to create a resource that can be enjoyed for generations to come. We need to support anything that encourages folks to get outside, get active and enjoy the natural beauty of Missouri.

The state should accept the offer from Ameren as a long-term investment. I have ridden the Katy Trail and can attest to the economic advantages to the small towns and businesses that have sprung up to service the riders.

I am in total support of the Rock Island Trail Project! Let's keep moving forward!

I believe the extension of the Rock Island Trail would be a wonderful resource for our state. It would not only provide beauty and nature for exploration for families and children, but exercise and tourism opportunities for both Missouri citizens and visitors. The economic impact for businesses along the trail would be a positive. I have ridden a bicycle with groups of friends along the Katy Trail many times. Not only did we enjoy ourselves immensely, but we spent money with merchants along the way, too. It was a tremendous experience. I strongly support this project.

Build the trail. This will run through many communities that could use the increase in tourism. I drive through these areas consistently and adding this trail will help all of the communities along the route and provide residents with a trail nearby to get outside and enjoy our beautiful state.

What an amazing idea. We may not have the Grand Canyon or Mt. Rushmore, but we do have amazing trails and history.

Please go forward with this undertaking. Thank you.

KCMO

Combine the beauty of the Missouri countryside with the many advantages of a recreational trail system stretching all of the way across the state, and supporting the completion of this portion of the trail linking to the existing trail should be a no-brainer. Get on board, Gov. Greitens!

I believe that this would be of great benefit to our state. It would encourage tourism, but also provide those of us who already live here a new way to celebrate and enjoy our amazing state.

It would encourage people to bond with their families in a safe adventure that promotes healthy physical activity.

As taxpayers and small business owners, our family believes this is a good investment for Missouri.

Yes, do it..goreat for economic development and tourism.

A beautiful path to encourage cycling, growth along the path, business opportunities and "getting off the sofa".

Please support the Rock Island Train Project.

Sincerely,

Kansas City 64113

I think the huge success and usage of the Katy trail proves the value of a biking trail more than any words I could add. Yes, I think while the land is being offered the DNR should grab it. Once it's gone, it's gone forever.

Missouri tourism is a consistent and viable income. Having a more accessibility to the beauty and outdoors makes sense. I support more trails including horse trails. Let's get kids outside.

I think this is fantastic. Missouri is already known, and envied, for the Katy Trail. A second trail would be a huge win. We'd be winning so much we'd almost get tired of winning...

Almost. In all seriousness, after nearly being run over by an inattentive driver and breaking both wrists in the crash I, and my family, look for trails to ride. This is definitely a scenario of 'if you build it, they will come'. Please do not pass on this incredible opportunity.

I think this would be a great project. Any opportunity to get out doors and enjoy nature is a plus in my book. Although I don't live in MO at the present time, we will be moving back there in the next couple of years. We still spend a lot of time at the Lake of the Ozarks and St. Louis right now. Please let this project go through.

I'm so excited to possibly be able to use the trail in the near future I can't wait till it happens I know I'll be on it at least once a week.

I fully support the Rock Island Trail Project. We live in Southwest Missouri and make a couple of trips annually to the Katy Trail usually spending around \$ 750 a trip in lodging food and transportation

I believe that this would be a good move for the people and State of Missouri for one simple reason: the economic benefits it would bring. The Katy Trail system has proven to be a great resource, generating jobs and promoting businesses all along the trail and for the state as a whole. The Rock Island Trail would likely see similar effects, so would be a wise move for our state.

This agreement would provide a great addition to our cycling and hiking trail system and would attract more tourists to the state generating thousands of dollars in revenue and economic impact. It's a no brainer for the state

I support the rock island project but I would prefer it was actually used for rail. No matter what the use. We should except the donation. Would not want to loss this resource that is being handed to us.

I support this use of funding

Missouri needs this system of bike trails to help our state grow, economically, socially, and physically. I'm a cyclist and would absolutely love the new trail and would spread my money up and down it yearlong. People need safe access to long rides/hikes away from busy, narrow, highways. Being in nature helps the mental state of everyone and not nearly enough of people are getting they're share. This would help that tremendously. It also would bring people together in a fun, athletic, atmosphere that could help people connect. It's a easy choice, we need the Rock Island trail.

This would be absolutely wonderful for the state of MO. The more we can do to add interesting spots for our residents and tourist is a must.

The Rock island trail would be a great asset to Missouri. I am in full favor of the project. I live in KC, MO 64119

If we want to be best in class for biking trails and growing our rural economies, we'll do it. There is no sense innovating in business if we fail at creating the experiences and spaces for people to enjoy.

We've used the Katy Trail numerous times in the past few years. Husband is a bicycle person. We have ties to Clinton and Columbia and are for this kind of project. It's the kind of thing state government can do a good job of.

I strongly support the development of this trail. It will be such an asset to the region to have in addition to the Katy Trail.

Missouri needs this, KC needs this.

Last time I rode the trail I drove all the way to Sedalia from KC at 4am to meet up with other riders.

Please help make Missouri a progressive, attractive state people want to move to and invest in and bike trails go along way towards this goal.

Please continue the trail. Thank you

This would be a long-term investment in our state, and though it would certainly have costs, those costs would be well worth it. The KATY Trail is already a wonderful, distinctive, landmark park/attraction for the state of Missouri. As a Boy Scout in my teens, my troop rode from Sedalia to St. Charles twice, and the experiences have never left me. The trail shows off the beauty of this state in such a unique way, and the new Rock Island Trail would only enhance this. The chance to add to this trail system, and to transform it into one of the longest bicycle trail systems in the country, is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Missouri. I hope the DNR and the Governor will see the long-term value and public benefits of the Rock Island Trail Project.

This is a fantastic opportunity to continue expanding one of the best in nation bike trails and be a leader in outdoor recreation. By completing this loop Missouri would be a true destination for recreational cycling and long trips (as loops greatly ease the burdens of logistics on such a trip). I implore you to approve this and continue the forward outdoor thinking of our state.

We would love to have this project brought to Missouri. My family is from Columbia and Fulton, MO and we love walking and biking trails that we have. However the Katy Trail is getting a bit old and it would be nice to add new trails to the state.

The Rock Island Trail Project would provide a boost to tourism in small towns that have a lot to offer and could really use the economic growth. This project would also put Missouri on the map as an outdoor destination. If you build it, they will come. The existing section that starts in Pleasant Hill is fantastic and you should take a chance to tour it before deciding whether or not to fund the project. I think we'd be missing out on a great opportunity to showcase how awesome MO is if we didn't build this trail.

Yes, yes, yes... please support this re-use of an old railroad bed. I moved to Columbia, MO from New Hampshire to be near my young grandchildren. I have been so grateful for the many trails throughout the city and the connection to the Katy Trail that let us get up and go without using our car! Nature is just around the corner for us and I'd hope the State could help make that possible for other communities also. We've had visitors who've been amazed at the network of trails, so much so that they want to come back for more riding. Missouri is a diverse state and these trails give visitors the opportunity to experience it close up.

I am so excited about the Rock Island Trail Project! I love the Katy Trail and have bicycled its entire length two times in addition to countless shorter trips. Part of what attracted me to move to Columbia, MO from Kansas City was its access to the Katy Trail. My parents, now in their 60's are moving to

Columbia, partly because of its trails. I believe the Rock Island Trail Project would be highly used and have a number of benefits. First, trails provide a healthy recreation activity that whole families can enjoy. No special equipment is needed to walk on the trail, so people of all economic levels use trails. Secondly, because the Rock Island Trail will go through the center of towns, it can provide a safe route for children walking to school. Enabling non-motorized commuting to school or work is an important environmental goal our state should support. Thirdly, trails can bring economic value to small communities. I have participated in the "Pedalers Jamboree," a bike ride that brings thousands to mid-MO and would foresee future similar events created for the Rock Island Trail. I strongly urge the completion of the Rock Island Trail Project!

I moved to Kansas City from Northern California. There were safe bike trails there and it worked well for everyone ... cyclists, pedestrians, home/landowners, and local tenants. It would great to have extensive and safe bike/hike trails in Missouri! This should be a "no-brainer" as it would offer a lot to the state and to the surrounding area. I firmly support expanding the recreational trail and proud to be a Missouri resident.

Missouri's unique position in the center of the country makes it a natural crossroads for transportation of all types. Adding the Rock Island Trail Project to our State Park system will make Missouri a recreational destination state for bicyclists. Active families and senior citizens would have a safe place to ride, site see and spend money in rural areas of the state that need the revenue source. Urban kids would have a chance to ride by corn and soybean fields, livestock farms, even ethanol plants.

Missouri is a great state. Let's do this one thing that will showcase that heart of both our state and country.

I support the acquisition and development of the Rock Island Trail Project. This will be good for the local communities along the route. It will provide a healthy recreational opportunity. This will also, along with the KATY Trail, make one of the finest trail systems in the United States. It will attract visitors to our state. The return in health benefits for our citizens and the attraction to out-of-state travelers will make the investment worthwhile. Lets be progressive. I am excited about the prospects of developing the trail.

I support the trail

As an avid bicyclist and regular user of the Katy Trail, I am 100% in favor of developing the Rock Island Trail. This would provide a much closer major recreational trail to all of us that live in the Ozarks and the southern 1/3 of Missouri. It takes us a minimum of three hours of driving to reach any portion of the Katy Trail, making it very difficult for a one-day use. Most importantly, the Rock Island Trail would be a major economic boost to our state from tourism, as evidenced by the nationwide attention and attraction generated by the Katy Trail. This is a golden opportunity for Missouri to become one of the top states in the country for rails-to-trails development and access to to recreational trails by all Missourians.

My husband have had to drive to Jefferson City to ride on the Katy trail for the past 15 years. As we are getting along in our senior years, we are hoping to get the Rock Island trail completed so that we can drive about 10 miles to enjoy riding safely on the new trail.

Very thankful that AmerenUE is planning on helping get the new trail completed.

Can't wait!

I would use and enjoy the Rock Island Trail. This resource would attract tourist dollars to Missouri and support small business in economically disadvantaged areas.

This would be huge for my friends and my family that live in Might MO. I have ridden the Katy trail multiple times to St. Charles and this would put the other end of it right in many cyclists back yard. PLEASE complete this trail. Thank you very much.

Once in a lifetime opportunity for Missouri to part of the greater good. This will set the state apart, and provides so much for the statewide and national recognition. It will allow so many to enjoy the beauty of Missouri

I encourage DNR to enter into this agreement with Missouri Central Railroad. It would be short sighted and a shame to let this valuable land slip away. DNR will eventually have the funds to develop this corridor into a hiking and biking trail.

I support the state accepting the ROW, it'd be a great addition to the trail system which is internationally known.

Great idea. I fully support this!

The Katy Trail project has been successful in bringing interest back into bicycling and healthy outdoor activities. It has also let to mom and pop type business that have sprung up in the towns it runs through. I think the Rock Island trail will bring in the same opportunities to business and communities along it's route and draw in more tourists from neighboring states.

I moved to Columbia, MO from New Hampshire. One of the first special things we noticed about Columbia, and the State of Missouri, is the wonderful biking/hiking trails built on the old KT and MKT railroad lines.

As a homeowner I am happy for a portion of my tax dollars to go towards things like this. I think the existing trails have a beneficial effect on tourism revenues. This new trail would be an additional jewel in Missouri's crown.

If you really want to enhance the additional trail, consider long-term leases of adjacent land where restaurant/hoteliere could set up businesses to cater to riders on the trail.

I have lived in Missouri for 60 years. I believe this is a waste of government money. Our infrastructure is failing and people want to spend tax payer's money on something that not everyone uses. The money needs to go to a project everyone would benefit from.

Our family would love to use these trails for our biking. We have many friends from other states that come visit and bike

the Katy trail. This would be an extention to that beautiful trail and it would definitively bring more of our friends and even other visitors to beautiful Missouri. Please consider it!

We love the idea of RIT!!!! It practically passes my front door here in Bland.

The Katy Trail has done so much... Bring on the Rock Island Trail!!

I think it is a beneficial use of state resources and funds to fund this project.

My family and I love the Katy Trail and would love to see it extended via the Rock Island Trail Project! People come to MO from all over the world to ride the Katy Trail! It's good for businesses and communities along the trail, and provides a fun place for families and singletons to have an adventure! I hope this Trail is approved! I can't wait to ride it with my family!

This would be incredible and I would imagine it would be an advantage from a tourism perspective as other cyclist/runner/outdoor enthusiast will travel to see the trail.

The Katy Trail adds a lot to the communities that it crosses. It would be wonderful to include the communities for the Rock Island Trail.

The primary question before the state of Missouri is whether or not to take responsibility, at least temporarily, for the Certificate of Interim Trail Use. Issues of donors, federal grants and expenses will come later. But the state will have maintained it's options. If the state does not act now to protect it's options, it will lose the opportunity for the most spectacular fall bicycle venue in the United States.

There is absolutely no need to forfeit the option now! The state can and should at least preserve it's options. It is the wisest course of action. KEEP THE CITU ALIVE!

Maintain flexibility and future capability. Don't unnecessarily and unwisely throw away an opportunity that comes by only rarely. I sincerely hope that Governor Greitens will instruct his DNR to keep the options open and sign the CITU. The state of Missouri can always surrender it's option later, but if it surrenders it's opportunity now, it will be lost for all time! Please let Governor Greitens know that his wisest course of action is to nail down the Certificate of Interim Trail Use for now and keep all policy options open.

Please proceed with this project it's very important to the citizens of Missouri. Substantial economic development arises from trails like this in addition to improving the overall quality of life in Missouri.

Thank you in advance.

Please move forward with this trail and make Missouri one of the most accessible places in the country for all modes of travel.

The Rock Island Trail would be a valuable & important resource for Missourians and visitors. I believe it will also be an important economic resource. Thank you.

As a Scout Leader, this would be of huge benefit to my troop as it would extend this trail for closer day trips and activities

shut up and do it [REDACTED]

I like the idea!

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. It would be good for tourism.

We support the development of this trail. Trails are vital for the disabled community for safe and enjoyable recreation and in some places, transportation routes. Please support this trail and help make it happen!!!!

DNR has responsibility for the banks of the lower Osage River below Bagnall Dam. They have done nothing to protect 80 miles of river from massive erosion. Over 700 acres of land has been lost due to erosion. Why is it more important to develop a trail than to take care of our river banks?

LOVE rail trails!!! This would be awesome

I am a frequent user of the katy trail and adding the rock Island section to the trail would make it an even better tourist attraction. We already get users from all over the world. By adding the rock island trail it would allow people to ride a huge loop without needing to arrange vehicle transfers. I would suggest a 1/8 cent sales tax be added to fund improvements so as not to diminish other park funds. Such a tax could be put on a statewide ballot as it benefits many Missourians. St. Louis has a world class zoo and parks because of such a tax. We could have a world class biking trail also.

We are from Colorado and drive thru Missouri (our second son was born in Columbia, where we lived for 5 years) frequently on our way east. We are also dedicated cyclists and have ridden the Katy Trail many times, on many different sections.

We would most eagerly love to ride the Rock Island Trail. Thank you.

The pictures I have seen of the proposed trail are beautiful. My family and I would very much like to be able to hike this trail.

I support this project and believe it will add value to the state and allow residents to enjoy the natural beauty of the state in a historic setting that will be put to good use.

[REDACTED]

Kansas City, MO 64113

This would be an economic windfall for the state of Missouri. Tourism would benefit and small businesses along the trail would also reap significant economic benefits from increased visitation due to the trail.

I love trails!

I rode the Katy Trail a few years ago. I would have loved the opportunity to continue onto this Rock Island Trail. I can't wait until I get back to Missouri and can try it out.

I can't wait to use it! As soon as it's ready I plan to bike down to Windsor for the weekend, get a room and diner and breakfast, and ride home the next day.

I support extending all rails to trails. Please add all the trails you can

I am so excited by this addition to the Katy Trail! Think how amazing it will be to make a giant loop between STL and KC on bike or hike!! I can't wait to do both.

Riding this trail in conjunction with the Katy Trail is a bucket list item for me. Riding a trail separated from traffic is a wonderful opportunity.

I came as a tourist to Missouri specifically to ride my bicycle across the state on the Katy Trail. I learned much about Missouri and spent about \$150 per day in the small communities that I visited. I would love to come back to Missouri and ride on the Rock Island Trail. I urge my friends to vacation in Missouri because of the positive experience that I had. THANKS! [REDACTED] Salt Lake City, UT

I support the trail project. Excellent use of resources and encourages people to participate in healthy outdoor activities away from dangerous traffic.

I hope this can happen. I think it will be a blessing for tourism in Missouri, for both residents and out of state visitors for decades to come. It will be a great benefit to the towns along the route.

The Rock Island Trail for my husband and I is our ticket to health! I am entering Medicare this next year. I attribute our good health to riding our bikes so much. We are on the trail no less than twice a week since it opened! We ride the trail now more than our road bikes as its safer and its a gorgeous ride! A healthy senior is less money spent in Medicare! The trail is home to gorgeous nature. We see handicapped people on the trail in their wheelchairs, hikers, cyclists and horse riders! For Missouri to have the longest trail in the nation would be a boon for all of us! Did you know that cyclists take care of the trail by moving branches and pick up trash? We love the fact that the Rock Island connects to the Katy Trail our second favorite place to ride (at least twice a year). To be able to explore towards the Stadium would be fun! Let's work together to make this happen! Reach out to us for ideas on how to make it happen!

He have much higher priorities like roads and bridges than development of another trail.

Bicycle tourism has been a boon to struggling rural communities around the country. Please move forward with this important project.

Please take this opportunity and accept the donation offered by Ameren. As a Missourian that enjoys biking I urge you to

consider the long term benefits of further developing the Rock Island Trail Project. I ride the Katy Trail frequently and I know first hand that our beautiful Missouri rails to trails brings in many tourists from out of state. Each time I have been on the trail I have met people from all over the country. I'm certain that the Rock Island Trail, with it's tunnels and bridges, will be even more attractive to visitors both from Missouri and the rest of the United States. I appreciate the trail because it offers a safe (& beautiful) alternative for riding from the road and un-attentive motorists.

I would be for this. I understand the costs and challenges associated with it. We have used Katy Trail as a family, and would be very excited about this huge expansion.

The state should to accept the gift on behalf of the people of the State of Missouri. It should be used for public transportation and tourism along the trail should be encouraged.

Very excited for the continuation of Missouri's rail trail network. It's an incredible positive for Missouri tourism.

Trails like this and the Katy trail bring visitors to our state who spend dollars with local companies. We have ridden the Katy for over eight years and have met people from all over the US and other countries. We just rode with folks from Canada during the eclipse ride. It would be a shame if we loose this opportunity to get this land. What a gem we have

Question. How many trails does the State of Missouri need and at what cost? While this appears to be a valid opportunity for the State, it should be carefully considered given the return on investment and long term maintenance costs.

Unlike the Katy trail that serves a useful purpose to the State, this additional trail provides only muted economic impact for the small towns that exist along the way. Analysis of this section of proposed trail as compared to the Katy trail should emphasise the difference in population, terrain, accessibility points, and impacts to local residents.

This trail will not produce the same numbers of visitors as the Katy trail does and thus the cost vs. return will be skewed.

With considerable amounts of this venue through somewhat secluded and rugged areas usage will suffer greatly. There will also likely be severe conflicts come hunting seasons through this area given it is far more likely to be within reach of prime locations. The group of rural residents in this area are far different from the open country residents where the Katy trail exists. Keep in mind that additional resources will be needed to monitor a trail in this area than the Katy trail.

Finally, at what point is enough enough? Aren't there far more compelling reasons to focus limited resources in other vital areas for the State. Acquiring this land is not in best interests of Missouri residents even if it is considered a no cost, or low cost acquisition.

This could be an attractive asset to this state with no great mountains or beaches. The Katy Trail already draws many visitors to the state. Adding to the trail system and completing a loop would make it even more desirable.

Our town takes great pride in keeping up the history that comes from the surrounding area, and strives continually to create interest and a draw to bring people through the community, and or to relocate. It is very common to see people out and about walking or bicycling around town. To have the Rock Island Trail on the Missouri Central Railroad Corridor would just be amazing, in many different ways. Please consider long and hard to develop this for our wonderful community!

Sincerely [REDACTED]

Right of ways are extraordinarily valuable, and the best possible use of them is multiuse trails. I travel hundreds of miles to ride a good trail and will support local businesses near the trail. Don't miss this opportunity to save a right of way for healthy use by everyone and anyone for generations to come.

Absolutely agree that this is an amazing opportunity to further nature park availability and encourage citizens to experience the trail system in our state. The addition of this trail will be a new and exciting addition to the Katy Trail, and will help to draw in addition public awareness and support for our trail system.

I believe this should allow for ATV/UTV use.

I think adding the Rock Island Trail to make a loop is a wonderful idea.

I have taken several day trips on the Katy Trail and have a son who has biked across the state on it.

we've also been to many of the small town restaurants, etc along the trail and have seen evidence of the economic boost the trail gives to these towns.

Having the Rock Island loop would allow serious bikers more options and probably entice more of them to ride the trail if they didn't have to ride round trip on the same trail or worry about logistics of getting home from a one-way trip.

I personally think that this would be a great benefit to our community. Creating a trail would allow for more tourism in our area as well as provide exercise opportunities to our community.

I think it would be great if the trail could be used by ATV/UTV's. I understand for safety reasons that this may not be an option, but maybe having set events for use of ATV/UTV's to make the trail of use for everyone.

ok

Colorado links many cities by riding and walking trails. Nations like the Netherlands are known for being bicycle friendly. These elements of a state or a nation require long-term thinking and a vision for the future. This is an opportunity to set Missouri apart from so many states and do something to foster healthy lifestyles, tourism, and not look back with remorse if we don't capitalize on an opportunity like this.

I encourage the State of Missouri to accept the offer from The American Power Company for the former Rock Island right of

way from Windsor to Beaufort. My personal interest is to bring visitors through my childhood farm east of Ionia. My public interest is to bring economic development to the northern end of Benton County.

I feel that the use of ATV's and UTV's should be considered on the trail. This will open up the opportunity for trail use to ALL Missourians and it's visitors, especially those who are disabled veterans and senior citizens. The use of ATV's and UTV's will provide citizens of these groups, and others with physical handicaps, the same privileges as others, and it is these groups who have sacrificed and provided so much to our society.

This project would be a huge, long term asset to Missouri...please say "yes"!

This portion of rails to trail is a long awaited dream for folks in western Missouri, it finally connects the East with the West. The press surrounding this project has been very positive for Missouri and shined a spotlight on our state nationally.

I am favor of a trail. As a landowner along the Trail, I am concerned about privacy, trespassing, and trash. I don't want people stepping off the trail to look at my house/farm, etc., just to be nosy. I don't want people coming onto my land and spreading disease from foot traffic or animal feces. We have a farm that has strict disease control. The people using the trail are going to have to respect the property along the trail as well as the trail itself. Users of the trail will also have to remember they are in the country. Some animals stink, some animals might be breeding or urinating/defecating. It's a fact of life. Animals don't know any better. :)

The DNR should not have to bear the burden of the all expenses. The private individual who started this project should provide the majority of the money to pay for and maintain the Trail.

I really think that the money that it will take to develop this trail would be much better spent on other things. The roads and bridges of our state are in bad need of repairs. The money would be better spent on that than another walking/biking trail.

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of land from Ameren and continue building the Rock Island trail. This is a great opportunity to build on the success of the Katy Trail. It will help the economy of communities near the trail. A trail like this is for biking, hiking for individuals, families, the able bodied and disabled. It helps citizens from across the state to explore and appreciate rural Missouri. It offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies and add to our wonderful park system.

What a once in a lifetime opportunity!!! Even if money doesn't exist for development today this is a treasure that should not be passed up.

The small communities along the trail need this. Please make it happen!

I would like the state to support the Rock Island Trail Project. It is my opinion, the long-term benefit will offset the monetary investment.

I strongly encourage the DNR to enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement with the Missouri Central Railroad. It would greatly enhance the appeal of the State of Missouri.

As a lifelong Missouri resident I think developing the rock island trail is vital to maintaining Missouri as a premier destination for outdoor tourism and a deeply appropriate use of state resources.

I love the idea of another trail across the state. My husband and I biked the entire Katy Trail a few years ago for my 44th birthday. We met so many people along the way who traveled to Missouri just to ride the trail. Those people stayed in Missouri hotels and B&B's and visited Missouri wineries and restaurants.. Another beautiful trail will bring more biking and nature enthusiasts to our state.

I am very much in favor of DNR entering into the trail use agreement with Mo. Central Railroad to develop this recreational trail. This would be a great opportunity to add to Missouri's trail system and would be an economic as well as a recreational asset.

Anne and I travel with our viewpoint handcrank tandem and did portions of The Katy trail last year during our visit to Branson MO. 13 years ago we rode the entire East Coast Greenway from Calais ME to Key West FL. 10 years ago we rode from D.C. to Pittsburgh and have revisited The GAP a number of times! We were just in Richmond VA and did portions of the Capital to Coast trail. Please complete the Rock Island Trail

Four of us are planning a vacation next year to spend a week on the justly famous Katy Trail. If there were a second option, such as the Rock Island Trail, we'll return to Missouri as soon as it's ready. This would be a wonderful amenity which will attract more tourists like us

I am highly in favor of the Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project. I think more Rail-to-Trails projects are good for Missouri.

I feel it would be very shortsighted to turn down the gift of 144 miles of the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the gift and approve the Agreement!

This trail is a potential lifetime economic engine for Missouri and for the small towns along its path that have been forgotten for decades. One only has to look at the revenue brought by the Katy Trail to see that creating a loop, through this amazingly beautiful Ozark countryside would put Missouri on EVERY top cycling list in the nation.

Please accept this gift for the sake of the people of Missouri.

This is a great idea. This additional trail MUST HAPPEN! The Katy Trail has been a huge asset to our state. If money is tight, start the process and build the trail as time and money become available. This is too good of an opportunity for the state to pass up.

The best use for this rail right of way, is as a rail right of way. Keep the tracks and put a recreation oriented train on it. Or use it for industrial development.

But if the choice is letting it rot, or using it as a pedestrian/bike trail, then use it as a pedestrian/ bike trail. It would be an asset to tourism, just not as smart as keeping it a genuine railway.

I support and would use the Rock Island Trail Project! We need to invest in our outdoor spaces and environment. I am only one doing this survey but I represent hundreds if not thousands that would use this and support this agreement and project.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail. Thank you in advance!

This is an excellent idea for our state. It will bring rural economic development to many small communities along the trail. It will draw international visitors to our state to ride the big loop and keep them in Missouri longer, and while I know budgets are tight, this trail should see the same kind of success the Katy Trail has seen. Please do this!

I am confident that like the University, you could find efficiencies in other places to support this kind of project, which couldn't happen without state involvement.

--Danita Allen Wood, Missouri Life magazine

I support the State of Missouri signing on to the Certificate for Interim Trail Use. This is an opportunity that should not be passed up. This CITU does NOT commit the State of Missouri spending any money immediately.

I support Rail Trails the Health, Wellness and Revenue to the local community's.

I support development of the Rock Island Trail.

I think that it will bring much needed growth to the local economy as well as another excuse for public betterment!

What a fantastic way to promote a healthy lifestyle! I can imagine exploring this trail with my grand kids. This is very exciting

The opportunities this trail will provide will benefit Missouri for generations. It is an exceedingly rare opportunity for the state to make this sort of trail available to the public.

Combined with the Katy Trail, the loop will bring many tourists to the state--and generate revenue along its path. Please, governor, see this thing through. Its legacy will far out last your time in office.

Resident of 64155.

You must accept the Rock Island Trail gift. My husband and I biked the Katy Trail from Clinton to St. Louis in August of 2016 and met more people from out of state than in-state, including people from New York, Baltimore, and California that came to our state just to bike the trail. If that trail extends to the stadiums, it will be an even bigger draw as it will nearly cover the entire state. And if it continues south to the Ozarks

through Windsor, what a draw that will be. It brings tourism and money and a positive, healthy image to our state. The folks we met were so impressed with the trail. And technically we biked off season.

It would be very useful bring people to the towns and provide a great bike ride for some of us to use and see MO.

The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence.

It offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies.

Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers unique destinations and is easy to travel. Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage.

Do the right thing for citizens. This is a wonderful project.

I rode the entire Katy Trail and Rock Island Trail this summer. These are wonderful assets for Missouri. They encourage both healthy lifestyles and economic development. I saw everything from individuals to families to groups; casual riders to serious riders; people on short rides to those who were bikepacking; teenagers to young families to senior citizens. Everyone benefits from this. Furthermore, some of the areas are small and not doing well. This would help to bring incremental tourism dollars to areas that can use it.

Makes sense to me. I can't think of any rational for not doing it. Maybe I should study the issue more.

Please accept this offer from the railroad. This is a good opportunity for the future of Missouri. It offers a wide range of recreational as well as economic possibilities.

Please accept the donated land for the Rock Island Trail.

-This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is a huge success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence.

-It offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies. As someone who lives near the Katy Trail, I know first hand what a great outdoor recreation place this has created for my own as well as many of my friends use and enjoyment.

-Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel. This appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability.

-Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage.

Thank You

To whom it may concern,

Please enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad so the Rock Island Trail may be completed. I am a Maryland Heights resident, and ride the

various trails, including the Katy Trail, on a weekly basis at the minimum. These trails are a large part of the reason I choose to continue to live, work, and pay taxes in this state. Missouri's bike friendly culture is a huge benefit to the people and the state as a whole. Please continue this tradition and complete the Rock Island Trail.

Thank you for your time.

I encourage the DNR to except this gift of land for the Rock Island Trail. The Katy Trail is so popular and so well used and well loved. Having a another trail would benefit the communities along it as a source for economic development. It would be a way for people to get exercise and improve the health an well-being of citizens of the state. It would give more people and opportunity to enjoy the beauty of rural Missouri. Without a doubt I encourage you to except this land and the wonderful opportunities it will provide.

How can you not accept this gift? Look what the KATY trail has done for rural Missouri. I live on the trail and it is always being used to the benefit of all the little towns along the trail. I remember the initial opposition to the KATY trail and it no longer exists. This is a well proven investment in the future.

What a great asset to our trail system and our state. Missouri is becoming a destination spot for outdoor enthusiasts. Please accept this donation and make our public lands even better - Thank you

Please, lets put our tax dollars to good use and finish the trail.

This is a wonderful opportunity to add another wonderful fitness option to get us all outdoors to enjoy our beautiful state. It also is a measure to protect a bit of history of the rail line and the path that had been cut to transport people and goods.

I have biked the Katy and am excited for the Rock Island Trail to happen

Thank you

The development of trails in Missouri is a benefit to citizens and tourism. Please enter the agreement and complete the Rick Island Trail.

These corridors serve recreational use and boost economies, but their most significant impact may be as a corridor and safe haven for flora and fauna. As road slaughter takes a species-destroying toll by blocking migration paths, they also serve as an access to animals seeking food and shelter in harsh seasonal climes. Also, the trees allowed to grow in a natural state provide habitat for countless birds including Bald eagles and mosquito devouring bats as well. Future generations will see Missouri as one of the few places on this Earth that had the wisdom to truly conserve.

This is an awesome opportunity for Missouri. We so desperately need a draw for tourism and some reasons for us to spend our own vacations here instead of going out of state.

Dear Governor,

Please accept the donated land for the Rock Island recreational Trail. It is best for the people of Missouri.

Please accept this land. A cross-state trail would be a significant boost to recreation and tourism, as well as providing a wildlife corridor.

This is a beautiful area of Missouri (there are many beautiful areas) and would make an excellent trail. How short-sighted it would be to not take advantage of the opportunity to acquire and develop a trail along this railroad corridor. As the Katy Trail proves, the people of Missouri appreciate and use these trails.

Please accept this land donation in order to complete the Rock Island Trail. Don't waste this wonderful gift!

As a native of Missouri, I urge the DNR to accept this donation to extend the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the land to complete the Rock Island Trail in Missouri. I can see no logical reason the State of Missouri would turn down this gift, other than complete stupidity on the part of those in charge.

Please continuous on the Rock Island Trail Project. I lived in Pleasant Hill. I have a lot of friends living in Pleasant Hill would love to have the trail completed.

I think that DNR should enter the Trail Use Agreement. This will add a beautiful trail for the use by Missouri residents and tourists. The Katie Trail has been a great blessing for our state and I believe the Rock Island Trail will do the same. Please sign the agreement.

I totally support extending the trail. This is a great economic opportunity for small communities like Chilhowee, as well as a valuable extension of the trail for hikers and bikers. Please say YES!

I have ridden the Katy trail from Clinton to Machines, St. Louis and look forward to being able to ride my bicycle with my family from Kansas City where I was born to St. Louis where I raised my children. I moved back to KC 5 years ago to take care of my dad who passed away last month. I'm staying in his house now, comforted by friends I made in High School, and not really knowing where I will settle again. I would ride in his honor and think about all the wonderful options I have just in the state of Missouri.

This would be a wonderful recreational and economic addition to Missouri! Please accept the Ameren donation for the Rock Island Trail.

Please complete the Rock Island Trail Project!

The existing MKT trail is a beautiful trail that exist where once there was railroad and is been a favorite of many within the state of Missouri. It would be a tourist attraction for walks and biking in a natural environment. For the avid athlete...runner, walker, bicyclist...and for children and families, the extension of the trail would be wonderful for the state. Thank you.

The free land grant of the Missouri Central railroad right of way from Ameren is a great thing. It will link parts of this trail to each other. I enjoy hiking and think others will use this trail a great deal.

Please enter into the agreement to complete the Rock Island Project

Please accept Ameren's donation and carry out the Rock Island Trail project. It's not only good for Missouri but good for our tourism as well. We have a beautiful state that attracts millions that come here for camping, boating, our caves, hiking and biking and our numerous wonderful state parks. It would be a shame to throw this opportunity away! These projects make our state more attractive to all sorts of recreational hunters trough out the year. Let's not blow it and lose out on a great opportunity for Missouri! Thank you!

I would use this trail, as would many others! Please accept the gift as a resource for our future enjoyment.

Hiking outdoors on trails is great for the physical and mental health of the citizens of Missouri. The more trails the better the opportunities for outdoor exercise and better health. A long trail such as this would also be attractive to people from other states who should come to beautiful Missouri and bring economic benefits to our state.

We're cycle tourists always looking for routes like this. Invest and we will come. Invest and local towns will benefit.

The Rock Island Trail project would be a wonderful compliment to an already exceptional Missouri outdoor experience. Missouri has successfully put itself on the map as a biking hub in the midwest and we hope that the DNR will accept this offer for additional land to be used as a biking destination for cycling enthusiasts within the state of Missouri and nationwide.

Hiking is a way I enjoy getting both exercise and connecting with the natural world's beauty and wonder. I very strongly favor the proposed Rock Island Trail.

This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence.

It offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies. Reference the success of the Katy Trail - you can share your own story about visiting the Katy Trail to show the potential of the Rock Island Trail.

Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel. This appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability.

Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage.

The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence.

It will rural communities another way to diversify local economies.

Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel. This appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability.

The Rock Island trail will be a valuable addition to our park heritage.

Missouri has a reputation as a great rails-to-trails state. It brings economic development to the state through tourism. The Rock Island Trail Project will further cement this reputation and will increase economic development for small towns along the corridor, while encouraging people to get outside and engage with our state's natural resources. I very much endorse the Rock Island Trail Project.

We must preserve the trails and environmental origins of our surroundings for our children, grandchildren and future generations, as well as the present

I fully support this. As an outdoorsman and as someone who believes in the importance of preserving natural areas, I fully support the DNR taking on this new land

Please accept the land donation to complete the Rock Island hiking and biking trail. This is a wonderful opportunity to increase tourism through a rural area of Missouri. I have enjoyed using the KATY trail, and look forward to using the Rock Island trail.

Paths and trails are the best. They tie to our ancient human roots of migratory paths, and of pilgrimage trails. They bring renown to a region, like the Appalachian trail, or the Erie Canal Trailway, or our own Katy Trail. The towns along the way gain tourists looking for a place to eat or sleep.

Trails are particularly hard to acquire anew since by their nature they cross through many properties. This is what makes it so exciting to be able to get the land from the Rock Island Railroad corridor for a 144 mile trail for people like me. It would run a bit south of the current Katy trail and give us a different experience, different landscape, and bring even more people to both trails. It begins not too far from our state's major cities.

This is a unique opportunity, one to pass on to our children and grand children. I cannot even imagine that there would be anyone so shortsighted as to impede such an opportunity. I am for the Rock Island Trail Project!

Please enter into this agreement. Missouri is a beautiful place and trails like this are such an amazing benefit for residents and anyone thinking of visiting Missouri. my husband and I have a baby on the way and would love to be able to share this with him after he is born.

I think one question says it all: Why not accept the donation? The opportunity is exceptional -- linking east and west

Missouri with a Bike Trail. The history of the Katy Trail is a perfect example to recreate. Rural communities reaping the benefits of the trail growing their local economies. DNR has the potential to repeat this success. And the bike trail appeals to all levels of outdoor enthusiasts.

Let's agree on the Rock Island trail project. we need to preserve as much green space as possible. What a great addition to our Missouri trails

Missouri is in need of more development to its natural features to draw in tourism and the many dollars that generates for the region. The Rock Island Trail Project will accomplish that. Please vote yes.

I think that the State of Missouri should accept the land to create the Rock Island trail. It would be great for bicyclists and hikers to have another long trail to travel and to see the countryside of our beautiful state. It would boost tourism in Missouri.

Please accept the donated land for the Rock Island Trail! It's a wonderful opportunity for rural communities to diversify local economies! The success of the Katy Trail is an example of this. The Katy Trail not only provides entertainment, exercise and an escape for our family but also for numerous others. The opportunities provided by the Rock Island Trail are limitless. Please accept the donated land and add the Rock Island Trail to our state park system.

I support and agree that a land donation to continue the Rock Island Trail Project is a very good thing. It will provide the ability for people to use the trail to enjoy the sights and sounds of nature. Any thing to help get people out into the natural world is a good thing.

After calling a special session to give Ameren what they want it doesn't make much sense to decline the Rock Island Railroad corridor. People could actually enjoy the trail and possibly have small businesses along the way.

We have often used the Katy Trail for biking and have seen the economic boost it has given small towns in Missouri. Please keep up the Missouri tradition of treasuring these types of resources and agree to the interim Trail use with the Missouri Central Railroad.

The land for the rail-trail is free (donated). It will extend the outdoor recreation for all Missourians!

To refuse this donation will be a travesty! The Missouri DNR SHOULD accept this donation!

what is wrong with you? how lucky to get the donation.... we need land set aside like the rock island for now and our future. I think politicians are elected to help the many, not the few, not to take the donation sounds like the few at the expense of the many....get off of the stick and do what is right for all Missourians

I believe this project to be a great idea! It will help revitalize these small towns along the trail even if the business is seasonal. It will also give them an additional sense of pride for

their towns to be a part of something larger than themselves as when the railroad came through.

For trail riders, it will give them a more complete view of the Missouri landscape as well as an alternative to riding the Katy trail in reverse or just riding it only one way.

I opened a small store in our town and kept the trail riders in mind during the planning process. We have had visitors from all over come through on the trail. All trail riders are already excited about the fact that the Katy is the longest continuous trail. So adding another that connects with it and gives them more miles, scenery, and options for site seeing really appeals to them. I'd like to point out once more that they travel to Missouri as a destination to experience the trails.

I've also realized that every town can have the same amenities for trail riders and that works just fine because they don't all arrive at the same town at the same time of day.

The addition of the Rock Island Trail expansion will boost the economy, tourism, and Missouri state pride.

Thank you for all of your time and effort put into this project. Thank you also, for listening to the voices of those of us who live along the Rock Island Trail.

I would like to see this project completed. Trails are a valuable asset to the State of Missouri.

We need the Rock Island Trail! Please accept the land donation to complete the Rock Island Trail! Breathe life into our rural communities located along the Rock Island Trail, and provide an opportunity for families to create memories. It's a win-win for all. Please accept the land donation and add the Trail to our state park system!

The trail will bring people from all over the United States and the world to visit Missouri. That also means money, commerce.

Please do the right thing and keep the trail going.

My family and I would personally use the Rock Island Trail on the west side of the state. It will offer an excellent way to hike and move around between neighborhoods without having to cross busy streets. It would provide a much safer way for my kids to walk to their grandma's house. It would be a great repurposing of the old dilapidated tracks.

If you think it's too expensive to complete all the way across the state, can we at least accept the land and complete the trail in the busier areas like around Kansas City where it would get a lot of use?

I am urging the DNR to accept the land to complete the Rock Island Trail. This is a wonderful opportunity for the state of Missouri. The Katy Trail has already put the state on the map as one of the best biking states and the Rock Island Trail would add to that distinction. The trail would be good for local economies that are adjacent to the trail. This trail appeals to citizens with all levels of recreational ability. I am a retired person who frequently uses the Katy Trail for biking and hiking and would love to expand my exploration of the beauty of Missouri with the completed Rock Island Trail. The Katy Trail is well loved by people of all ages who enjoy Missouri's unique geographical diversity. Please don't turn down this valuable addition to our park system.

Please accept this almost free offer

I know it will take some money to get it ready for use, but trails are low cost and they promote healthy outdoor activity and boost tourism - especially if you can say you can walk from one part of the state to another

Rails to trails is a wonderful way to complement Missouri's existing trail system. This route would be used by hikers and bikers and would enhance the economies of the small towns along the route. There should be little, if any, impact to existing farmland, certainly no more so than a railroad would have been. In fact, with the railroad gone, there is less risk of grass fires started by locomotives. While there is some cost to the state to build and maintain this trail, I think the long-term benefits outweigh the costs. There is already evidence from the success of the Katy Trail system to support this project. Thank you.

I want DNR to accept the donated land for the Rock Island Trail.

This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence.

Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel. This appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability.

Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage.

I understand that Missouri is considering NOT accepting Ameren's offer to complete the Rock Island Trail Project! Why on Earth not?? My family and I have and continue to enjoy the Katy trail. Small businesses have popped up along the trail providing income for rural areas and joy for trail users. I have had friends from out of state visit to enjoy the Katy Trail. People need handy access to natural areas for frequent short-term outdoor experiences for their physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. The Rock Island Trail would be a great addition to Missouri's parks and trails. AND AMEREN WANTS TO GIVE MISSOURI THE MONEY FOR IT !!! Accept their offer.

Please accept the donated land for the Rock Island Trail! This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states, in spite of our race to the bottom on so many other important points.

This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence, offering rural communities another way to diversify local economies - for if we are concerned about the continued vitality of our rural communities in Missouri, more outdoor recreational activity infrastructure is a great way to accomplish this. Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel. This appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability.

Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage. Let's do it!

Trail ways are beneficial for all Missourians. Please accept the donated land for the Rock Island Trail.

DNR - Please finalize the agreement with the Missouri Central Railroad concerning the Rock Island Trail Project. Don't let Greitens pressure you out of it!

Missouri needs this property The Katy Trail has done a lot for the small towns around it . Please reconsider Governor Greitens!

Here are a couple of points worth considering

.

This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence.

It offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies. Reference the success of the Katy Trail - you can share your own story about visiting the Katy Trail to show the potential of the Rock Island Trail.

Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel. This appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability.

Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage

I think they should accept it to complete the trail

It would be a great boon for the area. Please accept the donation of the Rock Island Railroad corridor. Just think, it could be another Katy trail which has been so successful. Wonderful.

I think it would be wonderful for DNR to accept the land for the Rock Island Trail. Just look at the success of the Katy Trail and the economic benefits the trail has brought to all the little towns along the trail. People come from all over the state and even all over the country to ride the Katy Trail, maybe stay in a bed and breakfast along the way, and eat at local restaurants. The same would be true for the Rock Island Trail especially with the nice bridges that the trail will have. I know I personally am really looking forward to someday riding the Rock Island Trail.

Don't waste this opportunity!

Please accept the donated land for the Rock Island Trail. Opportunities to add to a wonderful state park system don't come around very often. The Katy trail is well-used and very successful judging by the many businesses that thrive along it. Since moving to Missouri from Minnesota, one of my family's favorite activities is to bike/walk the Katy Trail. As much as I hate to admit this, Missouri's state park system ranks right up there with Minnesota's and I would argue that the Katy trail is

the jewel of a park that no one else, in my experience, has duplicated. It is truly unique and wonderful. Adding another park in this vein would only add to the Missouri DNR's reputation for having an enviable park system. I would use the Rock Island Trail. Many others would too. In times like these, we need more opportunities to be outdoors and conserve what we have. Thank you for the great work that you do.

This addition shouldn't even require any debate, it should be an automatic Yes. We're talking about adding a section that would give us a trail that stretches across the state. We're talking about adding additional recreational space at no harm to anyone. Other trails aren't disruptive to nearby farms. Point of fact, many farms have incorporated the trails into how they do business, including selling produce to people traveling the trails. These trails aren't used by people having wild parties: they're for people to get out and walk and bike. If you've ever walked the Katy trail, it's astonishingly quiet. The most you'll hear is a soft warning that a biker is passing. Missouri has been attempting to bring in more tourism. Well, trails like this are key to increased tourism. At some point in time, you have to remember that people who aren't big agricultural operation owners also live in the state. Don't blow this opportunity.

Please accept the land that has been offered to the state and move forward with developing a rail trail. We meet many people from other states and countries while riding the Katy Trail and I believe the Rock Island line would be a great benefit to Missouri.

This trail would be a true asset for the people of Missouri and the Midwest.

I think the Rock Island Trail Project is a fantastic idea, and I fully support it. Some things are worth paying for! We do not have corridor trails like this around our area of Lee's Summit, and I think it will encourage walking and biking in our area and be a great amenity to our state. Missouri is a beautiful state, and trails like this make that beauty easily accessible. PLEASE DO NOT KILL THIS PROJECT!

A 144.3 mile trail could be a economic boost to our local communities. I own two businesses in the Belle/Bland area. We have enough streets, trails and tracks for bicycles. Give everyone a chance to enjoy this scenic trail. If you want to draw people from other states, give them another reason to come. We have maximized our tourism revenues from bicycles. Please try something new.

1. Allow ATVs/UTVs on the trails one day a week. Just one day a week.
2. Limit the motorized vehicles to Seniors, Disabled Veterans, and handicapped.
3. Charge a \$75 fee for a trail tag to offset enforcement and maintenance costs.
4. Place a speed limit on the trail.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

One important segment of the Missouri economy is tourism. The Katy Trail has been immensely popular with walkers and hikers, some of whom come to this state for the purpose of hiking the trail and enjoying the great outdoors. (They also spend money in the state when visiting the trail.) The Rock Island Trail project is another opportunity to preserve a part of Missouri's natural beauty and draw visitors who enjoy the great outdoors. A donation of land for the trail should be gladly accepted and not rebuffed. This is an opportunity that should not be wasted for all the reasons I have presented.

Please don't pass on this incredible opportunity to create a critical trail link. -----
This is similar to building a state park, it would be used by thousand and help the local economies. Living in the Kansas City area, this has the potential to let me bike for miles on trails. Jackson County is handling the rock Island trail near me and I can't wait for the ability to ride safely without concern for distracted drivers.

Please accept this gift to complete the trail. These trails provides fantastic opportunities for state residents and VISITORS to enjoy the beauty of Missouri, as well as providing small towns and communities with EXTRA REVENUE and job opportunities as they provide services to the people enjoying the trail. Why would you not accept this gift? To turn it down is shortsighted and detrimental to Missourians!

Please accept Ameren's gift of 144 miles of land. With this gift, the Rock Island Trail Project could be completed. The addition of the Rock Island hiking and biking trail will only add to Missouri's prominence as one of the best bicycling states. I have walked parts of the Katy Trail, and when I lived in Columbia I walked the MKT Trail regularly. There's almost nothing more enjoyable than being able to walk on a well-maintained trail in all seasons, observing the terrain, the fields and forests, and the wildlife. Completion of the Rock Island Trail Project will help the rural communities along the trail diversify their economies. As keepers of Missouri history, these rural communities need to thrive and the Rock Island hiking and biking trail will provide a much-needed economic boost. Please do right by Missouri's citizens, rural communities and the tourism industry, and accept Ameren's generous gift. Thank you.

I think the trail would be a great draw for tourism. People are drawn today for outdoor recreation. This will be a feat for people to do. They would brag about their whole completion of hiking or bicycling the whole trail. This will spread and bring more people to try and do the whole trail.

[REDACTED]
64089

The Rock Island Trail would provide Missouri with a world-class nature preserve that will attract visitors with its unique glimpse of Missouri wilderness, small towns, and thrilling structures like tunnels and bridges. It is encased by two major cities with their assorted attractions, including recognised

sports venues. It will be used daily by locals, will be a weekend attraction, and will draw visitors both nationally and globally. I am in favor of the Rock Island Trail project and have already donated money towards it. Please consider it with favor.

Last year Ameren agreed to give the State of Missouri 144 miles of land to complete the Rock Island hiking and biking trail. But the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) under Gov. Greitens is considering not accepting this free land that would link eastern and western Missouri.

This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence.

It offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies. Reference the success of the Katy Trail - you can share your own story about visiting the Katy Trail to show the potential of the Rock Island Trail.

Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel. This appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability.

Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage.

Please support this agreement as it would provide great recreational opportunity. Thanks

This would be a terrific opportunity for the state to acquire land for public use. It would be to the advantage of citizens of the state to be able to recreate along this trail. Local businesses would benefit from the increased visits from people who want to use the trail. This opportunity to acquire land for the state should not be passed up.

Please accept the land and use it for the recreational trail. What a great idea!

What a wonderful extension of Missouri's trail system this would be - a great way to explore the state!

I strongly urge the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project. This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states, and this new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence. Plus it offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies.

Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens, so to turn away from this offer would be an opportunity lost.

Thank you.

Sirs: Why would anyone refuse a gift as generous as the land donation from Missouri Central Railroad for completing a statewide trail? I can't imagine anyone doing that, but under the new administration in Springfield, stranger things have

happened. Please vote yes on accepting this land donation so that those residents of the state who are avid outdoor enthusiasts will be able to take advantage of the Rick Island Trail project. I do hope you will approve and accept this donation that will benefit all residents of the state.

Thank you!

I think the trail is a positive thing for Missouri. It will bring families together. It will bring tourists in to help boost the economy. I say yes!

I don't see any good reason not to do this. Besides adding another recreation option for Missouri citizens, this trail would increase tourism in small towns along its route, which would provide additional income to local small businesses. Not to mention that the land is being donated, so it won't cost taxpayers anything to acquire it. Please approve this agreement - it's just a good idea for Missouri.

I strongly urge DNR to accept this property, even if funds cannot be made immediately available for development. This property represents an excellent opportunity for the people of Missouri to acquire a venue for a popular and healthful, low-carbon-impact activity (hiking and bicycling), as well as to preserve a right of way in the event that, far into the future, it becomes necessary to rely again on rail traffic. It also provides a monument to the railroads, which played such a huge role in the development of this country and our industrial society. This right-of-way will have the ancillary benefit of providing an opportunity for properly managed wildlife habitat, in an era of fence row to fence row farming. And it will provide some economic benefits to the dying towns along its route.

Please don't toss away our legacy to the next seven generations!

Save this trail for every one in the country to use and enjoy. It's one of the many reasons people come to Missouri for and every visitor contribute to the revenue of this state.

I support developing the Rock Island Trail for the following reasons:

This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence.

It offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies. Reference the success of the Katy Trail - you can share your own story about visiting the Katy Trail to show the potential of the Rock Island Trail.

Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel. This appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability.

Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage.

I urge the state to accept the abandoned trail line and proceed to turn it into a trail.

More generally, I am concerned about the lack of long-term vision that appears to be settling over Jefferson City. Parks

and trails among the things that make our lives rich, and what attract people to Missouri. People do not want to live or work in a place that is nothing but one highway, office building, and strip mall after another. Failing to seize opportunities like this, or threatening to sell off parks, diminishes our lives and makes our state look backward in the eyes of those considering locating themselves or their businesses here.

No land donations should ever be refused. This generous gift is for the enjoyment of everyone. We need more places and opportunities to enjoy the wonderful outdoors and this addition to the Rock Island Trail is priceless.

Please accept the land. Connect east and west Missouri and continue to make our state a beautiful outdoor playground that we can share with the rest of the country.

I regularly use the Katy Trail and I have traveled to different parts of the state to bike on the Trail. Often this takes me to town and rural areas of the state that I would not have otherwise visited.

Please accept the land donation for the Rock Island Trail. These projects have great value to Missouri citizens and tourists and the towns they pass through.

Please accept this land. We need all of the outdoor spaces that we can get! This would be a great asset for Missouri.

I am strongly in favor of the DNR entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement in order to develop the Rock Island Trail Project.

Why isn't DNR wanting to accept "Free Land" from Ameren? Is there unacceptable conditions linked with the acquisition? I am interested. Let me know the details.

Dear DNR,
Please accept the gift of land offered to the State of Missouri by the railroad companies.

Thank you,
Steve Hunter

Missouri should accept the Rock Island Trail Project. Every week I ride the Katy Trail and am amazed how many folks are enjoying the trail. Missouri is unique for having KATY, the longest in the country. The Rock Island trail would add another place for Missourians to go for recreation. This opportunity should not be squandered.

The state certainly should go ahead with this project. It should accept the land offered by Ameren that would complete the 144 miles of trail. If one considers how the Katy Trail has benefited the communities along it as well as the whole state, without the dire effects opponents predicted for it, the Rock Island Trail promises to offer similar benefit.

As a resident of Missouri and a frequent user of Missouri trails and other natural outdoor areas, I urge you to accept the land Ameren donated for the Rock Island Trail.

This is a wonderful opportunity and gift to our state. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as

one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence. It also offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies.

Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel. This appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability. Our state has a wonderful state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage. Thank you for considering.

Yes - this would be awesome useage of old railroad tracks!

I fully support the use of the Rock Island line as a recreational trail. I use the KATY trail for bicycling in St. Charles and on two occasions have done longer trips in mid-Missouri staying over night at B&B's along the trail. I have two friends who own B&B's in Defiance and Augusta that rely heavily on the KATY trail to attract clientele. I have another friend from Colorado who is considering coming to Missouri for a week's bicycle ride along the KATY. My point is that trails generate activity and economic development.

Bike trails offer families the opportunity to ride together without fear of automobile traffic. It would be great if Missouri could expand its bike trail opportunities to include the Rock Island line.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity that should not be passed up. This can help more people along this corridor to generate a way to get tourists to spend money with them. Besides the health factor for those who would use it. I have already used the part between Windsor and Pleasant Hill and can't wait for it to cross the state.

I have driven alongside much of the proposed trail and have seen that much of the trail has already had work done on it such as rails pulled up, trees knocked down, etc.

I will be passing the word to all my friends about this opportunity and your decision! Please do not let us down.

DNR should move ahead with this important project. It will provide economic benefits to the towns along the trail and outdoor recreation and health benefits to Missourians. I'm an avid cyclist and use trails like this frequently, and spend money in the local economies along such trails. Trails are good for public health and economic health!

The Rock Island trail project is good for Missouri. Please do everything in your power to make it happen.

These trails and paths are very important to people. How can you say no??? Make the Rock Island Trail Project work for us.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the state. Not only will it provide recreational activities for residents, but it will help spur tourism in some portions of the state that could really use the economic boost. Passing on this opportunity would be idiotic.

Please do not renege on a previous agreement to have the land for public biking and hiking use. God knows we need to keep as much land for quiet reflection and recreational use as possible ...

Thank you.
Sincerely,

Please accept the offer of land to complete the Rock Island Trail. Our nation is rapidly losing green space everywhere and these types of spaces are vital for citizens. It provides a space for recreation, exercise, meditation and reflection! I urge you to go forward with this!

Although not a Missouri resident, I am a heavy user of Missouri parks. The Katy Trail is a gem among many good Missouri State parks. I have used the Katy Trail several times and thoroughly enjoyed it.
The proposed extension of the Katy Trail via the Rock Island Trail Project and the recently opened extension to Pleasant Hill tremendously increase the utility of the park. I think use of the park will increase due to the convenient access near the Kansas City area.

I recognize that converting the Rock Island Trail will take years and that funding is uncertain. Nevertheless it is a project worth pursuing. This is a situation where the long view should take precedence.

We are all for the Rock Island Trail Project. It provides a great place for Missouri families to exercise, and it will bring in tourism dollars for the state.

Completing the Rock Island Trail Project will bring allow Missourians and Americans from across the country to enjoy the beauty of our natural environment.

This is really a no brainer. Please continue work to make this trail a reality.

Please accept this gift of land. Any trail project that can receive this kind of donation is a gift and will be used by people of the state of Missouri and others.

Aside from its people, Missouri's greatest asset is its land. Hiking, biking and being in nature connects people back to who we are and where we are from and helps us to find ourselves through the mass of social media, tv, status and the other junk tha pollutes our heads. Please accept this gift if not to save the land, then to help the people of this state find refuge. There's nothing like climbing the top of a hill on a beautiful snowy morning and seeing the land painted white or to feel the sun and wind on your face when you bike the first nice day in spring. It's worth the expense. As tax payer, their are few things I'd rather see my money go to. Please accept this gift.

I had the privilege of working for DNR when the state accepted the MTK Right-of-Way and the KATY trail was born. I use it regularly and think it is one of the most fantastic recreational resources in the state. Was the path forward easy? -- NO. Was it worth it? -- YES, more than well worth it. At that time, dedication of such a right-of-way appeared to be a once in a lifetime opportunity for the state. Now, Missouri has a second chance for a similar opportunity. To let it pass would be penny wise and pound foolish.

Accept the right-of-way. Think of the future of Missouri. Think of the possibilities. Please, on behalf of us, the citizens who live and work in this state. Contribute to our heritage. Accept the gift.

Yes! It would be great! I would use it, and it would spur opportunities for recreational businesses along the trail.

Nature conservation and appreciation is dire for the survival of our planet. Not only is this an environmental win, but it's also a recreational victory-- it provides another place for people to enjoy the outdoors with friends and family.

This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence.

It offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies. Reference the success of the Katy Trail - you can share your own story about visiting the Katy Trail to show the potential of the Rock Island Trail.

Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel. This appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability.

Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage.

Please accept the land for the Rock Island Trail!

I think that the proposed Rock Island Trail would be a major asset for tourism and recreation for the state of Missouri and the DNR should move forward with acquisition and development.

Hello,

This would be a wonderful opportunity to create what could become another destination point for outdoor enthusiasts in Missouri. More than ever, we need to preserve and promote outdoor recreational opportunities for both those who live in Missouri and visitors. Don't pass this gift up! It would be a travesty. With skyrocketing obesity rates in this country, the ever increasing incidents of depression, drug addiction -- creating natural environments for people to engage in health pursuits is a no brainer.

Please, take this gift. It's a smart investment for the people of Missouri.

I think this would be a wonderful addition, a chance not to be missed.

Just like the Katy trail has brought tourism and economic development this new trail will help the economy and make Missouri an even better place to live.

Please move forward with the development of the trail.

Thanks

Missouri tourism is critical to the continued economic success for Missouri. This project is a rare opportunity to provide both tourism dollars as well as provide MO tax payers an outdoors enjoyment opportunity that is unique to our state.

My husband and I hope the State of Missouri accepts and proceeds with the Rock Island Trail project. This is a great opportunity to strengthen and diversify the economic bases of communities along the trail. The vast majority of Missourians agree that the Katy Trail has been a success, a fun recreational asset, and highly beneficial to the towns along that trail. Missouri is becoming more and more known for its beautiful and accessible biking, hiking and walking trails. We have enjoyed the Katy Trail, and spent money at a number of businesses along it over the years. The Rock Island Trail will add to the flow of out-of-state tourists and their accompanying dollars (and tax revenue!).

This trail is a win-win-win for the State of Missouri, and it should not be halted. Thank you for your consideration.

Please accept the right of way donation and develop the trail. The citizens/tax payers of Missouri expect you to do the right thing for all of us...not a select few!

Please enter into this agreement. West Central Missouri cyclists have been waiting a long time for this connection!

This trail will open much unvisited country to visitors and residents to the local delights a along the trail such as historic towns, local cuisine, Old Timey music and wonderful, friendly people.

Hello, please accept the donated land for the Rock Island Trail. This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence. It offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies. My friends and I have spent many a weekend enjoying the Katy Trail and its communities - we even selected the Katy Trail for a Bachelorette Party bike ride to Les Bourgeois A Frame - this is just one example of the potential for the Rock Island Trail and surrounding communities. Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel. This appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability. Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage. Thank you for your time.

As a Missouri resident and a conservationist, I can't believe that I have to make a comment in order to implore the DNR to take the gift of land from Andrew UE in order to finish the Rock Island Trail. This should be a no brained folks. Accept the gift and allow this project to move forward.

This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence.

It offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies. Reference the success of the Katy Trail - you can

share your own story about visiting the Katy Trail to show the potential of the Rock Island Trail.

Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel. This appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability.

Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage.

Please accept the land to complete the Rock Island Trail project. It's being offered as a gift so why wouldn't you take it? Especially because it's a valuable gift! Many people love biking, as proven by the Katy trail, and people would also use the Rock Island Trail. It's something my husband & I would be interested in, in fact. Thank you, Mindy Rouff

As a beginning biker rider (again) at 67 I do appreciate areas set aside for riders. My street is a bus route and, I worry about even riding out of my driveway! Any land for biking is appreciated.

This is an incredible opportunity for Missouri - it's a no-brainer! Do it!

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources should embrace the Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad and develop the Rock Island Trail at its earliest convenience. This 144.3 mile trail will allow many in a primarily underserved geographic area to access outdoor recreation.

I think we need all of the public trails we can get. Walking and biking improve the health and lives of Missourians. Better health cuts healthcare costs and improves productivity with few sick days, stronger, and more able-bodied workers, and better mental health from connecting with nature.

The development of this trail will add to the beauty of our state as well as employment opportunities. Tourism of our foothills and mountain regions are vital. Please help to move this project forward.

I think that would be great - complete the Katy Trail. More people are getting back to nature or the great outdoors. We need these open spaces for our children.

Protect American wilderness you morons

I am in favor of the expansion of biking and hiking trails in Missouri. I would like to see DNR accept the Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project. Our family uses states parks, trails and other facilities that Missouri has to offer.

Further developing the Rock Island Trail can only be a good thing for the state of Missouri. Missouri is already a great destination for biking due to the Katy Trail, and with the Katy Trails success, added to the Rock Island Trail will only bolster the states status in for biking recreation.

Biking has never been more popular that it is currently and that popularity is only going to grow, so make the most of it!

It will help our state park system, encourage other bicyclists to come visit the state and enjoy the great scenery we already have to offer.

As a relatively new cyclist, I hope to utilize both the Katy trail and Rock Island trail (when developed) to see as much of this great state by bicycle as possible.

Biking across country is only becoming more popular, and if Missouri doesn't have trails to offer cyclists will either move to the roads, which is more dangerous or find another state that does (more likely). So make this happen!

Thank you!

Take the free land! Our citizenry needs more opportunities to be outside, and this is another possible resource.

Please accept the gift of land for use in developing the Rock Island Trail Project. The Katy Trail has been a real success story in our state and now Missouri has the chance to develop another successful trail. Let's do it!! Opportunities like this don't come along every day.

Please agree to convert the Rock Island Railroad corridor into a recreational trail. One of the things I enjoy most about Missouri is the wonderful recreational trails we have available to the public.

Please accept the agreement. Tourists would love it.

Why not? Pluses all around!

This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence. It offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies. Reference the success of the Katy Trail

How can the state of Missouri pass up this donation that would extend additional trail possibilities for Missouri citizens & out of state visitors? There was much concern prior to the development of the Katy Trail but I think most people now see it as a win-win situation for local towns and all visitors across the state. DNR should enter into the Interim Trail use agreement & the Rock Island project.

Please accept the donation of the 144 miles of old rail corridor from Ameren corporation into state hands. These trails help all Missourians. My aunt Carol just rode 65 miles along the Katy Trail to celebrate her 65th birthday. Her daughter came from Colorado for this ride and then stayed into bed and breakfast over the trip. My aunt Carol lives in St. Charles.

From a purely economic perspective, the Rock Island Trail Project should be a plus for Missouri.

It is OK to accept the land from the Rock Island Railroad, but I do agree with HB 698, that no money should be used to develop it, until all existing Missouri State Park properties are in proper working order.

I would really appreciate having access to such a great trail resource. Missourians have time and again shown that they back conservation and public lands. This would be a great asset for the state and would continue to draw eco/recreational tourists to the state for years to come.

This is a very important development for the small towns along the line as it will have a positive economic impact. Just look at the impact the Katy Trail has had! There is no reason not to proceed with the project.

I really enjoy the Katy trail. The Rock Island trail would be a great addition. Please do everything in your power to proceed with the building of the trail. Thank you.

Some of my fondest childhood memories were made along Missouri's renowned Katy Trail. Every fall we would bring the family together from across the state to camp for a weekend, riding our bikes out into the beautiful Missouri fall foliage and welcoming communities along the trail. These are cherished memories for us and untold other families across the state. The addition of a new trail along the Rock Island Railroad corridor would provide an incredible new opportunity for generations of Missourians to make similar memories they will treasure all their lives.

Not only would a project like this provide benefit to Missouri's families, but also to those from states near and far. There are countless examples of tourists traveling into Missouri to experience the Katy Trail, and the addition of another trail system like this would only draw more. These tourists not only bring positive attention to the state, but also much needed economic growth to the communities along the trail. An excellent example of this can be seen in the small town of Rocheport, MO. This a community of only around 200, and yet they have multiple flourishing businesses downtown and along the Katy Trail. On my own family trips along the trail, Rocheport was always a primary destination, and yet without the trail I likely would not have ever made it past Les Bourgeois and into town.

This is the real benefit of these sorts of trail systems, and a Rock Island corridor would be no different. If the Department of Natural Resources invests in this trail, they will be making an investment in the state of Missouri. Personally, I believe that is an investment well worth making.

This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be foolish to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence.

It offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies.

Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel. This appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability.

I urge Governor Greitens to accept the donated land for the Rock Island Trail. The Katy Trail is already a success as a bicycling and hiking trail, and the new trail connecting eastern and western parts of Missouri will add to the success.

This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down.

It offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies. It provides opportunities for tourists and citizens alike to enjoy the geological diversity and unique destinations of our beautiful state while being easy to travel. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage.

Please consider the benefits of hiking and biking trails in our state. People benefit personally and communities benefit financially and socially.

Unless there is some terrible "catch" to the agreement, please work to expand our trail system in Missouri.

God bless you with wisdom and courage as you work for our good.

I favor the Rock Island Trail Project. Anything which encourages biking & hiking is good for public health & fitness.

Please enter into an interim trail use agreement and develop the Rock Island Trail Project.

I support extending the Rock Island trail east to around St. Louis. The trail section now complete is a great compliment to the already completed KATY trail.

Please accept the donation of land to complete the Rock Island Trail. Given the enthusiasm with which Missourians have embraced the Katy Trail as well as the trail systems in parks and conservation areas, it is CLEAR THAT MISSOURIANS LOVE TRAILS. Therefore, rejecting this land donation would be doing Missourians a DISSERVICE. Accepting it and completing the Rock Island Trail is clearly the will of the people!

Please consider the positive economic and human well being benefits of an Interim Trail Use Agreement. It's an opportunity and something for our children and grandchildren.

Take the land.

This project must move forward. Several residents around Lee's Summit see the benefit in extending this trail. This trail can add economic value to communities that border the trail. I completely support this project.

This trail is a wonderful opportunity for the future of Missouri. It follows many other successful trail projects of this nature and would create an important corridor for bicycles and foot traffic. To many of us here in the United States it may be hard to imagine people using this trail for much more than leisure. But in many countries the world over, trails just like this serve as commuter corridors for countless travelers every day. It could provide an invigorating economic boost to small communities adjacent to it, as well as helping to alleviate the every growing traffic on our highways. It seems foolish to turn away from such a great opportunity, especially at this time in history. I would like to strongly urge the good people at Missouri Department of Natural Resources to consider the great benefits that better trail systems could bring to our

beautiful state. If the land in question is really being gifted to the state for this use, it would be foolish to turn it down.

These trails are so important to recreation and well being of citizens, and help the tourist economy of the State. We have never been sorry that the Katy Trail was built. Do the same here.

I am for the trail project.

I support the Rock Island Trail. It would bring needed tourist dollars to Missouri. My sister and her boyfriend biked the Katy Trail just last week and had a blast. There were tons of other people doing the Katy Trail at the same time! We would put another one to good use with tourist amenities and reap tourist dollars.

An unbelievable once in a lifetime opportunity for Missouri. A developed trail could provide Missourians a safe, family friendly, and healthy outdoor hobby! Plus, we might get a little tourism out of it as well. As much money as the state spends, this should be at the top of the list and would benefit all Missourians!

This is a DONATION - ie free, it would complete the Trail, which provides a great deal for our citizenry -- making Missouri a destination for biking and hiking, connects to our Park System, provides economic opportunities for towns along the way ---- there is not downside.

Do the right thing. IT'S FREE !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

THIS IS A GOOD IDEA.
GO FOR IT!

I think the conversion of the Rock Island Railroad corridor into a recreational trail would benefit the citizens of Missouri in two ways. First, it would benefit the citizens directly by providing an excellent recreational opportunity and second, it would attract visitors to the area which would provide an economic boost to the region. It is a gift that could be of great value to the citizens of Missouri. To reject this gift would be short sighted and would damage the opportunity for growth and development in the region.

As a Missouri resident and an avid bike rider, I am writing in support of the Rock Island Trail Project. I urge the responsible persons and/or boards to accept the land from the Missouri Central Railroad for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project. This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence. It offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies. The Katy Trail has been a huge success, and has raised Missouri's reputation as a tourist destination and beautiful place. Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel. This appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability. Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by

its citizens. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage.

Yes, yes, yes. What a great idea. Katy Trail has been a wonderful addition and this trail can be as well. I was just on the trail 2 wks ago. Great opportunities for Missouri citizens, tourists and local communities.

Please do this!

Our family loves our state park and historic site system and we truly believe that developing and supporting it will continue to boost Missouri's recognition nationally as a recreation destination. The Rock Island Trail Project would be another jewel in Missouri's crown in that regard and would benefit the communities along its corridor. We encourage the Governor to enter into the Trail Use Agreement and to continue to support our incredible state park & historic site system. Thanks for considering our request.

This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence.

Love the idea and what a great thing to offer residents and visitors to Missouri. It would be my hope that if bikers could have access to this trail then cities like Lee's Summit would not take 4-lane roads and reduce them to 2 lane roads with a bike lane on each side. At a time when more cars are on the road than bicycles, it makes no sense to take away a traffic lane in order to add a bike lane. This could solve the problem and allow bike riders to see beautiful landscapes.

Hope this is a strong consideration on our Governor's part.

This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence.

It offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies. Reference the success of the Katy Trail - you can share your own story about visiting the Katy Trail to show the potential of the Rock Island Trail.

Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel. This appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability.

Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage.

I think the DNR should accept this gift of land to develop the Rock Island Trail. Our family has made good use of the Katy Trail which is a wonderful way to exercise and enjoy the lovely Missouri landscape as well as enjoying refreshments at unique towns along the trail. It is a good investment for Missouri today and in the future!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

██████████

Over the years as Missouri residents we have enjoyed walking the beautiful Katy Trail. We have friends who have biked the trail every year. It is a wonderful opportunity to see rural Missouri, and brings many out-of-state visitors to bike the trail. It brings economic opportunities to small rural communities along the trail.

And extension of the trail can only help increase outdoor, healthy activity, and the influx of visitors to our beautiful state. I fully support the development of the Rock Island Trail Project!

GREAT IDEA. ALLOWS MORE FOLKS TO GET OUT AND EXERCISE AS WELL AS COMMUNE SWITH NATURE. GREAT USE OF OTHERWISE WASTED LAND

The Rock Island Trail offers a excellent opportunity to repurpose a historic railroad corridor into a recreation area that will bring physical activity to our residents, as well as economic benefits to the areas surrounding it. TO not act on this will be a loss for the residents of Missouri, and a missed economic opportunity for increasing our recreational tourism to our state. I hope the DNC will support this project for the betterment of Missouri, our residents, and our economy.

This is a fabulous idea and would be such a massive benefit for the entire state of Missouri. It would become a jewel of pride like the Katy Trail and could provide access to views of the country side that many never get the pleasure to experience. I believe that it would be a massive loss if the DNR does not act on this wonderful chance to create a wonderful trail in our state.

Please take advantage of this opportunity.

Please accept this opportune to expand the public lands for the use of Missouri residents to enjoy. Missouri has some of best geographical landscapes in the country for hiking trails and we should take advantage of it. This trial would offer both social and economic benefits for Missourians.

Take the Land ! To finish the Trail !!!

Why would you not accept the donated land for the Rock Island Trail?!? What a lost opportunity if you do!

Our state government keeps talking about bringing more jobs to Missouri. Why would we turn down the opportunity to increase tourism dollars & increase businesses/jobs related to tourism?

We have an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens & by visitors to our state. The completed Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage.

Let us not take steps backwards regarding our park system, but let us take steps forward!

The Rock Island Trail could be an amazing park for Missouri. Combined with the Katy Trail this could create an incredible bicycle trail loop. This would be a huge bicycle tourism attraction for Missouri. Nothing else like this exists in the United States. The tax revenue from tourism along the route should be more than enough to pay for upkeep.

This will create Missouri jobs and improve the economy. I thought this was a done deal, It should be.

please let them do the Rock Island trail project so we can keep missouri great.

My family rides the Katy Trail and often meets people from out of state who come HERE to ride our trails. We have witnessed the trail towns bloom... small businesses,restaurants etc. Lets continue to provide more opportunity for this healthy kind of growth!

Accept the Rock Island Trail as a future project once funding of trail can be structured into the state budget. At least have the land available to develop for future Missourians' recreational activities.

The Rock Island Trail will bring in tourism dollars and provide a great recreational opportunity for our state. Jefferson City is apply to become a bike friendly city. Adding the Rock Island will help the city and the state draw visitors. It could also help small businesses start along the route and allow existing ones to expand. Since the land will be a free gift it seems wise to take advantage of the offer.

Please complete the trail! Thank you.

This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence.

It offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies. Reference the success of the Katy Trail - you can share your own story about visiting the Katy Trail to show the potential of the Rock Island Trail.

Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel. This appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability.

Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage.

I feel the Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project is a great way to utilize the land for the better of the land and the Health, Fitness and Safe Recreation for the people of Missouri and Tourist. Please accept this project and support it. Thank you.

This such a great idea. From what I understand you will be able to walk or ride from St Louis to K C. This will bring people from all over the country to enjoy Missouri. It also keep our tourist dollars here in the State. I look forward to seeing this trail a reality.

Let's do it and keep up with Rails/Trails expansion!

I support this project. Missouri's existing bike trails are a great asset recreationally and contribute to many small towns' economies across the state. Please pursue this opportunity.

I think this opportunity for the DNR to enter into an Interim Trail Use Agreement & the Rock Island Trail Project is a wonderful, WIN-WIN for Missouri -- for our residents, our tourism and our economy. It will be a great benefit for families and children, for exercise and time outdoors -- mental and physical health benefits for all who use the trail. AND it will be another "feather in the cap" for all of our state's leaders who support making it a success. To accept this free land will be an excellent chance for Governor Greitens, as well as our DNR, to be champions of both our state's citizens and constructive state conservation projects. Let's continue to expand in setting the standard for families of all ages and abilities to have outdoor activities -- to use trails for walking, bicycling, viewing nature -- to support small rural businesses who will benefit from people using this beautiful Rock Island Line. Please make this trail connection between eastern and western Missouri a reality. For our state, for our families, for all citizens of varying abilities to enjoy our beautiful Missouri! Please accept this land donation and support the completion of the Rock Island Trail. P.S. My family and I have used the Katy Trail many times and love it. This too will add to our state's successes!

Please accept the free land and complete the rock island trail... This is the type of issue to get me to stop voting Greitens

I think having a trail that runs south of the Katy Trail would be fantastic. I'm an avid hiker, backpacker and cyclist and would love to see this trail open.

Take the land for public use

Rock Island Trail: please accept the land donation to complete this great addition to our state park system. My group rode it in June from Pleasant Hills to Winsor and then on to St. Charles on the Katy. Rock Island Trail surface needs some work, but it is well worth keeping.

This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence.

It offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies. Reference the success of the Katy Trail - you can share your own story about visiting the Katy Trail to show the potential of the Rock Island Trail.

Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel. This appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability.

Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage.

This tells me very little about the actual project but it sounds like a good idea from your brief description.

Entering into this agreement is fantastic. Since MO's second leading industry is tourism, accepting and developing the Rock Island is a perfect fit into the tourism industry. I have

recently cycled on the Rock Island spur and the Katy; both add a unique atmosphere.

Although my residence is not in the area of either the Katy or Rock Island spur, I patronize these places when I am in the areas, including the businesses along the way. I know when I am in these areas, I have a place to go to exercise, to decompress from the day, breath fresh air and watch nature. When I utilize these a parks now, it's unbelievable the people you meet. Just this week, while in the area on business, I was using the Katy out of McBaine Trailhead, I met a young man who was just walking across the USA; not for any cause, but just because he wanted to. He planned his route to coincide with Katy because of its reputation.

Also, the weekend prior to the eclipse, I cycled from Pleasant Hill to New Franklin. Along the way I met a couple from Michigan who took the Amtrak from Ann Arbor to Kansas City; from there they wanted to cycle the Rock Island and Katy to St Louis, then on up to Ann Arbor, Michigan. Again they came to cycle the Rock Island and Katy trail because of tier reputation.

With this said, the acceptance of the Rock Island would continue to elevate Missouri as a tourism destination; but ultimately offer Missouri citizens in these areas the opportunity to improve their level of health, by providing them a solid asset to utilize for physical activity.

Please complete this long delayed project. I can't think of any logical reason to turn down the offer. Surely Missouri can be that progressive.

Dear Gov. Greitens,

First, let me say that I'm a "small government" advocate, and I believe that the Gov't (especially at the Federal level) is a little too involved in the day to day of ordinary Americans. That said, I would love to see MO take this project on. I think that it will bring tourism dollars, as well as preserve the historical site of the Rock Island Line. I understand that, in the short term, it would be costly, however, in the long term I believe it has the potential to be a revenue builder. It could even be utilized by groups that are fundraisers for charities, groups that could alleviate the burden of the state regarding the under-served. Missouri is a beautiful state, however, the only thing people think of when they think of Missouri is KC or STL. This could showcase the beauty and resources of this great state.

Best,

I strongly urge that the state of Missouri accept the land needed for the Rock Island trail and that DNR enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement to develop the bike trail.

Though I personally prefer biking on paved roads, most families and older riders prefer the safety and solitude of the KATY Trail. They'd love to have the option of a 2nd long distance MO option.

Consider the long-term benefits to the state. Just as the KATY trail has contributed tourist dollars to numerous small towns, the Rock Island trail will provide new tourist dollars to many small towns.

True long distance cyclists will love the option of making a 10+ loop of the KATY and Rock Island trails, staying at local motels & BnB's along the way and eating at their restaurants.

This is a rare opportunity -- please take advantage of it.

Please accept the land gift to complete the Rock Island Trail!

Missouri can always use more hiking and biking trails. It's good for everyone to get outside and enjoy our state's natural beauty. Accept the land donation

This is a very important project to revitalize rural Mo and bring in tourist dollars from out of state. Don't look a gift horse in the mouth. This route through the Ozark Mountains is far more beautiful than the Katie trail. Do the right thing.

Please consider entering into the interim Trail Use Agreement with Missouri Central Railroad. Developing the Rock Island Trail Project benefits us all on many levels, economic, local support, encouraging engagement with nature with personal psychological benefits, conservation, and so much more.

Tell the DNR: Accept the Land to Complete the Trail

The complication of the Katy Trial would be use the land being donated. It would give the citizens wonderful opportunity to view the route of one of the early train routes. of rural Missouri.

Please do not let this opportunity to develop a rails to trails in Missouri slip away. Our family had our first opportunity to bike the Sparta-Elroy trail in Wisconsin many years ago. Since then we have biked on the Katy trail in Missouri several times. This is an opportunity to provide a safe and healthy adventure for the people of Missouri of all ages, and also for visitors to the state. It would be a great addition to the ways to appreciate the beauty of the state of Missouri.

Please do this. the community would benefit from this project in so many ways. I understand the cost is significant but this is truly worthy of our time and money.

I believe the Rock Island right-of way is a valuable asset to the state of Missouri both in the interim as a public recreation trail as well a corridor for future unknown uss which may benefit the state. I feel DNR should accept the right-of-way to keep it intact and work with communities and organization to the develop the segments that meet local needs. It is unrealistic at this time to presume the Division of State Parks could assume the cost of developing a new trail due to the backlog of maintenance projects in the existing system which need to be addressed before new construction projects are scheduled.

Because of the popularity of the the Katy Trail and other rail to trail conversions through out the country there is no doubt that the Rock Island right-of-way, if converted to a trail, would be an economic boost to communities along the corridor. Therefore to benefit the state of Missouri from an economic and recreational standpoint the corridor should be accepted by DNR for interim trail use.

Rails to trails is such a popular attraction for so many Americans.

Make Missouri a more popular destination - accept the offer for the Rock Island Trail Project and help Missouri be a part of the 21st century.

I'd like to see more info on this. No one would deny this unless there was reason. I'm everything from a hiker, caver, hunter to simply family camping guy. I love the outdoors and would love more of it to utilize as much as possible.

That being said you haven't provided any means to find out what all is actually involved with this temporary acquisition of land by the state. You've simply stated what you want without explaining, or providing a link to, the whole story.

This alone is why I wouldn't sign a petition until I know why someone wouldn't accept free land use.

Please allow Missourians, and other Americans the opportunity to enjoy this wonderful, natural resource that can be life enhancing.

Please accept the land donation for the Rock Island trail. We have met people from all over while biking the Katy Trail, and there is a lot of interest in having a loop with the Rock Island. This would be a big tourism/recreation draw for Missouri.

Please approve the Rock Island Trail for these reasons:

-- This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence.

-- It offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies.

-- Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel. This appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability.

-- Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage.

This is wonderful! In the face of so much loss impending, I am grateful

Resident of Lee's Summit Missouri very excited to have this new trail run through our community. Missouri is a great state for hiking!

We have one of the best state park systems in the country. To pass up this opportunity to make it a bit better, would be unthinkable. With all of the expansion of cities and corporate farms, we need to take advantage of any chance to keep a bit of nature as nature.

This is an important incredible opportunity to add this corridor to the existing Katy Trail. It would be extremely short sighted failure by MISSOURI state government to pass up this opportunity to add this resource.

This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. The trail also brings business and goodwill to small communities across the state. And this new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to those experiences.

By agreeing to the Interim Trail Agreement we are able to utilize a great recreational opportunity for Missouri Citizens. If not accepted there may never be another opportunity to improve the trail and have further development of the towns and land close by. I want to show my support and ask that you give the plan your full support.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

Please accept this offer from Ameren for for land for the Rock Island Trail

I support Missouri and DNR entering into an agreement with the Rock Island Trail Project. I moved to Missouri 5 years ago, in the Lee's Summit area, and intend to ride the trail from Kansas City across the state when completed. I have ridden long across other states before, mostly on highways and seeing the small local towns and stopping in at restaurants, campgrounds and inns along the way is part of the joy. Having two trails that cross Missouri will bring in tourism dollars and funds to these smaller towns that may otherwise be unknown. It'd be a shame to see such a great trail opportunity go undeveloped into something greater.

Please do the enlightened thing and accept the donation of land for the Rock Island Trail. This will help complete the KATY Trail. It is good for recreational bicyclists, brings tourism to these rural areas, and promotes the state of MO. Personally, I am quite fond of bicycling on the flats, not the hills.

I enjoy the great Missouri outdoors municipal and state parks. Please expand these opportunities by accepting this usage agreement/GIFT to the Rock Island Trail by Missouri Central Railroad.

Thank you.

What is wrong with DNR? Turning down free land for a Trail running across the State?

Are you out of your mind?

This trail will serve the citizens of Missouri well. It not only will provide a wonderful recreational avenue for us but bring other people to Missouri to enjoy this trail and our communities along the trail.

Excellent idea!!!!

Please please please complete this trail! The importance of access to nature cannot be underestimated!

I think this trail would be a great asset to Missouri. Missouri tourism is boosted from trails like Rock island and the Katy trail.

These types of trails are nationally known and attract people to Missouri. If this trail were to be completed more people would access towns that rarely see out of town visitors.

Please move forward with this plan and make Missouri's heritage stronger.

This is a great opportunity to enhance Missouri's reputation as a state committed to great outdoor resources. Taking the already fantastic Katy Trail as a template, this addition of the

Rock Island Trail will drive economic gains through the area I live in, Lees Summit. On a personal note, it will allow my family to enjoy the awe inspiring natural beauty available through an easy to use Trail. Could be another reason to stay in Missouri!

Thank you for your consideration,

[REDACTED]

Don't do it. Forget about it.

Yes, please do this. So far it is stimulating the economy in some of these small town along the way.

This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence.

It offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies. Reference the success of the Katy Trail - you can share your own story about visiting the Katy Trail to show the potential of the Rock Island Trail.

Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel. This appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability.

Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage.

Biking and hiking our revenue creating tourist dollars. We should be excepting this donation of land and acknowledging its potential for increasing the quality of life of our citizens and the number of visitors who come to our state. I urge you to except the rock island trail donation.

Please develop this trail to bring economic development and recreation to our state.

Trails like this are used by so many people, keeping them healthy and happy because of the exercise and connection with nature. Refusing this gift that would serve so many makes no sense at all. Please graciously accept this gift.

I am writing to urge you to accept the land donation along the Rock Island Railroad corridor to develop into a Missouri park. The Katy Trail has been a huge success for Missouri and remains an excellent, sustainable source of tourism revenue. The trail attracts out-of-state people and in-state residents, alike. I personally have been to Clinton, MO and Augusta, MO specifically because of the trail, and those two towns are not necessarily big Missouri destinations. Think of the economic benefit that the Rock Island trail could bring to the rural communities along its route. This proposed trail already has garnered a great deal of support and approval from the Missouri constituency. Please consider my comments when making your decision.

Our family has enjoyed the Katy Trail, and believe the Rock Island Trail Project is worthy of tax dollars. The state of Missouri doesn't have beaches or mountains for tourist to enjoy, but the trail could become a destination for visitors.

Preserving and expanding recreational/educational resources for our citizens is important as population centers expand and open spaces decrease. What a wonderful gift to accept. Please go forward with the Interim Trail Use Agreement. Thank you.

I fully support going forward with accepting the land, developing the trail and maintaining the expansion of the Rock Island Trail. The project will bring jobs to the area during development as well as provide for possibly more jobs and businesses created due to the increase in tourism to the area. The project will provide a benefit for the public both economically and aesthetically. The trail will provide another avenue to encourage healthy activities/exercise for Missourians as well as others who travel to the region. Please put your support behind this generous gift to the state.

I believe this would be a great asset to the state of Missouri.

I urge you to continue with plans to go forward with the Rock Island Trail Project. I have ridden the Katy trail with a friend who is no longer with me. Now I chose not to drive all the way up to Jeff. to get on the trail. Having a trail that goes so much closer to Versailles, Camdenton, and this area, will open up opportunities for so much more outdoor activity for so many more people.

I am thanking you in advance for the fun days I will have being out on the trail again.

I am a 15 year resident of Kansas City but have had the pleasure to live near great bike trails like the Wabash Trace in Council Bluffs and the Western and Old Dominion Trail in Northern Virginia, and the extensive bike trails in Westchester County New York. Missouri has a great opportunity to connect Kansas City and St Louis with a continuous trail that will provide recreation for its residents and attract visitors. Please take on the stewardship of the Rock Island trail to make that happen and preserve it for future generations.

What a wonderful opportunity to add to Missouri's reputation as a great place to bike. And as a gift, no need to purchase the land! I look forward to visiting the rural communities on the trail and making a vacation out of it, bringing my business to restaurants and hotels along the way. Please do accept this terrific gift on behalf of Missouri citizens like my four-year-old son, who is just learning to ride his bike. He will appreciate the flat path (he gets scared going downhill), as will others of us who get tired going up!

This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Rock Island Trail will bring opportunities to Missouri similar to the Katy trail. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence.

It offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies like the small towns of Defiance and Augusta where I've visited frequently while enjoying the Katy trail. In addition, Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel and appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability.

Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage.

Please accept the land for the Rock Island Trail. It would be foolish to pass up this opportunity given the success of the Katy Trail. Like the latter, the Rock Island Trail could provide a boost to local, rural economies and enable even more Missourians, as well as others, to enjoy the beauty and diversity of the state.

Do it! Help out Missourians to get outside and off their phones! What are the downsides?? More people outside enjoying this great state? What is there to lose? There are more than enough users of the trail systems to volunteer for clean up and enhancing the trail.

You might as well accept this wonderful gift that will benefit so many of our/your citizens who will walk, ride, enjoy the scenery in order to benefit their health. Don't you care?

This project is one we can not let slip away. In a time where public health is at an all time low we need more opportunities and places for families to get some exercise and connect through physical fitness. This trail will be widely used by residents.

I support this agreement. This trail project would have a positive impact on tourism in Missouri and also provide residents an excellent outdoor activity.

Please accept the Rock Island corridor as an additional state park bike trail.

I think the DNR should enter into the agreement. I think that Missouri should invest in developing the Rock island trail. I remember the development of the KATY trail as I lived near by it at the time and have seen how the trail brought tourism and developed small businesses along the river and the trail. As well as just being a great thing to have for Missourians to enjoy. I think missing out on the opportunity of acquiring this additional land would be incredibly short sighted for the state. I think the KATY trail is great and I personally would not mind laying some of my tax money to support this expansion of rails to trails.

It's absurd to look a gift horse in the mouth. This is FREEE!!!! Considering all the praise and GOOD PRESS the Katy Trail has brought us, and that it costs very little to maintain and the revenue it has brought to previously blighted areas, I can't see letting this golden opportunity slip away. Governor, TAKE A HIKE on the Katy Trail that is and see the goodness of Missouri.

To the DNR:

Please accept the land in order to develop the Rock Island Trail Project, from Windsor to Beaufort. The Katy and Frisco trail have been so beneficial to visitors and area residents, and this segment is important to connect areas of Missouri

This is such a great opportunity for the citizens of the State of Missouri. As a Missouri resident, I cannot understand why the

State would not accept such a fantastic opportunity to connect our State for our residents. Please tell the Governor we need this!!

Please consider the future of the land as a legacy.

Please accept Ameron's donation of right of way for the Rock Island Trail.

The donation and the eventual trail offer many benefits to Missouri, many we can anticipate with data based prediction but many are not subject to data based predications, but are surely there.

Economic: The papers suggest that Parks is attempting to make an economic cost benefit analysis. There are data available from the incredibly successful Katy Trail as well as trails all over the country. Of subjective course, it becomes subjective when trying to make comparisons. The communities along the trail see the potential, and many of them need such a shot in the arm.

I was very active in the Katy Trail effort and at that time it was much harder to imagine economic benefits and many doubted there would be any, but it is clear now that there were many and they were substantial.

The economic benefits are far greater than just what users will spend using the trail. They include travel and other tourist activities in the state. The trail with its tunnels and bridges and connection to the Katy trail will be an international tourist draw.

Quality of Life: The trail will offer recreation for Missouri families that will make their lives better. It is an offer that will be accepted judging by the success of the Katy Trail.

Possibilities: With the connection to the Katy Trail, the long-term connection between Kansas City and St. Louis, the loops between the Katy Trail and the Rock Island Trail, the indignation of the towns and counties along the trail, it is impossible to imagine the serendipitous developments that will occur, but they will and they will be economic and quality of life benefits to Missouri.

Cost: It will be expensive, but it need not be done in one swoop. The Katy Trail has taken 25 years and the Boonville Bridge and extension to the confluence still aren't finished, yet it has served probably millions of visitors and generated millions in economic benefit along the way. The Rock Island Trail would likely be built on the same gradual approach, probably beginning by letting the towns along the way build their own sections of the trail

Accepting the donation will open the door to vast opportunities to consider; rejecting the donation will slam the door. Please accept the donation.

Please do what ever is necessary to complete this wonderful asset to our area. My son frequently uses this trail and we would love to see it completed.

This land is a wonderful opportunity and gift and it doesn't make sense to turn it down. The Katy trail is already a highlight in Missouri, and a new trail on the Rock Island Line will add to that prominence.

Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel. This appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability.

Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage.

This sounds like a good way to add to Missouri's outdoor recreational opportunities. Such outdoor activity and adventure will add to the health of an ever more sedentary population.

We need to keep hold of every little piece of nature that we can these days. We have so much getting plowed down for more buildings and roadways that we don't need.

Accept the land donation in order to complete the Rock Island Trail.

Please accept the Rock Island Trail which will likely be as economically successful at the Katy Trail and bring business, commerce and new jobs to people living in the area.

This would be wonderful, both for those who would use the trail as well as for the people and communities along it! One trip on the Katy Trail shows the value of the trail and Missouri's great natural and cultural history. None of the concerns local residents voiced 30 years ago has come to pass. The Rock Island would add more wonders - the long tunnel at Freeburg, the high bridge over the Gasconade - furthering what Missouri has to offer, in addition to making a great loop trail with the Katy. I hope the state takes advantage of this opportunity.

We need more natural places. Please support the Rock Island Trail Project.

Tourism is our #1 industry and it should be supported by our state to bring additional economic improvement in our state.

There is no good reason not to accept the land being offered. Missouri is already known for its fabulous trails. Let's keep it going!

The 144.3 mile section of the Rock Island ROW is the most scenic section of the proposed trail. Like the KATY it has the potential to become a significant booster of the local economy. Like the KATY trail it will come to be considered a great amenity that will raise real estate values. It will also become a treasured source of healthful recreation for millions of people of all ages. Not only will locals benefit, but countless visitors from other states and nations will make this scenic section of Missouri a destination. Even if this section cannot be developed immediately, by saving it now, future administrations will have the opportunity to make this into another Missouri treasure. In the name of the long term benefits to the state the Rock Island trail will provide please accept this section of the trail. Governor John Ashcroft made the decision to accept the KATY trail at a time when it was controversial to many of his constituents. The many benefits of his foresight now seem obvious. Gov. Greitens should follow Gov./Sen. John Ashcroft's example of political courage and foresight and give us the Rock Island Tr.

We have a health problem throughout the country as a whole because of our increasingly sedentary life-style. People of all ages simply aren't getting the exercise they need to maintain healthy weight, heart function, etc., and we are plagued by obesity. A trail where people could hike, bike and recreate safely would certainly be a blessing to individuals who could use the trail for daily recreation.

Rock Island Trail Project

More trails please! I am a nurse and anything we can do to get people outside, moving, and appreciating and taking care of themselves and their environment is one big positive step for public health and everyone's future.

As a Missourian, a cyclist, hiker, and walker, I urge you to please ACCEPT this land access in order to complete such an important section of the Rock Island Trail. It makes no sense to reject such a rare opportunity.

I would like to urge the DNR to accept this generous gift of using the Rock Island Railroad corridor to complete the Rock Island Trail Project. As a former resident of Columbia, MO, I can testify that the Katy Trail has been a huge success, and a boon to small towns and their business all across rural Missouri. It provides space for exercise and fun that is inexpensive, family-oriented, and accessible to all ages, from senior citizens to toddlers, and everyone in between.

Tourism from Missouri's natural beauty is one of the cleanest and simplest forms of economic development. Please encourage this kind of growth, rather than discourage it!

From the potential income from out of state/area hikers to visit this trail and surrounding areas, to the opportunity for improvement of Missourians health and well being and finally positive publicity for our state this is an absolute must for Missouri to agree to.

Let's make Missouri better. I love the Katy trail and would like to see more areas have access to this wonderful jewel in Missouri.

This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence.

It offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies. Reference the success of the Katy Trail - you can share your own story about visiting the Katy Trail to show the potential of the Rock Island Trail.

Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel. This appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability.

Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage.

THANK YOU!

Rail trails are a benefit to the local community and bike rides and other users

Please do whatever is necessary to make this trail become a reality. This trail will improve our already great system of trails and bring more cyclists to this area to ride and spend their money on the local economy.

I am not a Missouri resident, but, as an avid bike tourist and trail rider, I would certainly come to Missouri and patronize the businesses that would be there to support cyclists on the trail.

You can never acquire too much land for recreational purposes. Nature lovers/users will come out to care for the land and keep it clean. Please allow this acquisition.

My understanding is Missouri has the most bicycle trails of any state. With that being said, I suggest to give the land back to the farmers, and spend the money on highways and infrastructure.

I've walked the area from Beaufort along the Rock Island Line. It is such beautiful country. Please preserve it and make a trail so walking is easier.

Please move forward with the awesome plan for a 144.3 mile trail. It would bring in many cyclist and also make people ride more and be healthy. Please approve the Rock Isl. Trail Project. From an avid cyclist!

Yes! This would be a great opportunity for Missourians. You have my support!

I think this is an amazing opportunity to add to the beautiful trails we already have and provide opportunities for future events that would otherwise not be possible.

Please complete this section and then extend it up to Lee's Summit. Riding the trails and taking advantage of the small Bed & Breakfasts & dinners along the way with my family is something that I look forward to doing once this trail is complete.

Why not take it? It's being offered to the state free of charge. It will promote exercising and getting out in nature, both very good things for everyone. Please don't turn this offer away.

I am not for it.

Please accept this gift. It will make a wonderful addition to our parks and trails that make Missouri so special. It gives Missourians young and old a place to exercise by biking and hiking. The Tour of Missouri brought a lot of international interest in our state and could increase tourism and improve jobs and the economy of our state as well as improving health by more exercise in a safe place for all in Missouri.

These trails provide recreational use for bikers and walkers. They also provide economic growth in the area from these same walkers and bikers.

This would be a great use of an already available resource. It could also be financially beneficial to the small communities along the route. Windsor and Beaufort would especially see an influx of people spending money to gear up.

This trail brings only positive effects to Missouri. Look at the Katy Trail and all it brings to the state.

Thank you.

██████████

These trail projects are good for citizens, good for businesses, good for tourism, good for people's health.

They also improve property values. It's a win-win-win. Just do it.

You won't regret it.

The Katy Trail in Missouri is a wonderful recreational resource for many people. The Rock Island Trail Project could add many benefits to the citizens of Missouri. I support it.

This trail would be of great benefit to Missourians. I hope you accept the land donation to complete this trail project.

Sincerely,

I'm in favor of this project and think it is a great opportunity that should not be missed. It will be a boon for small towns along the way and will draw tourists.

My husband and I have bicycles, and enjoy using them. We're both in our 60s, and it's a form of exercise that is relatively easy. Bicycling and walking are activities anyone can do, and that's why they're both popular. We've been on the Katy Trail several times, but it would be nice to have a longer trail since the land is now available. Please don't turn down this gift.

Please take advantage of this generous offer to expand our trail system.

It's a great gift! It would be a mistake to turn it down.

It would be penny wise and pound foolish for the State of Missouri not to proceed with the development of the Rock Island Trail. We understand the governor has a problem with his predecessor and everything he supported, however even your fiercest enemy isn't always wrong. Support the process of the DNR entering into an Interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project. Support the chance for significant economic development for the State of Missouri by furthering the Rock Island Trail Project. Support improvement of the quality of life for Missourians. Support improvement of the health of Missourians. Support economic development of the many communities along the trail. Support the Rock Island Trail.

As someone who has ridden the entire Katy Trail from end-to-end and back again, I am excited to see the Rock Island Trail project completed. The people of Windsor, MO, are also excited--a woman who owns several businesses in town told me she was looking forward to the increase in tourists it will bring. Please don't scrap the project.

This project has to be done. Missouri has the opportunity to maintain its national leadership position in its utilization and

conversion of abandoned rail corridors for the benefit of all of our State's citizens. This project embodied so much of what is important about our State's history and heritage. It preserves unique parts of Missouri's scenic beauty and it will be an important economic engine generating jobs and investment in the communities along the corridor. Tourism is an important industry in Missouri and this project while adding to Missouri's role as a national tourism destination. This is a unique opportunity for the State and it would be a catastrophically short-sighted failure of leadership if this opportunity was allowed to slip away.

We need this trail in Missouri to provide tourism dollars for our state.

This will be an excellent natural resource for the State of Missouri. Having such a trail that Missouri citizens and visitors from other states can use to enjoy Missouri's beauty would be a boon to both the economy and to the well being of our citizens and our state. I wholeheartedly support this project and urge the Governor and the DNR to move forward in a timely manner.

My wife and I walked part of this trail last fall & was impressed for what it was going to offer for continuing adult and family recreation. We now spend 90% of our recreational time on the trails, as opposed to the traditional state parks. It's clear that the trails are considerably cheaper to maintain, even though hundreds of thousands of Missourians trample around the KATY each year. Why wouldn't any executive and administrative office want to take advantage of the Rock Island Trail, a future that Missourians could cost-effectively enjoy for generations? This trail conversion would also draw significant out-of-state visitors to our state, just as the KATY does. Seems like a win-win all around.

As a scouter, I think entering into the TUA and combining trails would be an incredible opportunity for the community. Katy Trail is already one of the most talked about trails in the midwest, in my circles, and adding the features Rock Island has to offer would make it an incredible experience to backpack, hike, or bike.

Please accept this FREE LAND to expand MO's already awesome system of trails.

Please give your most serious consideration into approving the gift of the Rock Island railway right of way for the connection of eastern and western MO trails for hikers and bikers to utilize for crossing the state. This is a great opportunity to encourage our youth to participate in the betterment of their health through exercise and promoted by the state for that purpose and additional recreational opportunities for the state to promote for tourism.

Sincerely,

I urge the DNR to ACCEPT THE DONATION OF LAND FOR THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL PROJECT. Thank you.

There is no reason not to accept this land and to complete this trail.

It would be very backward to not comply with this opportunity.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the proposed development of the Rock Island Trail. I fully support the conversion of the railroad corridor to a recreational trail. I believe that this is a unique opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. My family and I use the Katy trail frequently and consider one of the gems in our state. In addition, the Katy trail is a huge success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. I believe that the potential new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line would add to that prominence and would be a valuable addition to our park heritage.

Sincerely yours,

That will be a fantastic addition to our state parks. I love using the bicycle trails we've developed here in Missouri and I look forward to new areas. I love that I can see our beautiful state at 10mph and not just 65mph! I'm proud that Missouri has such wonderful parks and recreation areas for residents and visitors to enjoy. It also brings revenue to our state. Please accept this donated land!

Why would you deny this to us?
I appreciate hearing from you pertaining to this matter.

Best regards,

odini

I am not a Missouri Resident, so if that matters, you know it up front, but I can attest to the value of rail trails in general. I regularly use one in my home in Virginia. I can't express how good it feels to see families, children, young kids, adults, pets...you name it, using the trail. The trail near my home is a rewarding resource for everyday use and I have had great travel adventures bike camping on trails in other states. And I would like to come to Missouri! You have the famous Katy Trail! That is my two cents, rail trails pay dividends far beyond their cost. I support rail trails in Missouri and everywhere else!

Just do it already. So much potential for economic development in these awesome small towns.

The Rock Island Trail is ranked as one of the best, and can be enjoyed by ALL

Katy Trail is one of the best things to happen in Missouri in a while. The land for the Rock Island Trail Project is being donated to the state for the trail. Take the land, develop the trail. It will be another good thing for the people of Missouri.

Please accept the donation of this beautiful land to further enhance the beauty and vitality of the surrounding areas.

I am in full support of further developing Missouri's Rail to Trail system. It has proven to be a boost to local and state economies.

I'm in full support of this project!

I am very excited about this project. I first heard about it several months ago when the availability of the land was still in question, so I'm relieved that the land has been offered for the trail. I'm looking forward to using the trail with my family, especially via bike. We are two adults and two children, and are excited to plan biking/ camping vacations along this trail, and longer trips linking up with the Katy Trail.

I do not want this running through my backyard - unsafe !

I fully support development of the Rock Island Trail project. We have flown from our home in Washington State to bicycle the Katy Trail with friends from Germany. Bicycle tourism brings in revenue to your state!!

As a cyclist myself, I would like to say:

This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence.

I strongly encourage the DNR to accept the gift of the 144 miles from the Rock Island Railroad for the purpose of developing the Rock Island Trail Project. This will further enhance the already popular Katy Trail and make Missouri an attractive place to visit for biking. This can only be good news for the economy of small rural communities along the trail. Further, the topography and geological interest in the Missouri countryside could make this a place of interest for people wanting to explore away from busy metropolitan areas. There doesn't appear to be any downside to accepting this trail and I hope our state will take advantage of the opportunity.

This is a wonderful opportunity and gift that the state would be unwise to turn down. The Katy trail is already a success and has put Missouri on the map as one of the best bicycling states. This new trail on the iconic Rock Island Line will add to that prominence.

It offers rural communities another way to diversify local economies. Reference the success of the Katy Trail - you can share your own story about visiting the Katy Trail to show the potential of the Rock Island Trail.

Missouri's rural landscape is ideal for trails like the Katy and Rock Island. It offers geological diversity and unique destinations while being easy to travel. This appeals to all levels of recreational activity and ability.

Missouri has an enviable state park system which is enjoyed and supported by its citizens. The Rock Island trail would be a valuable addition to our park heritage.

No thank you... we have more important things to be investing in!

I can think of no reason why Governor Greitens would oppose the DNR entering into this agreement, and I am not sympathetic to the land owners who appear to have a knee-jerk opposition to this trail. What real interest of theirs is being threatened?

Are they, like the imaginary "welfare queens" that I imagine that many of them imagine, just looking to get some free

money from the Feds? Or am I myself perpetuating an unflattering stereotype of land owners that has no basis in reality? Yet, all those Federal lawsuits they have filed appear to be real, although I admit that I have not taken the time to fully understand their alleged grievances. Everything depends upon whether they are acting in good faith. Are they? Is Governor Greitens?

Just so, I don't believe anyone could credibly say that the Katy Trail has proved to be a burden for land owners, despite similar initial opposition.

Of course I believe in fiscal responsibility, and I understand that developing the trail costs money, but so does everything else the state does. The DNR is, I believe, one of the best uses of taxpayer money in Missouri. I believe that adding another cross-state cycling and hiking trail would "diversify the DNR's portfolio", so to speak, in ways that would be synergistically beneficial to trail users, land owners, and the good business people in the small towns all along the way.

Thank you for your consideration.

The rail to trail for the new KC to Windsor is a blessing...nature is meant to explore and because I have a slight handicap, these pre made trails are awesome....Katy is the best!! Please move forward with this acquisition!!!

I believe strongly that this gift of land should absolutely be accepted by the State of Missouri to create another premier trail within the state (along with our famous Katy Trail). This is a great benefit to our residents and also a great draw for out-of-state visitors who will contribute to our state's economy. Please accept this gift and make this project a reality.

Thank you.

I drive thru this area and feel an additional trail project will be a great asset for the people of Missouri for years into the future... this would also be a "tourist" attraction that would bring income and tax money into Missouri

We don't need any more NYC, DC or LA attractions.

Please accept the land for the Rock Island trail project and complete the project. It would be a great addition to MO's public lands.

The Katy Trail is used by Missourians and many of the states surrounding us. It brings in business, its a health habit for people using the trail. Ask the bike shop owners. Its used all year round. Why would the additional Rock Island Railroad donation be a bad thing. Do something for the people.

Working together to provide additional trails for Missouri residents is an excellent idea.

I am planning to retire soon and look forward to my first ride of the Katy Trail. The Rock Island trail will be one more reason to visit Missouri for me and others like me. Thank you for saving these national treasures.

I have often enjoyed biking the Katy Trail and think the Rock Island Trail would be just as enjoyable. Please accept this wonderful gift to the residents of Missouri.

The trail is a great idea both as an amenity for Missouri residents and a draw for touring cyclists.

Why would you not accept free land to complete the Katy trail? It is a well liked hiking and biking trail. If complete perhaps it could be promoted as a must walk/ride site, increasing visits and perhaps promoting business enterprise. It seems shortsighted to refuse.

This is a great idea and example of public private partnership.

This is a valuable gift to the state. Look what Katy has done for towns like Rocheport. It has great economic value,

I would like to see the DNR enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement. I visit the Katy Trail multiple times in a year even though it is 1.5 hours away from my house. The Rock Island Trail will be much closer to me so I will use it more frequently. I enjoy stopping at restaurants along the trail and also checking out local businesses in the communities along the trail. Whenever I'm on the Katy Trail I talk to other people who have drove hours to use the trail. I think the Rock Island Trail will draw a lot of business to local communities along it and also make the state of Missouri a premier destination for trail users because the two trails combined will offer of a lot in terms of distance and scenery.

Rails to Trails are popular trails with the public. They are good for tourism and that means jobs and money in the local economies of villages along the trail. This is a win-win. Look at the popularity of the Katy Trail. My husband and I have made many trips to the Katy Trail. You need to do the Rock Island too.

Our family would love to see this project completed. This is the type of project that has residual effect far greater than what seems apparent on the surface. Attracting communities, business and tourists to a one of a kind trail is just the beginning. This is a true differentiator between our great state and others. Any state can look to attract people with economic numbers and tax breaks etc. but no one can compete with something like this.

Please accept the free gift of land for the Rock Island Trail Project. Don't screw up the future for our Missouri children and grandchildren!

The Missouri Parks Association has long supported the addition of the Rock Island to the state park system for a railbanked hiking and biking trail and believe it is decidedly in the public interest for the corridor to be secured for the future. But we believe it is not reasonable at this time to expect Missouri State Parks to fund the costs of development, estimated at well over \$50 million. State parks already have a backlog of well over \$200 million in needed infrastructure rehabilitation that must be given priority for any additional park funds.

Therefore, we strongly encouraging DNR and Missouri State Parks to enter into the Interim Trail Use Agreement and take possession of the corridor in order to secure it for the future, recognizing that funds are not likely to be available for development except as particular segments can be developed

and maintained through partnerships with other organizations or governmental entities. We believe there would be opportunities for partnerships using non-state funds on various segments of the trail.

The Katy Trail is one of Missouri's most loved trails. Why not establish another way to explore our state's natural wonders via the Rock Island Trail?

would be great to promote Missouri as a great place to hike bike and do other outdoor activities. In this health conscious time good for the State's image. Why would you turn down the offer, The greenway would new business and promote jobs for dying communities.

As a member of the national and Missouri Sierra Club, I want to voice my strong support regarding the Missouri Department of Natural Resources entering into an interim Trail Use Agreement and the Rock Island Trail Project.

Please support this important new 144.3 mile-long recreational trail for public use from Windsor, Mo. to Beaufort, Mo.

These recreational trail projects bring much needed economic development to small towns and villages along our Missouri trail system and promote environmental conservation and preservation.

This would be a wonderful new addition to Missouri's trails and expand alternative hiking and biking opportunities for Missouri residents as well as out-of-state visitors to our trail system.

Thank you for considering this critical environmental, land preservation and land use issue.

Sincerely,


Kansas City, Missouri

I think the Rock Island Trail would be a great benefit for the community. My family and I would use and enjoy a safer place to walk along 3rd street in Lee's Summit.

This Trail must be completed. Please do not Missourians down. Your failure to do so will make us think you have an underlying reason for sabotaging it.

Go for it. Opportunities like this do not come along every day.

Do it!

Please move forward with expansion. Acceptance of this line and expansion of the trail system could easily be dismissed as a quality of recreational life, but one should consider that protection of the route would improve many lives. The trail expansion ensures safer travel lanes for non-drivers and wildlife. Studies show that nature vistas lead to calmer emotions in people and we have never had a higher level of anxiety in the general population. This week a study was released showing high concentration of antianxiety meds in the brains of fish in the Great Lakes region. Surely the money spent treating emotional symptoms would be much more wisely spent on things that don't interfere with fish and their reaction to their threats and environment. Please accept the land donation for the expansion of the trail.

I support the development of the Interim Trail Use Agreement. This recreational trail would set off the area as a destination for both Day and overnight cyclists. There are not many trails of this length in the United States so it would be a unique resource people would travel to from long distances.

Duh..
take it.
Of course
So logical..

It would be a boon for tourism and help preserve Missouri's valuable natural resources.

This is free land that can be used by residents of mid Missouri for biking and hiking. We now have to travel to Columbia or Springfield for flat trails to bike. Please accept this donation of land and make these trails possible. This will also help encourage eco-tourism in our state.

This will be a wonderful asset to our state and trail development! Please say YES!

All for it. Fitness, family, tourism, transportation, recreation. Hopefully it can spur retail development as well. No rush on completion. Just do it as we can financially. Katy trail is proven winner.

The hiking and biking trails in Missouri are a great way to get outside and enjoy Missouri. I have used the Katy Trail many times and I am sure many people would also enjoy a new trail from Windsor to Beaufort. Adding another safe way to hike and bike in Missouri would benefit the trail users and businesses along the route. The money spend on state parks in Missouri are a good use of my tax dollars.

We want the Rock Island Trail. It will bring more money to that part of the state as more bike tourists use it. We bikers buy food, hotel/B & B rooms, and souvenirs.

The world needs more people enjoying the outdoors and riding bikes. New, safe places for people to get out and walk/ride can never hurt.

Fantastic opportunity for Missouri!
Great for tourism & for residents. Will serve to enhance economic development in towns along the new trail.

I support the Rock Island Trail Project. It will be a great recreational opportunity for residents of the towns it goes through. It will connect towns along the route and help each of those towns economically, especially if development of food and ice cream establishments is allowed along or near the trail. It can also be a great transportation opportunity! If built properly, portions of the trail could be used for commuting to and from home and a place of employment.

Long trails like this are also used for touring, so be sure to take advantage of that market. Bike shops, dining establishments, grocery stores, and most importantly, campgrounds, are important components of touring. If no campgrounds are available tourists will tend to simply camp off-trail wherever is convenient by design.

Accept the Ameren donation to develop the Rock Island Trail. Don't pass up this opportunity...

Wonderful. Such a beautiful part of the state. How fabulous to share it with the world!
