

## **MSP Disclaimer on Rock Island Trail Public Comments**

The following 1,875 comments were gathered during a public comment period, which ended Nov. 30, 2018. 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:

**Based upon information provided by Missouri State Parks regarding the Rock Island Line Corridor, are there any additional factors you believe Missouri State Parks should consider?**

National recognition for developing a +400 mile looping intrastate rail-trail system combining KT and RI while also conjoining a majority of MO citizens to be living w/in ~50 miles accessibility of a state-Parks supported rail-trail system

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I believe that this would be instrumental in bringing recreational tourism to Missouri, and to the small towns that border the Rock Island Trail. The communities that surround the trail would greatly benefit from having access to the trail. On one hand, it would provide a safe and ideal environment for local residents to get out and move. It would provide a safe place for children to walk/bike to school and to play. This trail would also bring tourism and visitors to the mid-Missouri area. This is crucial to providing a foundation for these small towns to thrive and succeed. The trail has been donated and it is now vital that the state accepts this trail and allows for it to become a part Missouri to benefit both Missourians and tourists.

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You strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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I strongly support the creation of this corridor! I think it will be an awesome resource for generations to come.

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environmental impact

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Making sure continuity of trails with existing. Should consider long term planning over the short term obstacles.

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promote biking

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As a business owner I would hope State Parkes will recognize the Economic impact a trail like this will have on the towns and communities it passes through.

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Connectivity with local parks, trails and schools in the various communities along the route.

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I believe this is a gift to the State of Missouri. Of course the state must be able to properly maintain the facility. However it is my belief the reasonable cost of maintenance is far outweighed by the potential benefit the facility would bring to the state. The voters of Missouri have continually supported initiatives for parks and conservation, and the voters of Missouri would support this project without question. The Katy Trail is a jewel of Missouri, and this trail would be a tremendous companion. I am fiscally and politically conservative and of course believe the state needs to live within its means, and not go on "adventures." However this is a remarkable opportunity that the state would be foolish to not accept. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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Tourism

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future

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This is a great opportunity to connect existing centers with lesser traveled destinations so that riders can truly explore Missouri. I would favorable experiential focus that will last for generations rather than a short term economic focus.

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I feel there are many partners who would be willing to bring funds to the table, or help fundraise for the construction or maintenance costs, should State Parks decide to accept the corridor. This is a great and unique opportunity, and State Parks has done the right thing to evaluate the potential before deciding wether or not to accept. That being said, I feel this would be great for the State. With the economic impact study from State Parks showing 18.5 million in additional revenues to the state from the Katy trail, the maintenance costs of 1.9 million annually show a high return of investment for Missouri taxpayers. I'm happy to do anything I can to make this a win for Missouri and Missouri State Parks.

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Increased tourism due to having a long bike trail that also connects to the Katy Trail.

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what a mistake this would be to pass this opportunity up that would benefit the state and so many people

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Missouri State Parks should, without question, accept the 144-mile Rock Island Line Corridor. My wife and I very strongly support trail development throughout the country, and particularly support the Rock Island Trail. We urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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This proposed trail would help surrounding areas financially, and would promote tourism in the adjoining communities. As an avid biker, I would add this trail to my travels. Personally, I spend several thousand dollars a year bike touring and trail biking.

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This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to preserve a rail corridor for future use and in the interim enjoy it as a trail and as wildlife habitat. It should be conserved, not lost. Missouri Parks of course should acquire it.

[REDACTED]

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This will be an invaluable resource for the state from an economic, tourism, and health benefit standpoint

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I'm impressed by the support that the small towns have expressed and how much economic development it can potentially provide to their communities. Also the connections it will provide to the Katy Trail.

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I think it would be tragic to not take advantage of this opportunity to expand Missouri's rail to trails. While Missouri has one of the longer rail-trails with the Katy, we are woefully behind in overall rail trail opportunities when compared to other states. I have walked a lot of this r-o-w while it was still in use by the Rock Island. There are some absolutely beautiful features along this route including several still in place, major river crossings, three tunnels and a variety of terrain. Just as has happened along the Katy, a number of small towns along this route have virtually died since rail service stopped. New economic life could be given to these communities with trail side concessions. Beaufort, Leslie, Owensville, Summerfield, Freeburg, Argyle, Eugene, Henley, Eldon, Barnett, Versailles, Ionia, Chilhowe, Windsor, Rosebud, Belle, Bland etc. could all have new opportunities for small business as a result of this trail. And in the event of future need, it would be much easier to revert this corridor to rail use if it were owned by the state. Although, at age 68, I may personally get to use the finished trail, I would certainly like for my kids and grandkids to be able to experience such a beautiful piece of Missouri scenery. I do not support a land grab by adjacent land-owners who certainly were not around when this land was given to the St. Louis Kansas City & Colorado to connect St. Louis with Kansas City. This beautiful corridor should be preserved for all seeking recreaional opportunities until such a time as it is needed again for rail use.

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Additional usas for non motorized recreation

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The Missouri bicycle organization has repeatedly shown the want to share everyone else's path but are unwilling to share their pathways with ANYONE ELSE. It should be open to all taxpayers.

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This is a nice compliment to the highly successful Katy Trail...commerce will likely flourish.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. It doesn't have to be a perfectly maintained trail. It can be completed time.

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I'm looking forward to the complete trail!

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It is important to accept the Rock Island corridor, keep it complete and in tact, and work toward its development. It will have positive impact on communities along the route the positive opportunities for tourism in the State.

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No

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This would be a wonderful addition to the State. We need more recreational amenities like this to help us retain and attract healthy active people to the State.

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This is a great opportunity to increase tourism to Missouri

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Speaking as a person who has walked several long distance rail-trails in the U.S. and Canada, including the Katy Trail, it would be a shame not to take advantage of the opportunity to add the entire Rock Island Line Corridor to Missouri's network of trails. I spent several days in March 2018 walking that corridor and getting to know the wonderful small towns on the trail's current open section.

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It would be a great addition and a source of income to these little towns that are along the trail.

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Missouri State Parks should take advantage of this opportunity to develop this long, continuous strip of property as a trail while it remains possible. This will preserve it for recreation and possible future transportation corridor use.

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The option of asking users to contribute to the maintenance of the trail, and other needs.

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I think it is important that The entire corridor is accepted. What a remarkable opportunity.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and believe the funding used would be irrelevant, considering the economic impact it will bring to the area. I also urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for future generations.

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We have land adjacent to the trail and are looking forward to the development of this corridor.

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Please accept the Rock Island Line Corridor and develop it in a first class manner to show the country and the world how Missouri can build and develop a trail system that offers good distance with nice bridges and refurbished tunnels. Missouri has beautiful scenery and great small towns that will add businesses and jobs. I ride the KATY trail and have 20 years in St. Charles and believe walking and cycling offer great health benefits. With the addition of the Rock Island to the KATY, Missouri will be able to market the distance, diversity, food, scenery and affordability in a new and unique manner. The quality of the existing rail bed is way too valuable of a resource to let it fall into disrepair and disruption. Making an active trail out of the former railroad path will preserve it in case it is ever needed for a road or rail road for national defense purposes. Keeping the former rail line as an active and well maintained trail also allows future, yet to be invented modes of transportation have the option of following this rial line.

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Educational Value by preserving the routes used by the rail system to build, expand and provide services and supplies to all. People will be able to explore the route trains followed and see scenic country, small communities, and other developments as a result of the rail line.

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Adoption improves the standard of living for the state which increases the interest of business to locate in the state. They want their employees to be happy and stay with a company.

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More public bathrooms, rest areas, history signs if any.

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Continuity of intact trail that could potentially connect to other trails all over the state over a long period of time as funding allows is a unique opportunity that we don't want to lose. The recreational and community benefits would far surpass the cost. Very low quality trails would be better than none!

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Leave existing railroad bridges and adjacent structures like semaphores (sp)

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The state has a unique opportunity to acquire the entire 144 mile trail corridor at this time. I strongly support State Parks obtaining the entire corridor and developing the trail system as funding from external sources becomes available. I have lead my Boy Scout troop on a ride of the entire Katy Trail and can say firsthand that such trails provide opportunity to experience our state in ways that are remembered for a lifetime.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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I think it would be a HUGE mistake for MSP to forego this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to acquire the RILC. The voters of this state have shown overwhelming support for our state parks, via the amazing 80% vote on the soils and conservation tax. Also, voters of this state have voiced overwhelming support for the RILC in the surveys conducted by MSP about the proposed new park. The small towns along the proposed route are geared up and excited. They were encouraged to believe this new park would happen by the previous administration which was in support of the RIT. It is unacceptable for the change in administration to pull the rug out from under these communities. Most recently, I was appalled to learn that MSP had de-obligated the funds that Belle had received in a grant from FHWA. Here is a small community that got their act together early on, put in a successful grant proposal, and have now totally gotten the shaft. Belle, Gerald, Bland, Owensville, Rosebud and dozens of other communities along the RIT stand to benefit from the park. And the addition of the RIT to the Katy Trail will make Missouri the absolute ROCK STAR when it comes to trails. This is a huge tourism and economic development win for Missouri. Even if the route has to be banked and developed bit by bit, that is far preferable to losing it altogether. Please vote to accept the RILC before the Feb. 2019 deadline. Please.

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Please heavily consider the wonderful economic impact this can have for small rural towns

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Keep it open as it is just a wonderful thing for everyone.

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Missouri should not pass up this opportunity to add an unparalleled recreation, natural and economic asset to our state. This is our one chance. This trails corridor will help preserve our states rural landscape while at the same time providing opportunities for economic growth. The entire 144 mile corridor should be preserved for the future. We do not need to have all assests and resources available now for its development, but we should make the minimum investment to preserve this corridor. Our State Parks Department is the best entitiy to manage the trail in the long term. Building partnerships to support and help develop the trail will be important to its success. Missouri has many local, regional and state wide civic, conservation and recreation based groups which will be eager to support this exciting project for our state. Thank you for considering these comments which are input on behalf of the Missouri Chapter of the Sierra Club. We have over 10,000 members in the state who support this type of project which will provide diverse benefits to Missouri.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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You strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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This is widely beneficial to the citizens of Missouri, it is the future of our society as seen in other states for recreation and development!

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. Our family of six has biked to St. Louis from Columbia and enjoyed it. We look forward to biking to KC to see family soon!

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The RILC project should continue to develop and thrive, as the Katy Trail has shown possible. This is one of the most popular and healthy projects in Missouri recreation !!!

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In my opinion the value of this corridor to the State of Missouri and affected communities is optimized by retaining it intact and complete in the form of a trail similar, but not identical to the Katy Trail. I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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This is quite possibly a once in a lifetime opportunity that shouldn't be missed. The trail would be an economic boon to communities all along its route. With this trail connecting to the KATY trail, Missouri would definitely be a destination for cyclists from all across the country and beyond. Missouri State Parks would be the best agency to manage the trail and the costs could be distributed over a number of years, with much fund raising coming from community involvement and cycling and outdoor organizations.

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The Rock Island Line Corridor should be preserved. It has been demonstrated by the Katy Trail how beneficial this can be for these small Missouri towns. Maintenance can be kept to a minimum and people will still come to use the trail.

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Making the Rock Island corridor into a bike trail would bring more tourist business to the areas along the trail

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none

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How much money this will make the state if they embolden alternative transportation. Why send our dollars overseas at the pumps?

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I want you to know that I strongly support the Rock Island Trail! I hope that Missouri State Parks will accept the corridor, and will preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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I believe that the best decision for Missourians regarding this rare opportunity to develop a future cross-state trail link is for MO State Parks to accept the entire Rock Island Line Corridor and to develop it gradually over time using funds from a variety of sources (including grants and local and/or private partnerships).

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strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. My Town is ready to support our part of it.

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I believe that this trail will be a benefit to recreational users who will positively impact the local area economically.

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I support the acquisition of the Rock Island Rail Road right-of-way for the Rock Island Trail. The potential benefits to Missouri far, far outweigh the risks. To turn down the opportunity shuts the door on the possibilities. The trail will provide recreation, quality of life, economic, equity, employment, and pride benefits. Many correspondents have pointed these out, but I want to drill down on few points. The risk benefit ratio favors the trail by a wide margin. The money required to build the complete trail out looks big, but to accept the right-of-way is not a commitment to spend all that money and certainly not immediately. Some upfront money would be required but the trail project can be long term, 20 to 40 years. The total cost divided by the total years makes the cost per year seem much more moderate, particularly if you apply a present value of money to it. To budget a major expenditure 20 years from now takes a relatively small current amount. In

addition, the trail is easily susceptible to being built in phases and with partnerships and innovations. For example, at the Osage, what about a ferry for a few years instead of a bridge? Or the towns along the route building their own sections of the trail? Not accepting the ROW precludes all of these and many other possibilities. Although the numbers look large, accepting the trail is not taking on debt or even making a promise, but it is keeping alive an opportunity that won't come again. The economic benefit is often stated as benefits to the local communities from increased tourism. That is a consideration, but the economic benefits are far greater than that. The Rock Island Trail combined with the already existing Katy Trail will be a world class attraction. People will come from far and wide to enjoy them. They already do for the Katy Trail, but the combination will be that much more of an attraction. Tourism is big business in the state. We have some major attractions such as the Arch, Lake of the Ozarks, Bass Pro Shop Museum, Quality State Parks, etc. But to succeed in being a destination state we must have more attractions that are special to Missouri. Our attractions feed on one another. The Rock Island/Katy Trail would be an important addition and would benefit state wide tourism. Publicity and reputation: The Rock Island/Katy Trail combination would be so outstanding that it would result in constant attention and notoriety for Missouri; a never-ending benefit. Legacy: every public servant and official, whether elected or career, wants to leave a legacy of a positive contribution to the citizens of the state. The Rock Island trail is an opportunity to do so. If we accept the ROW and it leads to even a partial trail, or better yet the whole project, there will be a huge positive legacy; if we turn down the ROW, there will be no legacy at all. Let's do it! Let's show Missourians are willing to take risks to become a better state. We will be glad we did.

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Please move forward with this trail corridor!!

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More recreation options are great things to have. The route is also much more direct and would help the smaller towns south of the river that don't see the traffic that towns north of the river get due to Katy trail and I-70.

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The impact of outdoor experiences on the population. I highly support the rock island trail region and the educational, recreational, and social opportunities it provides.

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Completion of and maintenance of this trail will provide unique recreational opportunities and put Missouri so the forefront of cycling and hiking tourism in the USA. The addition of this trail to the Katy Trail provides an unparalleled link between east and west!

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I strongly urge the state to accept control of the full corridor. As to my ranking; I believe the positive impact to the communities and the state are obvious. The adjacent landowners are apprehensive, but the state has proven to be a good partner and other trails show that most concerns can be positively addressed. I believe the state must accept the full corridor, but the costs of development show that development

must be done in a slow and responsible way. No one should anticipate immediate development of the full corridor without finding substantial private funding.

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Please keep the corridor intact and develop for nonmotorized use.

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Rails to trails is a great use of old train tracks such as these. Maintenance costs are minimal in comparison to the positive benefits for the surrounding communities.

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With the proximity of the Katy Trail corridor this could become a great destination area from KC to St Louis and would attract outside visitors as well as enhance the local residents recreational opportunities

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Please keep the corridor. It's a great opportunity for recreation and I can't wait to spend some time on it with my family riding bikes.

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no

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. Background on this issue:

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n/a

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Please fund a support this treasure.

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Nope, I think they have it covered.

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We have a fleeting chance to preserve an important trail. Please take it so my children can one day bike it and see this beautiful Missouri land! Please consider the native wildlife and conservation benefits, and things that once lost can never be retrieved.

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This is a great once in a lifetime opportunity to create a wonderful trail. All the same negative comments were made about the Katy trail when it was proposed & have proven to be false. People come literally from all over the world to ride these trails spending money all along the way. Get it done! Thanks.

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Tourism dollars and tourists gaining familiarity with Missouri has a positive economic impact.

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Investing in recreational opportunities such as the Rock Island Line Corridor is one way that we can attract visitors and businesses to our state. The trails showcase our commitment to the environment and our commitment to a state that offers recreational opportunities to people of all ages. It is a good investment in the future of our state. The trail will bring tourism dollars to our state and will also grow small businesses along the trail.

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None

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Look at best practices in other states to lessen the cost of maintenance. I have biked on the Katy Trail in MiO, which is very well maintained by DNR. But I have also biked on the GAP trail in PA and the Erie Canal Trail in PA and NY. In those states volunteer organizations maintain sections of the trails and they are in very good condition. MO should consider using volunteers to maintain the Rock Island Trail. The number of additional bicyclists that will travel to MO to experience the Rock Island Trail and the Katy trail will improve the state's overall economy. The increased tax dollars generated by this tourism can help DNR, as well as other departments with the budget challenges they face. Also, the small rural communities stand to gain a great deal. This can prevent some of those small towns from simply disappearing. Look at Hartsburg and Rocheport. The Katy Trail has helped them stay viable, and even grow. This is already happening in Windsor, where Kim's Cabins are a new business, bringing overnight guests to the area. My address is now in Pittsburgh, PA. But I lived in MO for 40 years, 30 of them in Jefferson City. My husband and I still own property in Jefferson City. I biked on the Katy Trail a lot. Now I bike on the GAP Trail. I have talked to people from all over the country that are excited about the Rock Island Trail, and planning to bike on both the Katy Trail and Rock Island Trail, as well as spurs and trails in the towns along those corridors. Please accept the Rock Island corridor and make MO the number one destination for Rail to Trail bicycling in the country. As for the impact on adjacent property owners, at one time we owned a house that had neighbors selling drugs, shooting guns, and taking part in other criminal activity. I would have given anything to replace those guys with a bunch of bicyclists. Many of the people who bicycle are good people, many of us are passionate about being outdoors, riding our bikes, enjoying scenery, and breathing fresh air. Just because we look weird in our spandex and helmets, doesn't mean we are weird. I suggest property owners that are opposed to the trail spend some time at one of the trailheads along the Katy Trail, and visit with people that stop. It might help them to recognize the benefit of having those folks biking through their community.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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Increase tourism and quality of living for residents

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail! What a great addition the Rock Island will be to current trails in the state. Please accept the trail and start taking steps to open. Alternatively, if all the state does is ACCEPT the trail that is a start. At least it would preserve it and that would ensure that something could be done down the road. I'm ready to ride! Let's go!

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Absolutely accept and build upon this. Biking is a huge part of economic development and tourism. We did the Katy trail last year and was wowed by middle of MO

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As an avid biker, I'm all for these type of activities. Everyone is not, the value to everyone, is to ensure the history of the area is not only added to locations on site, but included on the internet, so everyone can be engaged with history & the history we make everyday.

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I think that it is imperative that the state park system secures the complete sections of this Corridor. It doesn't have to be developed all of the same time right now but could be worked on overtime and from level one to level five of niceness.

Having the trail system in place would make it the largest continuous travel in the United States. Having the system in place would be a tour is an attraction from around the country in a valuable asset in increasing the wellness of our communities. Even just a rudimentary path would open up doors for so much positive experiences. Funding can come from so many places and time. The most important thing is that we get the trail into the state park system as one whole unit immediately so we can work on it and make it great over the next several years

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I strongly support this project and I think its important for Missouri as a whole to support connectivity within small communities.

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It is important for this trail to be here for the generations to follow us.

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It would be a great thing to encourage biking in our state. Or walking trails

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Accepting the corridor and holding it into the future will be a low cost alternative that will not foreclose future opportunities. The collapse of the Ameren dam was unforeseen and many more unforeseen things could happen that could change the fortunes of the Mo State Parks. There are many rural communities that could benefit from this trail and its connection to other areas. They may be able to leverage federal, state, and private funds that Mo State Parks can not. The Appalachian Trail is a great example where the federal government manages the whole thing but most maintenance is provided by local volunteer groups. This is a model that the Mo State Parks could mimic.

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Keep Rock Island Line's 144 mile intact and preserved.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it -- complete and intact -- for the future!

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Ag security and privacy concerns for adjacent land owners must be balanced with opportunities for ag tourism, education, and local business development. If property rights, privacy, and security issues can be adequately addressed, and maintenance properly budgeted, the trail offers a tremendous opportunity for education, ag tourism, and rural development.

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Trails like these are great ways for people to get outside for exercise and recreation in a safe environment. Positive amenity for the areas and well worth the expense.

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No

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This opportunity for outdoor recreation should not be wasted. Please provide base funding to allow development of the corridor and use, even if it is basic.

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I strongly support this project. Thanks!

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We have enjoyed walking in the Leeton area. Safer place than walking on the roads.

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It is ok, for this trail to be done in sections, and started out at a lower quality, then as funds come in, it could be updated and maintained to a more accessible level. Living close to the trail, would increase economic income, and will help keep the surrounding towns alive and increase the tourist ability, and put some of these small rural towns on the map.

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This is a great addition to the Missouri State Parks program and I know numerous people who travel into the state specifically to tour this and the Katy Trail. Please support!

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future

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Tourism and recreation

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The rails to trails program offers many opportunities for tourism and other financial gains. People look for ways to see the countryside and these trails provide excellent opportunities for that. The communities that surround these trails benefit in many ways from those who use the trails. The State should continue to develop these areas for future use.

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It is a treasure, a visible trace of our region's heritage.

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Please continue supporting the rock island trail.

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The great opportunity that will be sadly lost if the MO State Parks doesn't accept the Rock Island Corridor donation.

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I believe this addition to Missouri State Parks Trail system would be a benefit to all Missouri residents in the future. This section should be preserved as park land if at all possible.

Thanks

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National and international exposure... cycling is increasing markedly in its popularity... I have encountered people from all over the country (& from other countries) on the Katy Trail... I have personally spoken with people who would extend their stays in Missouri based on the presence of more bikable trails... its quite exciting

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These trails provide a very valuable use of public land for safer citizen utilization. While cost is of primary concern for state budgeting purposes, the trails can and should be developed primarily through non-governmental sources. There are ample individuals willing to take on that task.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. Why? Because land will only become more difficult to obtain in a nice package like this. If it's too much to maintain or renovate right now, then don't. Just hold it in reserve. It is okay to develop the trail section-by-section over time. It is okay to open the sections later as funding is available. Maybe some towns want to develop their piece of the trail. Maybe grant money can work on other sections. This might take decades and that is okay! But if decades from now the funding is available and the land isn't, you no longer have the option.

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quality of life, tourism, healthy exercise,

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Yes! Bring the same economic and recreational benefit to communities along the Rock Island corridor that we have on the Katy Trail. The huge loop will be an amazing draw. We have had guests from all over the country and all over the world riding the Katy--it will only be better with the Rock Island Trail, too!

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This is a fantastic opportunity, don't be short sighted and pass it up.

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Missouri needs to secure this corridor as it will never again be available. This is an investment for future generations

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This project WILL essentially self-fund over time, as long as the ENTIRE length of trail is preserved. Having the line intact is essential to draw, and to Missouri's tourism future.

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I totally support the continuation of the Rock Island Trail.

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No, great park

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Overall benefit to state community. Economic. All positives

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Yes, i would like to believe that MO would use private organizations and donations to assist with maintenance and up-keep of the trail. The opportunity we give families to be healthy effects our economy in many aspects and all are in a positive manner.

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no

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Trails already established across the state are jewels!

Economic growth occurs when people utilize these trails. Its a great opportunity!

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Many people visit for this every year , please keep it!

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The death of small towns along the corridor. This trail could help revive some parts of these small towns.

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It's important to obtain the corridor, even if we need to develop it over time. This can be a real treasure for the state parks system, and over time will benefit the entire state as people from all over get to know our rural communities and landscape through healthy activities that have a positive environmental and community impact.

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State Parks should accept and manage the corridor--but should look primarily to outside funding and resources to build and develop the trail. No one is expecting State Parks to lead the way in covering the expense of trail building, when their budget is already stretched to the limit. Many other funding sources are available and should be used to the maximum.

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The Katy Trail has been recognized as one of the nation's best rails-to-trails bike paths... and a huge destination for cyclists all over the country. The addition of the Rock Island Corridor to complement this trail system will only increase the draw of tourists and have a major economic impact for the state. The thought of riding a "loop" (not an out and back) across the state of Missouri, would appeal to just about any cyclist out there.

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Based off the success of the Katy trail, the wonderful economic growth some of the smaller Missouri communities have experienced, it would be wonderful to eventually have a large scenic loop trail in Missouri.

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Maintaining and growing accessible outdoor destinations. We have beautiful State with many wonderful parks. The Rock Island Line Corridor would be an impressive and exciting new project.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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additional funding from US Department of Transportation

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none that I am aware of

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The most important things to say in your comments to State Parks: You strongly support the state accepting the corridor and developing it over time through partnerships as funding becomes available. Preserving the entire corridor whole and intact is the top immediate priority. State Parks is clearly the agency best able to accept and manage the corridor. Parks needn't fully develop the trail now, but should now do the minimum needed to accept the corridor and then build over time as funding from local partnerships, private partnerships, and grants becomes available. It is OK and desirable in the short term to develop and maintain the trail to a lower, and far less expensive, standard than the Katy Trail. We can work



towards Katy Trail quality if and when funding becomes available.

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I think safety is important to consider if there is to be camping and exposure to people exploring alone.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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Tourism! We drove from Florida o ride trails before. This new trail will likely result in more tourism!

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This is such a fantastic opportunity for Missouri. Please do not pass it up!!

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Although it will be hard to measure the economic impact, I believe it is a very good long-term investment for Missouri.

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None as of now.

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The cost is negligible when you consider the positive effect on the surrounding economies and the health benefits to our citizens.

----

The importance of this trail is shown by all of the people fighting for it and putting all of the hard work into it. For those that have enjoyed other trails like it, the desire to see this one come to existence is exciting. We need to continue to fight for such things because it's needed for the health of people. It gives us all the ability to get out and be active on a beautiful and designated trail.

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The MORIT should be for non-vehicle use for the safety of all who use the trail. There are many who violate this on the KATY Trail which I have seen first hand crossing the state seven times over the years

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I think it is okay to develop in sections as funding becomes available.

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The Katy Trail bring sounds of people from all over the world. Missouri should consider the the future Financial impact this might have.

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Safety for trail users from automobiles

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no

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This project is beneficial with the: 1. Compliance on alternative energy programs that may encourage people to use cycling as a mode of travel for touring, recreation, work, or other activities. It will benefits the environment with clean-air non-carbon emitting cycling; and a healthy activities for the people.

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The amount of tourism that the trail will bring.

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There is only one shot—right now—to create a resource that will last for generations of Missourians. I grew up in Missouri and now live in the Cedar Valley in Iowa. Our system of trails—many railroad-based—are an asset to our community.

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The opportunity to add the Rock Island Corridor to the Missouri State Parks seems like it's one too good to miss! These don't become available that often, and if the chance is lost, it's lost forever. Let's add the entire (complete and intact) Rock Island Corridor to the system and put in place a longer term plan for development and improvement, preferably though a private-public partnership. The railroad right of way to recreational conversion has been a proven success -- let's keep doing it!

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Building a greater sense of community "connectiveness" is crucial.

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RI support excepting the gift of the rock Island Trail from Ameren Missouri

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

----

This would be a boon for the state! Cycling is growing!

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This is an excellent use of taxpayer money for the public good. I support this 100%

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There is no better opportunity to tie in these remote communities with an economic impact of tourism on such a large scale with such a minimal expense. The opportunity will impact the states bottom line with revenue growth from the travel and tourism industry. Help residents help themselves by creating a pathway much the same as the farm to market roads work.

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Don't destroy what has been put together, Please. Folks have a right to access to non-powered travel routes.

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The entire corridor must be preserved whole, complete, and intact for the future. This is the only chance we'll get to preserve such a treasure for the future!

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Please just do it...

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail.

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If this opportunity is passed by what a waste for our great state and citizens. How could you pass up these long term economic and health benefits?

----

It will bring in a lot of money from local and distant tourists.

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Missouri would become a mecca for bicyclists and hikers! It could generate money for the state and would eventually pay for itself.

----

I expect that Mo DNR has already identified the relevant facts pertaining to this issue. I'd like to reiterate a few points: 1) this is a historic, one-time opportunity to create a new long-distance trail system that will have lasting benefits for MO residents, visitors, and the communities along the trail. 2) long distance interconnectedness matters - to bring significant benefits, the trail has to be continuous. There's absolutely no purpose in making little cut up pieces of trail, because small segments without connectivity won't be used very much. Finally, 3) MO State Parks is doing a fantastic job managing the Katy Trail. The Katy was built via public-private partnership. The Katy model should be implemented to build and then manage the Rock Island Trail. My family and I ride parts of the Katy Trail every summer. We're looking forward to riding the Rock Island Trail as well!

----

I strongly believe that the Rock Island Trail corridor could be a catalyst for economic and community development for the many communities and surrounding areas along the study area. I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge Missouri State Parks to accept the donation and preserve it intact as a single corridor for future incremental development.

----

I think they are doing a good job!

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The beneficial of the well being of the people in the state. Being able to get exercise and to relax without constant noise of cars.

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No

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Trail construction is not easy or simple. To not utilize a 100 yr. old base is not good stewardship.

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Dispersed camping along the trail

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These trails receive national and international recognition. People seek out these long rails to trails, which brings in new people to MO and specifically to the small towns along the trail.

----

This is an amazing opportunity to expand our trail and will benefit Missourians. I rode the entire Katy Trail this fall!

----

As a disabled veteran who rides a tadpole recumbent trike, having a trail like this provides a unique opportunity for me to ride without the hazards of riding on the roads of Missouri. These trails throughout the United States are a tremendous recreational resource to all users as well as the local communities.

----

Secure complete corridor now and develop over time as outside financial partners come on board.

----

Missouri Parks Association (MPA) has long supported the addition of the Rock Island to the state park system and strongly encourages DNR and Missouri State Parks to take possession of the 144-mile corridor in order to secure it for the future. Such an acquisition, which DNR and Missouri State Parks have actively sought since 1993, is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the state to provide a cross-state trail experience for users to enjoy nature, explore a part of rural Missouri history, and have a healthy recreational experience. Based on the information provided at the meeting, Missouri Parks Association understands the challenge and expense of developing the new route. MPA supports the formation of public/private partnerships for funding the development and maintenance of the trail over the short and long term. It is imperative for Missouri State Parks and support groups of the trail to develop strong partnerships, like the Allegheny Trail Alliance that supports the Great Allegheny Passage, for this endeavor to be successful. Also, the positive aspects for creating the trail need to be considered and highlighted. The economic and public health impact state parks have on local communities, counties, and the state are factors that should not be ignored. Trails are good for public health and a healthy economy. The Rock Island Corridor presents a unique opportunity to add 144 more miles of rail-banked trails in Missouri, offering easy access to healthy physical activity in more than twenty small communities along the line as well as others nearby. Long-distance trails like the Katy and the Rock Island, especially if interlinked, will attract visitors from afar who spend even more. While it will take time for the trail to be developed and the benefits of destination tourism to be realized, this is an opportunity that should not be missed. The acceptance and eventual development of the corridor will benefit present and future generations of Missourians.

----

I believe the project will benefit the state and region far more than is quantified at this time.

----

Please make this happen. Help economic growth along the trail and give trail users yet another long distance place to ride, walk, run without being in the path of motorists.

----

To be clear, I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. By keeping it complete and intact, communities along can more effectively plan their developments and support along the corridor and will allow a cohesiveness in their planning efforts because it will not be broken up.

----

There is a great need for people to be able to get out and safely enjoy the beauty of our state from one side to another.

----

It's not just the impact on the communities along the trail. We live a 20 minute drive away and it's the closest and safest bicycling place for us. ☺. Riding on county roads or city roads without bike lanes is too dangerous.

----

Rock Island Trail would be a great attraction, completing a loop across the state between that and the Katy trail. Projects such as these will be around for generations to enjoy

----

The corridor will be a focus of many groups who may not normally come into contact with the communities along the route. These groups will help make the corridor a “destination” with many repeat business opportunities - example today is Windsor MO.

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The fading opportunity to create an incredibly unique trail system that will benefit Missourians and enthusiasts for generations to come.

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Out of state tourism attractiveness

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No

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I think this is a fantastic opportunity to bring recreation and tourism into the state!

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Adding this section will have a positive impact on Missouri's economy, bringing in riders and hikers from around the area and other states.

----

Getting more info out there.

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Working with Amtrak and Missouri's passenger rail partners to promote and market connectivity and access to Katy/Rock Island State Parks.

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No, not really.

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This route **MUST BE PRESERVED NOW**, to insure future development as funds become available. Our state has the opportunity to become "the Crown Jewel" or rail to trail in the country. Let's make the right decision to preserve this corridor.

----

Mo. needs more state parks. People can see photos of them on the Mo. conservationist magazine.

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Historical

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Plenty of parking spaces at the trailheads 4 present & future trail users.

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Please consider how heavily used and successful the Katy Trail has been. The Rock Island line will only add more beautiful scenery and recreational opportunity for many people. I have ridden the Katy Trail 8 times this year and would love the opportunity to ride the Rock Island line. Please do not miss this unique opportunity to develop this trail.

----

We need this trail established to help keep tourism alive in rural Missouri. Any revenue brought into our state is a win win.

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I haven't had a chance to read all the information, and it's probably included, but safety of the bridges and tunnels is a concern of mine.

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No one will use it

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Don't want it. Don't need it. Spend money on existing parks.

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The impact of the burden this will put on taxpayers. These funds need to be used on our highways and bridges.

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The health benefits of an active-use park such as a rail trail and the state, national and international attraction of people to parts of Missouri they would not otherwise see.

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The Department of Tourism should be involved in this endeavor.

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Economy of the small towns this corridor runs through. This could be a big thing to them.

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This seems like a wonderful opportunity to make Missouri more of a cycling destination!

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I believe the addition of the Rock Island Corridor is a development opportunity that would place Missouri as one of the top bicycling vacation destinations in the U.S.

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None

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I live directly adjacent to the Katy Trail on one of its busiest stretches (in Rocheport). The benefits to the local and regional economy—as well as the pride in ownership shared by all Missourians—far outweigh any periodic nuisances.

----

The public benefit to having an active living resource in the state and the economic development it will bring to the towns along it.

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The proven success of the Katy Trail has residents and businesses energized along the Rock Island corridor. The desire to make it as successful, and the work already done by locals and organizations, cannot be overlooked in considering the future of the corridor.

----

Great way to make more recreational opportunities available to citizens-improve mental and physical health for families and community.

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It would be a mistake to squander this opportunity for economic development and recreation. Missouri residents fare poorly compared to other states regarding health factors and health outcomes. The Rock Island Trail will provide an additional opportunity for Missourians to get active and improve their health.

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Preserving history the majority has never seen

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Connectivity to other trails, greenways, and/or parks

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No

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It will bring bicyclist and hikers to Missouri from all over

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It is an incredible asset that will be great for Missouri recreation and tourism.

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The impact on small towns on the Katy trail have been economically positive, and it's a great draw for tourism for Missouri. AND it would put a positive aspect of Missouri in the news and national reputation instead of St louis high crime and our low state rank in commitment of state finances to education and infrastructure... Getting the land and starting is what is important now. i have followed Rails-to-Trails national organization for over 20 years. it may take a long time to develop sections of this trail, but the end result of the long process with the Katy trail has been great. Allow this process to START, by accepting the land into the state park system.

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None at this time

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What a treasure this will be for Missouri, the surrounding communities who will have an economic benefit and all those who will enjoy such an amazing trail system. Right in the middle of the US, we will draw folks from all over the country. I truly hope and pray that we protect and accept this corridor. The development could take place over many years as financing allows, but if let go we will never get the chance to see this amazing trail system completed.

----

It's important to obtain the corridor and preserve it for future generations. It can be developed in stages as funding becomes available. It will be a valuable source of economic development for those towns along the corridor and for state tourism, just as the Katy Trail is.

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No, we can't pass up a opportunity to acquire this valuable land that can give great opportunities to everyone.

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Public health benefits from utilizing the trail for exercise in communities across the State of MO. I fully support the acceptance of this trail by the State.

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Trails attract tourism. The Katy Trail is a landmark and is legendary among trail enthusiasts. The addition of the RI Corridor will bring additional visitors and economic opportunities for Missouri.

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No

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If you build it people will use it, even many of those people who now may dislike it. It will improve the fitness and health of those communities it goes through.

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Historic preservation of the bridges and tunnels along the corridor that could otherwise be lost

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Positive economic impact on small communities along the route.

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Creating and maintaining bike trails gets people exercising and that improves health. I've participated in the park-sponsored KATY trail ride and would participate in a similar event on the Rock Island. I have also traveled to Missouri to ride sections on my own. This supports local economies along the route and I have returned to these towns for other events and festivals unrelated to the bike trail. So it has an additional economic benefit to these towns.

----

This would be an outstanding addition to the Missouri State parks.

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Make it every bit as good as the Katy Trail and you have an opportunity to make Missouri on the top list of great bike trails in the country.

----

Getting Pleasant Hill parking Rail to Trail open. I understand we would have to cross live train track. We have to cross one on streets path to trail. So much safer off streets with vehicles.

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The importance of contributing to the health and wellness of Missouri citizens.

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Taking advantage of this opportunity now and not placing it on the back burner.

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This trail would bring cyclist from all over the world to explore Missouri. I grew up in Owensville, when the train ran and the hobos frequented our house, because they learned my mother was a very good cook. Now living in St. Charles MO, two blocks from the Katy Trail, I see the impact the trail has on the businesses and residents who get a chance to visit with those traveling through. We do not want to miss out on this opportunity.

----

The corridor can be used by hikers & mountain bikers without significant further expense. Towns should be able to accept grants/donations and develop sections of trail.

----

We as people need to move more. The Rock Island Line Corridor offers an opportunity to increase options for folks to be active outdoors, enjoying Missouri's natural beauty, to engage in social activities with others, and to support (in an economical sense) local communities. This is a no-brainer!

----

How successful past efforts have been.. the Katy Trial is known worldwide as a great thing to do.

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Cycling and hiking are becoming much more popular. Roads are becoming much more dangerous. We should have many more trails available for cyclists and hikers. Additionally, the economic impact of this to the adjacent towns will be quite positive.

----

If it connects to Katy what a great idea. Foolish not to go forward with this.

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I would hope that the area is considering how to connect the highways around other types of transportation with the corridor. I would really like there to be some type of commuter rail along the corridor or near by.

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Long term phased in implementation as funds become available

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Using local volunteers to maintain the trail after being certified and meeting safety standards

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The future of our state! This area really needs this.

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Economic impact for tourism is huge for our little town of 6,000 people

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Make this happen. Good for everyone affected

----

I think they should consider how long this has been dragging on. Being able to connect KC and St. Louis with a trail is a monumental opportunity. Let's do this!

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All non use rail rights-of- ways should be used for hiking/biking trails. The state should take advantage of these opportunities and link any and all trails together for use by all residents.

----

I'd visit from Montana!

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This is a long overdue addition to the state's trail system. The impact to the small communities along the Katy Trail has been very impactful and positive and the impact to the communities on the Rock Island I believe would be even greater due to their more remote yet beautiful locations.

----

Trails encourage senior citizens to get out and exercise...an activity that helps to improve health and lowers state health funding.

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This is a resource that should be preserved for all of Missouri.

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None that i can think of

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Health benefits of outdoor exercise

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No

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No

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This is a no brainer and will have nothing but positive outcomes for anyone along the trail and all users

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This will attract visitors from around the world. Good tax benefits

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The value of outdoor recreational areas and the difficulty in preserving such areas for generations to come

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There are NO adverse impacts on adjacent landowners, the supposed adverse effects are fiction; so to repeat a lie as if to give it the veneer of truth, although a commonly attempted tactic recently, still does not cause lies to turn to truth!

----

Adding and developing the Rock Island Line Corridor would be a significant attraction to trail users from all over the world. Missouri would become an even greater destination state for trail users.

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National and International significance of having such a continuous trail system!

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What a great opportunity to provide future residents of the state with a great trail

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great recognition by other states and individual bike riders.

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I believe that as a farm owner our farming community is missing a remarkable opportunity to showcase our way of life to the urban dwellers. In addition, with the potential to connect the Rock Island to the existent Katy Trail, the trail users this will attract can have a the substantial economic impact impact to these small towns.

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Helping Missouri become known as forward thinking

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Based on my understanding of the economic impact of the Katy trail, I think this project is a good investment for MO. Please bank the whole line now then we can develop sections little by little as \$\$ if available. thank you for your time and consideration.

----

Although the cost to build a rail trail like the Rock Island Corridor is very expensive, the benefits to affected towns and cities from building the Katy Trail has shown to be worth the expense. Otherwise these small towns may eventually wither away from lack of visitor revenue.

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Environmental benefits of non-car transportation options

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This is a one time opportunity to utilize this valuable resource. It not only provides recreation and transportation, but will can generate business opportunities for adjacent communities and land owners.

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Simply the value of all these smaller communities to have a trail that will allow for walking and biking.

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No, I think it would be a great benefit to the state.

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Environmental Impact

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How rare of an opportunity this is.

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This is such a fantastic opportunity and endeavor. Very hopeful it all works out. What a terrific opportunity for Missouri.

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This is an opportunity we can't pass on, if not for us, for our future generations.

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Quality of Life in Missouri

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MO needs another trail system. I would love to see this approved and built.

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Just to re-emphasize the economic boon (proven by our experience with the Katy Trail) that the Rock Island Trail will be to an economically depressed area.

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PLeasant Hill to KC extension

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Consider the impacts of abnormal flooding conditions

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build it and they will come, longer term lower health care costs and potentially more tourism

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Safety and security of riders.

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I support the acquisition of the corridor. This is a rare opportunity for the state of Missouri. It will benefit the communities along the trail and would be a great addition to tourism in our state.

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MO

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The Katy Trail has more than proven that trails are a benefit to our state. I wholeheartedly support the formation of additional trails!

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This is a good thing for Missouri and the communities along the trail it will bring in tourist from all over the world just as the Katy Trail has please make this happen

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Long term international recognition of the trail network

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National trail coordination

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Preservation of Historical history of Railroads in Missouri, and the communities that sprung up along them with homesteading in westward expansion. Showcasing each community and their history with the railroad □.

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Economic impact of restaurants and hotels along route

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Someday we may need to put a railroad back. That's why we need to keep the right of way open.

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Safety on the bridges

----

This trail has been a wonderful attraction for our state. I live just off the currently developed RIT and see people weekly from out of state/town. They eat and sleep their way through our lovely countryside leaving a trail of dollars in local businesses. I love the trail!!

----

Pride in showcase our community

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The Rock Island Trail presents a significant recreational opportunity for Missouri citizens and the public generally while providing significant economic development opportunities for communities along the trail.

----

All I see is the positives of completing more trail networks to compete for tourism dollars instead of letting our residents seek these options in another state.

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Connectivity to communities along the corridor.

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This is a unique opportunity that will never again occur. The Missouri State Parks has no immediate or future plans to improve the corridor, it makes sense to rail bank the corridor for future generations to develop.

----

Economic impact for the communities along the trail should be the paramount factor for consideration. We have previously seen what the Katy Trail has done for small communities in terms of economic stimulus and rehabilitation, and there's no reason to assume anything less would be possible for the Rock Island. The economic stimulus for these communities, and thus the state, far outweighs any short term concerns about cost of development. The Katy Trail had made Missouri a world-class destination for cyclists, hikers, and other outdoor enthusiasts. The addition of the Rock Island would advance our state as a tourist destination to new heights, benefitting all its citizens as a result.

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Impact on state economy from out of state visitors.

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Why is this even being debated? Just accept the land already!

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Economic opportunities for these small towns. Enhanced property values. JOBS. The Katy Trail has made these positive impacts clear. The good of the many should prevail here. Unlike some other projects, this park can save entire communities!

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I am in favor of acquiring the entire corridor whole, complete, and intact for the future, even if no or minimal immediate development takes place. If the corridor is not acquired, the chance will be lost forever. It is okay to provide the minimum level of investment to acquire the whole corridor, and then develop it over time with other non state funding sources if necessary.

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Have public comment and notifications prior to completing contracts that affect landowners that border the railroad

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no

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I am in favor of acquiring the entire corridor whole, complete, and intact for the future, even if no or minimal immediate development takes place. If the corridor is not acquired, the chance will be lost forever. It is okay to provide the minimum level of investment to acquire the whole corridor, and then develop it over time with other non state funding sources if necessary.

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The cost seems like it will end up being much higher than advertised. And use will be limited with the proximity to Katy

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Actual cost vs realistic economic impact. The numbers look very shaky to me.

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Cost

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Why do we want to spend 87 million on land we don't own? Spending 5 million in each town on sewer systems or a large gym would be a better investment

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Taking business away from the Katy. Dangerous during hunting seasons. Liabilities associated with crumbling bridges if don't have funds immediate funds to rebuild them

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Historic preservation is always a wild card in projects like these. Are there plans to retain historical railroad features along the line, such as mileposts, signals and signs and the like? Consider replicating place signs to be similar to those used by the railroad.

----

I am in favor of acquiring the entire corridor whole, complete and intact for the future, even if no or minimal immediate development takes place. If the corridor is not acquired, the chance will be lost forever. It is ok to provide the minimum level of investment to acquire the whole corridor, and then develop it over time with other non-state funding sources if necessary.

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Please review the history and the struggles that happened with the skate trail when Ted and Pat Jones tried to secure the land. It is important to know what difficulties were experienced especially from Missouri farm bureau to secure the land.

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promote tourism

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Much like the Katy Trail, the added value of these resources is extended with the national recognition they garner. It makes MO even more of a destination for those who love the outdoors.

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I am in favor of acquiring the entire corridor whole, complete, and intact for the future, even if no or minimal immediate development takes place. If the corridor is not acquired, the chance will be lost forever. It is okay to provide the minimum level of investment to acquire the whole corridor, and then develop it over time with other non state funding sources if necessary.

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Excited to have another cycling opportunity

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Just Build the Trail!

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Subject: Support for the Rock Island Trail Project Ms. Comer & Mr. Ellis, On behalf of the St. Louis Audubon Society Board of Directors, I want to express our support for the Rock Island Trail Project. We urge the State of Missouri, in general, and Missouri State Parks, in particular, to take the necessary steps to preserve the entire 144-mile corridor for future use as a recreational trail, similar to the Katy Trail State Park. We understand funds are not currently available to implement the trail, and full development of a trail may take decades. Yet, it would be tragic to miss this opportunity to secure the land for a trail and begin a process of building creative partnerships to see the recreational project to fruition. As a wildlife-oriented environmental conservation and education charity, we are especially interested in the value of a Rock Island Trail for wildlife watching, especially birding, and as a wildlife corridor. The latter is of particular interest for the section west of Versailles where farms and ranches dominate the surrounding land use and anywhere the right of way parallels a road or highway corridor. A trail developed in similar manner to the Katy Trail could provide birds and other wildlife a potential route to avoid the far-too-often lethal crossing of a road. Both wildlife watching and use as a wildlife corridor are compatible with active recreational trail use including biking, walking and running. Founded in 1915, St. Louis Audubon became the first affiliated chapter of the National Audubon Society in 1944 and shares its vision to create a community connection to nature through education and conservation. With a focus on birds, St. Louis Audubon provides the general public with field trips, classroom education programs, scholarships, education seminars and hands-on habitat restoration opportunities. Representing over 3,400 members in the 10 county area of Greater St. Louis, it is the largest Audubon chapter in the state of Missouri.

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Our parks are a treasure and economically viable for generating upkeep funding and making MO a family friendly place for companies looking to re-locate here or attracting employees.

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Asset to communities along its path, most need help.

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Safety benefit for Mennonites bicycling along highways in these areas

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No

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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I think it would really benefit the rural areas that have weak economies. It helps create healthy lifestyle choices for people to enjoy.

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I feel like this large amount of money being spent to develop this project could be better spent somewhere else. I believe there are many towns with trails that people can use. When I think of the shape of some of our roads and bridges that thousands of people use every day, I feel the money could be better spent where the majority of the people use. The cost of maintaining this many miles of trails would be tremendous. I do not feel like my tax dollars would be well spent on this trail when so many other things need the extra money. Such as highways, bridges, schools, the state park facilities we already have.

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The positive economic opportunity s this opens up for Missouri.countless dollars leave Missouri to border states that offer similar trail options

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The land should be given back to the original land owners. This should most certainly not happen! It's a huge waste of taxpayers money. We have roads and bridges and education that all are better ways to spend money!

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Should have more consideration for the landowners that will be affected by people leaving the trail and trespassing on private property.

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Personal Land

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Build the trail quickly dragging feet, it is worth it.

██████████ it should be one of his priorities. He has never spoken in public about it. Appropriate funds to make it happen. Rural Mo..needs more.agritourism

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A great chance to add to our state parks for Missourians and wildlife .

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The Parks should consider the amount of tourism that will be added to area if we open up the Rock Island Line Corridor.

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The Rock Island line needs to link with the Katy trail.

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More safe recreational opportunities are drastically needed.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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I think it would be great to add to the current Katy Trail. I had people in Texas ask about the Katy Trail and wanting to travel on it. It would add to tourism for our state.

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The positive impact it would have and the economic advantage it would have on the towns that need this .

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I believe they should consider that the corridor will help bring Missouri citizens together toward a common cause.

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Ability to draw tourists/visitors from outside of the local areas

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. We have ridden the Katy Trail numerous times and we come from Manhattan KS. We stay in hotels and B&B's, eat at restaurants, shop at grocery stores and go to other attractions in the communities along the trail. Wish we had a Katy Trail in KS.

----

This is a cooridor that could shape generations to come in Missouri. Even if it isn't developed in the immediate future, it should be preserved.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge that DNR accept the entire corridor and preserve it complete and intact until funding (internal and/or external) is available to phase in development and eventually complete the trail. Building it in sections over a number of years is ok with me. I am willing to pay more taxes to see this trail built and maintained. I would also buy an annual trail pass if that is one way to raise money for this. I was recently in Louisiana (state of) and had the opportunity to visit with bicyclists from around the country. They were very excited about this trail possibility and indicated they would definitely come to Missouri to use it. Many had already been on the Katy Trail and/or were planning on coming to MO. Despite my low ranking of adjacent landowner impacts, these are important issues that I feel can be readily addressed with fencing, signage, and targeted law enforcement if necessary. The opportunity the preserve the trail corridor for use by all Missourians and the associated economic benefits to the towns it passes near/through are more important. Accept and Save and eventually develop the Rock Island!

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Any greenway provides an opportunity for enhancing/supporting biodiversity and supporting wildlife corridors. For me, this is a critical positive element for linear trails.

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If the State Parks do not accept the Corridor, what will happen to it ?



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The state needs more bike trails.

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Boost to tourism Once in a lifetime opportunity

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That the trail will potentially link with other trail systems and create a "backbone" allowing countless communities to link together.

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Just do it! Folks are waiting to ride this! The private monies will come.

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Trails such as this have proven to be a major economic boon to the areas around them.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. This will create a larger trail network to add to Missouri's small current network. This trail would go through an area that does not have any current connections.

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1. The success of the KATY Trail and how those factors may be applied to the Rock Island Line Corridor.

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I believe Missouri State Parks should work to preserve the corridor in its entirety. Other agencies and funding sources can then be coordinated to aid with further development. Missouri can then continue to provide outstanding off-road trail opportunities for its citizens, as well as attract visitors from other states to enjoy our beautiful state. Linear trails are safe multi-use areas for families to make lasting memories. Small towns in the area benefit from additional visitors to their businesses. Bicyclists and hikers love the Katy Trail. Our children and grandchildren will benefit from our foresight in preserving additional trail resources, easily accessible to the citizens of Missouri. Missouri State Parks is the ideal agency to preserve the corridor, with additional agencies working to maximize the resource.

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Citizens physical and mental health.

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Please accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. This would be an exceptional addition to our State Park system. My husband and I have done numerous surveys of moths and birds in Missouri's State Parks, and I can tell you that these state parks are all that stand between us and losing most of the green space in Missouri. We need all we can get.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. It is a wonderful opportunity for recreation in Missouri and to attract visitors to our state. It could encourage business and economic benefit to the communities along the trail.

----

No

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Tourism

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MO

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It think this would be a wonderful complementary park to the Katy Trail and would make Missouri - for once - a leader in innovative uses for abandoned land.

----

This is a great concept, and I fully support the State of Missouri taking the steps necessary to secure the right of way for future development of a recreational trail and wildlife corridor.

----

I haven't familiarized myself with the terrain where this is being proposed. I understand that bridges, drainage and other factors must be figured into the maintenance costs, but the \$6,500 per mile per year sounds out of place. I've seen studies on other converted rail trails that have costs of \$1,000-1,500 per mile, and I've yet to find a published report that showed annual maintenance expenses above \$4,000 per mile per year. (They may be out there, but I haven't found them). I hope that more detailed information regarding the cost estimates of both construction and maintenance will be made available.

----

It seems like all variables have been considered!

----

This will bring more tourist money to the center of Missouri than anything else we can do. This will be both in state and out of state travelers. I will personally be spending more money in state when the Rock Island Trail is complete.

----

This is a wonderful opportunity. Parks improve the health and appeal of any community. I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

As I hear and read about cycling routes from people around the whole country I know the Katy Trail is well known and highly regarded. I know this trail would increase Missouri's reputation in regard to trails nationwide and certainly bring people to Missouri from other areas to ride it.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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Tourism dollars, economic development, health, cleaner air

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In October of 2018, I and several friends from Saint Louis just completed walking the Katy Trail from Machen, MO to Clinton, MO. It took 9 weekends spread over 2.5 years. On average each weekend involved overnight stays in 2-3 Missouri towns along the trail. Over the course of the trip we stayed in ~20 hotels/bed&breakfasts and ate a meal in 30+ different locations. We made it a point to support the local community as we hiked through. A conservative estimate would be that we spent \$3000-4000 over the course of our "adventure". Without the Katy trail, I doubt we ever would have stopped in these rural communities much less patronized a store other than the local gas station. The interstate system makes it too easy to cruise by these towns. The Katy trail serves as a unique conduit that benefits and connects the metropolitan and the rural communities of Missouri and I am

proud that we have this unique Park in our state. The trail showcases the beauty and natural diversity of Missouri to visitors from all over. I am well aware that accepting the Rock Island Line Corridor as a gift from Ameren will add to the MoDNR budget. But I think the health benefits for the citizens of Missouri are tangible benefit. Further, the trip taken on the Katy Trail by my friends and I demonstrates that this investment will return dollars to communities along the trail. If MoDNR sets up the trail, I know we are ready to walk it!

-----  
We need more shared public lands! Please help us protect our environmental legacy for our children!

-----  
Not at this time.

-----  
This will bring tourism to the state. I have biked the Katy and loved it!

-----  
Missouri State Parks should preserve the entire corridor unconditionally. If resources limit the rate of development, first maximize the number of communities that can be reached from the existing rail-trail network to maximize economic benefit.

-----  
This would make such a big difference in ecotourism for cyclists and hikers. Please consider this.

-----  
Web site to tie it together with links to each town and b&b etc..

-----  
This is a terrific opportunity for Missouri to gain a terrific recreational and economic development asset. I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

-----  
The Corridor will glorify the success of the Katy Trail

-----  
Missouri could attract more visitors with their great bike trails and could add to the revenue of the state.

-----  
We need the RILC trail to connect the the Katy to have a complete trail corridor from KC to St. Louis. Please make this happen!!!! This would be less than a mile from my house and I hope to ride it frequently. It will likely spur many new businesses in Lee's Summit and Raytown to open and cater to the trail users, including but not limited to restaurants, bike shops, and souvenir shops. This will be a net benefit for Missouri and must be completed!!!! Secure the trail for now and look to outside funding to make it usable. I understand it will take time that's OK. With with Federal, state, county, city, public and private to help defray the costs. It's a community benefit, the community will help with the costs.

-----  
Regardless of cost and length of time for up grade, it is a no brainer for the state and the communities

-----  
Future health opportunities for future generations

I feel the entire Rock Island corridor should be preserved as one and not broken up. That Missouri Parks should manage the corridor but not be solely responsible for funding. And the corridor should be developed with a basic plan in mind first with updates made in the future as increased funding becomes available. I feel Missouri has done a great job with the Katy Trail system and the current Rock Island Trails being developed in Jackson County and hope this continues. I am an avid cyclist and look forward to exploring the trail system with my family and visiting the communities along the way.

-----  
This trail would be a big financial boost to the area much as the KATY Trail

-----  
How this will bring outdoor adventure seekers and scenery enthusiasts to the area

-----  
I strongly support the state accepting the corridor and developing it over time through partnerships as funding becomes available. Preserving the entire corridor whole and intact should be the top priority. State Parks is clearly the agency best able to accept and manage the corridor. Parks needn't fully develop the trail now, but should now do the minimum needed to accept the corridor and then build over time as funding from local partnerships, private partnerships, and grants becomes available. It is OK and desirable in the short term to develop and maintain the trail to a lower, and far less expensive, standard than the Katy Trail. The state can work towards Katy Trail quality if and when funding becomes available.

-----  
This should happen. Make this happen. Thanks.

-----  
Rail trails are popular destinations for out of state visitors and help support local economies

-----  
I live in Indiana and would definitely come use this trail. Have already ridden the Katy trail and it is a gem.

-----  
Positive impact on state reputation, health opportunities for locals, success of Katy Trail.

-----  
Not so much additional factors but to emphasize the great economic impact this will have on the smaller towns along the trail. These towns NEED to have this to help them survive.

-----  
Please get the corridor as it can be developed over many years. People will volunteer like myself. I can fell trees as needed. Perhaps ask for donations too. This is a unique opportunity for our State. It is an investment in out future and will be a beautiful addition to our parks.

-----  
no

-----  
MO State Parks should accept this additional line corridor.

-----  
This is a one chance opportunity to set the foundations for an amazing facility for future generations to enjoy.

Bathrooms, water and fix it stations. Build it can tourists will come to spend money.

----

Take a phased approach to entire RITC development in partnership with strong private organizations; Contract engineering assessment of existing bridges, tunnels, and culverts; all water crossings and tunnels of the existing RR-trail route-these require safe bridges, culverts, and tunnels or local bypasses (re-routes) where possible and feasible; Consider whether overpasses are required where existing roads intersect the RITC route, look at making on-grade or under-bridge crossings where feasible, to reduce potential expensive bridge and overpass construction.

----

If Trail Towns can raise the money let them build out their sections to State Parks standards. That way State Parks can concentrate on the more remote sections. Let the Eastern most section get started so excitement and donations towards the Trail can happen.

----

Please accept the donation of the Rick Island Trail

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Marketing the trail as an investment in people's health.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

Lost opportunity - if you don't obtain the line now, it will be lost forever

----

No

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This will be an amazing addition to Missouri's successful trail system! Our trails and state parks are lauded throughout the country. Please carry on by converting this railroad to a trail!

----

The economic tourist boom to the state or Missouri and the attention to the state parks will be more than significant

----

This is a great opportunity to improve in the great success of the KATY trail.

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The Rock Island right-of-way has been gifted to the state. Anything less than using this resource to the greatest extent is short-sighted.

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Special events

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I would like to express my support of the Rock Island Trail and urge Missouri State Parks to accept the trail and maintain it for the future. Granted, this does not need to be completely funded by the Division of State Parks, nor does it need to be completed all at once before sections can be opened. I am a 66 year old cyclist and runner. I have been running for decades and cycling for over ten years now. When you are on the road

on a regular basis it is apparent that running and cycling on the roads are getting more and more dangerous all the time. For the most part I think this can be attributed to people simply not paying attention to what they are doing while driving their cars. If people are expected to maintain a healthy lifestyle, which they should be held accounted for given our health care situation, it helps to have places where riding and running are possible without getting run over by inattentive drivers. Bike lanes and greenways certainly help in this regard. But a trail is something that really gets people out into a more natural environment where they can just run or ride to their hearts content without fear of being run over. That being said, all of the concerns of DNR in regards to accepting the Rock Island Trail are valid. Funds are limited, so lets get some outside resources involved from the various communities. The support is there. Let's get going and do this entire project with the outside resources necessary and with the minimum investment from State Parks. Lets' start small and develop it section by section over time for all to enjoy as Missourians and visitors. Plus it will help small businesses in local communities prosper. We really need this. Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can provide any assistance.

----

Missouri is top in the country for conservation. Let's keep it going.

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Preserve the land for recreational purposes

----

Accept this donation! It's a once-in-a-lifetime chance, though at my age, I may not be around to enjoy it when it's converted. When the Katy Trail was proposed, some people were against it. Now it's a great draw for residents of other states too, and they spend enough money to support bike shops and ice cream stands - and wineries too. I'm on our local Board of Aldermen, and we plan for the future. Long-term thinking is important. This needs to be done in the state, not just in cities. Why wouldn't this be an asset for Missouri? Even if there isn't funding to improve it yet, it needs to be acquired now. Please do so,.

----

I strongly support the state accepting the corridor and developing it over time through partnerships as funding becomes available. Preserving the entire corridor whole and intact is the top immediate priority. State Parks is clearly the agency best able to accept and manage the corridor. Parks needn't fully develop the trail now, but should now do the minimum needed to accept the corridor and then build over time as funding from local partnerships, private partnerships, and grants becomes available. It is OK and desirable in the short term to develop and maintain the trail to a lower, and far less expensive, standard than the Katy Trail. We can work towards Katy Trail quality if and when funding becomes available.

----

My health. I walk alot. I am 80 years old.

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no

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N/A

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Impact on plants and wildlife!

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This such an exciting opportunity for Missouri! The proposed Rock Island Line Corridor would bring many people to visit our state, provide numerous outdoor activities statewide.

Small business entrepreneurs would take advantage of the need fire food and lodging along the corridor. Please let's not fail our people and our state.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. We need more state parks and more areas for wildlife and outdoor recreation. Thank you!

----

We are always looking for new places to ride our bikes. We would like to see bed and breakfasts in the adjacent communities.

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Please complete this project. It will be great for the local people who live near the trail and for the State.

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Environmental impact

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. This is a one-time opportunity that must not be missed. The new study by the University of Missouri Extension outlined many positive impacts for accepting this donation and developing this trail over time. How can we even consider passing it up? Attracting visitors, jobs, community development, recreation for citizens, opportunities for health enhancement, and on and on.

----

Trails are a wonderful recreational opportunity and are good for local economies near the trail access points.

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I wish to encourage the state of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rick Island Line. What a wonderful opportunity to add to our park system. The Katy Trail, which sounds similar, has been a benefit to the towns and people who are along the trail. The opportunity to provide for recreational enthusiasts is so beneficial. Please do the right thing and accept this property.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. The more opportunities the state can take advantage of to get Missourians out into the environment the better.

----

The Rock Island Corridor needn't be on par with Katy Trail immediately; This can be an avenue for nearby residents to gain income from tourism, and maintain healthy living with the ability to exercise on the Corridor. The Corridor increases exposure nationally for outdoor pursuits resulting in tax dollars into the state: people travel to visit and experience this.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. he Rock Island Trail is a terrific project with benefits in health, recreation, and local and state economies.

Expanding the Rock Island Trail will positively impact Missourians and will add to the great network of trails already established in Missouri. Please consider accepting this donation.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. This would provide a great opportunity for people to get outside and see nature and interact with community!

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of Rock Island Trail. Our current trail system is wonderful-and any move to improve opportunities for Missourians (or tourists from other states) to enjoy our state is welcomed.

----

This is the an amazing opportunity to preserve the entire 144-mile corridor intact for the future, and Missouri State Parks is the best entity to manage it. I understand that State Parks does not currently have funds to develop the trail, but that development and operation of certain sections of the trail may be able to proceed through creative public-private partnerships. I would love to see this trail happen.

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no

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I urge the state of Missouri to accept this wonderful offer. The economic impact alone makes this a win.

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The Rock Island Trail is a terrific project with benefits in health, recreation, and local and state economies. Expanding the Rock Island Trail will positively impact Missourians and will add to the great network of trails already established in Missouri.

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The Rock Island Trail is a terrific project with benefits in health, recreation, and local and state economies. Expanding the Rock Island Trail will positively impact Missourians and will add to the great network of trails already established in Missouri. Please consider accepting this donation.

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1) The Rock Island Trail is a terrific project with benefits in health, recreation, and local and state economies. Expanding the Rock Island Trail will positively impact Missourians and will add to the great network of trails already established in Missouri. Please consider accepting this donation.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. I was surprised to hear a corporation donating anything to the state! I live near and have enjoyed the Katy Trail State Park. The Rails-to-Trails is a valuable asset to our state.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. We just can not pass on this opportunity.

Financing does concern me, but it will eventually come from somewhere or somebody.

----

I think we should definitely support the Rock Island Trail. The Katy is famous worldwide and we can build on that phenomenal foundation. I think this trail can provide economic opportunities in parts of the state that desperately need it in addition to providing opportunities for physical fitness, mental clarity, and adventure so that we can be a happy, healthy, interconnected State.

----

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. Above all, the entire corridor must be preserved whole, complete, and intact for the future. This is one for our children and grandchildren. Right now is our ONE CHANCE to preserve the corridor intact and State Parks is by far the best agency to do that. State Parks should accept and manage the corridor—but should look primarily to outside funding and resources to build and develop the trail. No one is expecting State Parks to lead the way in covering the expense of trail building, when their budget is already stretched to the limit. Many other funding sources are available and should be used to the maximum. Given State Parks' current budget pressures, State Parks should be making its current decision based on: What is the MINIMUM investment needed from State Parks in order to preserve the entire corridor now. State Parks can provide that level of investment; a combination of local, private, and grant funds can fill in the rest over time. The trail doesn't need to be built to "Cadillac" levels. It is OK to begin with a basic level of service for the trail and work for higher, more expensive levels if and as funding becomes available over time.

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Green Space improves health and reduces green house gases. It also protects wildlife.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail! I am a college student that has only been in Missouri for 2 years now, but I really enjoy and take advantage of the parks and greenery in the area, and would love for there to be more!

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Ensure and expand wildlife habitat

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Think Big! Do Good!

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Economic growth and another option to bike on sounds perfect to me! Please take the donation.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail.

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Health and fitness opportunities for Missouri.

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Educational opportunities/local partnerships

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I think the State of Missouri should accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. This would be huge for these communities. It would provide a market for small businesses and tourism in areas that otherwise see very little local economic growth, as well as provide another recreational opportunity that will bring in out of state visitors and residents. Seems like an obvious yes to me!

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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I strongly urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. This is a great opportunity to provide recreation and habitat that must not be passed by.

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We need all the wild places we can get. Please accept this land for a public park. The land needs us!

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An eventual Rock Island trail will build on the success of the KATY Trail and its benefits to Missourians—of economic development, tourism, and enhanced quality of life for the communities and the counties along the corridor. With the eventual Rock Island trail open to the public, along with the KATY Trail, Missouri will have among the most rails-to-trails miles in the world. Surely it is in Missouri's best interest to seize upon this opportunity to raise our beautiful state's profile on the global stage. The Rock Island corridor transects much of Missouri's historic prairie regions, and prairie plants are visible along the route. Missourians deserve the opportunity to view, enjoy, and learn about Missouri's prairie heritage, an ecosystem responsible for so much of the agricultural wealth of our great state. An eventual Rock Island Trail open to the public will provide a superb opportunity for Missourians and visitors to connect with the Show-Me-State's natural heritage. Funding for immediate development of the Rock Island Trail is not realistic. However, the opportunity cost of passing on this chance to secure it for state ownership and future development is high—the cost to develop a route from scratch would be astronomical, and the logistics exceedingly difficult. There are many partnership opportunities with local groups and communities that will help develop the Rock Island, segment by segment. Eventually, Missouri will have another world-class outdoor recreational trail, and we will expect a national and international positive response to its presence.

----

We are so lucky in Missouri to have State Parks and encourage Families to get out. I urge the State of Missouri to accept the blessing we are being offered

----

Greenways and rail-to-trail programs not only provide economic boosts to nearby businesses, they raise property values and provide for countless recreation opportunities. Gravel cycling events are only going to get more and more popular, too (see: Dirty Kanza and others) bringing money and visibility to the state.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. This would be a great opportunity for all Missouri Residents!

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the Rock Island Line Corridor.

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MO

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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Please accept the donation of Rock Island Trail

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Do not squander this opportunity to expand the gift of nature in Missouri!

----

This is a great boon to struggling local towns. I will use it frequently, as I have used the Katy trail also frequently.

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No

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Based on the success of the KATY trail, the state must be forward thinking and see the recreational and economic benefits of developing and maintaining these rails to trails.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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We urge the State of Missouri to acquire the rock Island Line corridor. This is a beautiful opportunity for Missouri to increase outdoor enjoyment for more people for many years to come.

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Recreational tourism has multiple benefits for communities and quality of life.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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Looking at the success of the Katy Trail, I feel that we can not imagine how well the Rock Island will benefit all those connected to it...

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The Rock Island Trail would be a fantastic asset to all people in Missouri especially to residents, businesses and property owners near the trail

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. I'm an avid cyclist and would enjoy another trail. I spend money at small businesses along the trail.

----

This will be a huge draw to Missouri for bikers to visit our state. Also great for those living in Missouri. This should be completed.

----

Value of having connected (versus destination) recreational and alternative transportation options. Value of open green corridors for habitat protection

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While Missouri has numerous parks, none are so significant as the trails and the opportunity these bring in terms of progressive tourism. Small businesses in particular benefit, especially along the routes where rural towns are located. Besides jobs it provides real transportation for those who would bike instead of drive. If Missouri wants to be considered a valued state to others and offer its residents something of value, this is one of the least expensive options that has the least impact. An FYI -- landowners are rarely if ever impacted. Cyclists keep to the trails and do not leave behind evidence of their visit (trash, tear ups, etc).

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. IT is so important to increase outdoor recreation for our community. Thank you.

----

/The economic impact is already being noted in the small towns along the corridor. Please accept this valuable gift of the Rock Island Line from Ameren

----

Potential wildlife stressors. Ability to get people from different backgrounds outdoors

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I'm an avid cyclist and outdoorsmen. Also a former resident of Missouri. I love visiting State Parks and the Katy Trail. If added I plan to vacation along the Rock Island corridor.

----

Costs are likely to go up the longer we wait. let's get that trail Done

----

Great potential for making Missouri a premiere biking destination for US citizens as well as foreign tourists. Many are already drawn to the KATY trail from all over the world. We need creative ideas for economic development for the state for the future and it takes some investment and forward thinking. Let's share our beautiful state with others and gain a reputation as being a great place to live.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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no

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. I have ridden along the Rock Island spur that has been added in Pleasant Hill, MO and it is beautiful. This would also bolster the communities that live along the Rock Island trail with additional tourism revenues.

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If by some miracle this is approved, I would support legislation removing from adjacent landowners any legal obligation to trespassers. I would also support a tax increase to accept/maintain the new park. If the 144-mile corridor is not accepted, I will NOT support renewal of the 1/10th cent parks and soils sales tax and will actively campaign against it, nor will I support any effort to increase highway/transportation taxes. The area the trail would positively impact has few state parks. Local business and communities have offered great support to this project. Shame on DNR and State Parks for making them believe there was an honest chance for acceptance. Before this started, I had a favorable impression of the state parks system. This has been handled poorly and my impression of the Missouri state parks system and Missouri government in general has been greatly diminished. We deserve much better.

----

People travel from all over to explore highly recommended trail systems. If it is done right, it could make Missouri and these rural areas a big draw for adventure seekers at all times of the year.

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WE NEED PARKS NOW MORE THEN EVER. HUMAN POPULATION IS DEPLETING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES & LEAVING NO WHERE FOR NATURE TO BE LEARNED, ENJOYED OR EXPERIENCED.

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No

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No

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Tourism, healthy lifestyles and recreation over our lifetimes are more benefits of a well maintained trail system.

----

NO, I strongly support accepting the Rock Island Line Corridor and developing it as a rails-to-trails park similar to the Katy Trail.

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The KATY trail is an economic driver and helps to keep the towns along the trail vibrant and economically viable. The Rock Island Trail would do the same and would ultimately provide revenue to the state.

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Our State has a high obesity rate--more recreational activities helps people including obese people walk and ride bikes and hopefully lose weight.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. An additional cross state trail will make a great companion to the Katy Trail and show off the beauty of the region.

----

The salvation of the nearly 2 dozen railroad towns that folded when the railroad left. There are a lot of people who will benefit that may never step on trail. Might want to count the votes on that corridor

----

I think the donation of this land for preservation in the State Parks system is a wonderful opportunity. We visit the KATY SP often and spend quite a good sum each year in towns that we hardly new existed prior to the trail development and I think the same would happen with the RILC. Missouri's state parks are the envy of every other state, developing this new land would add even more value to our already awesome park system!!! I believe I have heard that along the KATY most of the fears of adjacent landowners were unfounded, never came to pass.

----

Please accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. It will be good for future outdoor activity in addition to a positive economic impact to small communities in Missouri along the route.

----

The health of the people who use the trail. They are a great advantage for people staying fit.

----

I certainly hope this trail gets developed! I believe it will be well used.

----

Save what we can of Missouri's natural and cultural heritage for ALL Missourians in order that we can move forward as a community.

----

I am a 70 year resident of Missouri. We have lived here for almost 40 years. For many of those years I have been cycling all over the state. When on organized rides, the riding is quite safe, like the MS150 each year. The rest of the time, taking a long ride on rural roads can be quite unsafe, due to vehicle traffic. The Katy Trail, Frisco Trail, Greenways and othe trails have provided safe alternatives. For this of us that like to make 100+ mile rides, the selection is short. We do love the Katy Trail and enjoy stopping, sleeping and eating in the towns along the trail. The rock Island Trail would bring new business opportunities for the communities it traverses. Most cyclist are very conscious of the environment so the impact to it should be small. Maintenance, once the gravel is placed is a cost that

our state could surely fund. Tourism could bring in local and state revenue over time. Please consider, seriously, a positive addition to the beautiful state we live in.

----

I urge the state of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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Not really - I just strongly urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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offering tax incentives to new SMALL business opening the first 5 years of the trails in the trail communities when new business is less than 1 mile from the trail.

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As long as there is an economic and community benefit and environmental considerations, I think it's a great idea. The Katy Trail is a good example.

----

Please continue to build for the future. We will not always have these opportunities due to land being more and more segmented for private use. Our parks, landscapes, and trails are Missouri's treasures!

----

Will of the people. People want this and if the land is not accepted on the timeline there may be political costs

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Absolutely this will bring tourists to our state. This is not only a recreational opportunity, but it's an economic opportunity.

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Are there any increases of risk to crime to landowners from completing this project? How will the homeless population utilize this trail? Could we incorporate the homeless population in the planning and development somehow as a way to care for them, since they will likely use portions of it anyway? (i.e. offer "trash banks" where they could get paid for turning in trash found along the trail.)

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Tourism

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Help of volunteers would reduce the amount of Money tax payers spend. It sounds like an amazing opportunity

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Does the Missouri state park have the money budgeted for the project or would that have to be cut out of other projects, taxed, or fundraiser?

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. This unique opportunity doesn't come along often and should be taken advantage of. The impact upon public health should be highly considered as well as the potential to draw more people to Missouri and in so doing, create more business opportunities.

----

I think Missouri State Parks should accept the donation, then work with towns and local organizations after that to work on a maintenance plan and fundraising. Don't pass up this opportunity! It would be amazing for the towns and their residents, and a tourist destination that could pay for itself.

----

No

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This would be great for a number of reasons - economic development for small towns and communities located along the existing rail road and around the railroad. Also - Missouri is well known for its trails and outdoor activities, this would enhance that.

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None I know of

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Think of the economic growth it could bring to our small towns

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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I urge Mo to accept the donation of Rock Island line corridor for our parks system.

----

State parks are cultural and quality-of-life statements. I imagine if you wish to attract young people, such as those that work in the technology industries, they would consider parks in their calculations as to where to live.

----

Missouri State Parks should also accept this former railway donation because it's a way to PRESERVE HISTORY. Instead of completely tearing out a railway not used anymore, simply transforming the route into a recreational trail both preserves the historical railway and also repurposes the route for continued use. The benefits of accepting and maintaining this route donation far outweigh any disadvantages.

----

Missouri's reputation as an international cycling destination

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

----

Take advantage of a rare opportunity being offered.

----

State parks are beautiful and a good source for family recreation in the outdoors. This is an important addition to the state parks for Missouri. It is a really good way to use the Island Line Corridor.

----

True cost of construction.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. This is a wonderful opportunity to preserve native lands, encourage a sense of community, improve outdoor activity opportunities, and positively influence tourism in the area.

----



I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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N/a

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KEep the land as natural as possible stop putting in zip lines and other human things that just become trash dumps.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Going through picturesque towns, woodlots, and farmlands it will attract tourism. Being near the end of right of way purchased by Jackson Co. that includes the right to operate trains on it, it will be easily accessed from the west end.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Adding this trail to the state park system can only enhance the value of the system as a whole. The KATY trail has provided ample evidence of the desire/need for an extensive trail system.

----

Leave them alone!!! They are for the citizens!!!

----

We need to keep as many green places green as possible! Humans have assaulted Nature beyond forgiveness, we need to fix what we can on every scale.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

Cost of bridge replacement

----

Missouri Parks should accept the Rock Island land offer

----

Sounds like a great offer to create another trail like the Katy Trail.

----

Emergency contact stations at intervals

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. I am avid cyclist fro reaction and commuting. We need to take advantage of every opportunity to provide more options for people to exercise.

----

The Katy Trail is one of the best Missouri state parks. It is accessible to people with a wide range of ages and abilities and is host to a range of wonderful events. I urge the the Missouri State Parks system to accept the donation of the Rock Island Line Corridor.

----

As a user of the Katy Trail, I am struck by the number of tourists of all ages from out of state that I meet. This highly accessible trail draws visitors and tourist dollars from around the country. The Katy is a gem and we should not pass up the opportunity to add another to Missouri's crown. I urge the the

Missouri State Parks system to accept the donation of the Rock Island Line Corridor.

----

As a user of the Katy Trail, I am struck by the number of tourists of all ages from out of state that I meet. This highly accessible trail draws visitors and tourist dollars from around the country. The Katy is a gem and we should not pass up the opportunity to add another to Missouri's crown. I urge the the Missouri State Parks system to accept the donation of the Rock Island Line Corridor.

----

Use the Katy Trail State Park as a guide/reference. What were the thoughts and/or concerns when that trail was proposed? Did it create a positive economic impact? Can the Rock Island Trail emulate the Katy Trail's success?

----

The State of Missouri must accept this donation. The success of other rails to trails programs in the state should show this is a very good thing for the economic development of the area surrounded by the trail.

----

That there a very few opportunities to make an contiguous road/trail with out eminent domain abuse of government, because the Road had ben there a long time...

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

I absolutely believe that Missouri should accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail to the State of Missouri, and I urge you to do so.

----

Private investors just aren't there these days. The common welfare interest mandates public minded officials take the initiative. Recreational resources are important. A trail is the least costly one, and it has secondary utility in Dept of Public Defense EOC contingency plans such as the Nuclear Attack Contingency Basic plan.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. The cross-state Katy trail is a huge success, drawing tourists from around the country. This trail will only add to that, bringing more people to the state, and to communities along the trail. This will make Missouri proud!

----

The land comes to the State of Missouri as a donation - take it!

----

I urge you to accept this trail. Missouri residents have always utilized all the parks and outdoor recreation areas, It would provide family memories for years.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. The uniqueness of our state and its parks.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

I appreciate the gift of the Rock Island Line Corridor and urge the Missouri State Parks to accept this gift.

----

This would be the best thing to happen to Missouri since the KATY trail!! Please get this done. It will be an amazing boost to local economies.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

Please accept this gift...it's a great thing.

----

No

----

Maintaining the transportation corridor for unforeseen future needs.

----

Please accept this donation.

----

You can never have too many recreational outdoor parks. Exercise and time in nature are so very important for our physical and mental well being.

----

Bikeway parks less costly and have more visitors than do the dam creating lakes projects.

----

Outdoor activities and the natural landscape are two of the biggest reasons people choose to relocate to our state. Creating and maintaining unique spaces like this is critical to keep us attractive and viable as a great place to live.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail and continue to expand its holdings of rail-to-trail parklands.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

Pride in having one of the longest (if not the longest when combined with the Katy Trail) rails to trails in the country. Other states will look to MO as an example.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Missouri needs to catch up with the rest of the progressive world in environmental awareness.

----

I sincerely believe that every mile of RR that becomes abandoned should transfer into the State Parks program for current & future development/preservation. As our population

continues its growth (Columbia, MO, is 6 times bigger than when I was born! i.e. 20K > 120K) we would be forever thankful for these avenues of escape back into nature & physical fitness....not to mention the Air B&B opportunity to meet folks from around this country, & the world! (Their maintenance could even be performed by inmates from the prison system?)

----

Of course the state should acquire this in the very limited time to acquire this property as a gift. I watched the Katy trail become a park and used it hundreds of times and brought international visitors to join me there. Missouri is lucky to have such resources.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

NO state and community collaboration.

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No

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Tourism

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail.

----

No

----

Missouri needs to maintain its status as a leader in parks and conservation. One way to do so is increase our access to trails. Iowa has incredible numbers of trails. The Rock Island trail provides a great opportunity to add value to the state.

----

Impact on native wildlife

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

Recreational Opportunities

----

As a user of the Katy Trail, I am struck by the number of tourists of all ages from out of state that I meet. This highly accessible trail draws visitors and tourist dollars from around the country. The Katy is a gem and we should not pass up the opportunity to add another to Missouri's crown. I urge the the Missouri State Parks system to accept the donation of the Rock Island Line Corridor.

----

I think this is a great opportunity for people to embrace the outdoors and get more exercise. It would also provide a green corridor for the environment and provide cleaner air and green space. It would be good for the parks and bring more tourism to the whole area economically. Restaurants, retail stores and grocery stores would also benefit. I think its wonderful that Ameren wants to donate this space.

----

Esthetics of preserving & repurposing areas even if they were interrupted - a right way to think

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. The land is being donated. I feel the state can include this park in its maintenance program without undue additional cost.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. It would allow both tourists and Missourians alike to enjoy more of this beautiful state.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Working with the Conservation Leadership Corp, as well as the Conservation Federation of Missouri, has opened this topic of debate for me on more than one occasion. I may be viewed as slightly biased, due to my career with the State Parks, but I have never been scared to voice opposition to wasteful spending. In my opinion, this is not that. The Rock Island Trail will be utilized by outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and in comparison to other recent acquisitions, will be worth our taxpayer dollars.

----

I would think analyzing the public use of the KT Trail would help indicate the usefulness of this new trail proposition.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. This is such an exciting gift, that people from all over the Midwest will enjoy!

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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Safety of using it, provide tamper proof live camera's off policing.

----

Missouri needs more bike trails that are friendly for all people.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

Yes, please keep an eye to the future and how people are wanting other modes of transportation that get them out into nature; provides personal healthful benefits, benefits for the environment as less fossil fuels are consumed, and a greater economic impact for the communities through which it will pass.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Expanding accessibility to safe trails provides economic benefits to the adjacent communities and fosters physical and mental wellness for all who utilize and discover these jewels.

----

Impact on wildlife corridors and habitat

----

This is a great opportunity to create a loop trail with the Katy trail and make Missouri a cycling destination, improving the economy of small towns adjacent to the trail.

----

no

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Maybe put more small parking lots next to the trail with public bathrooms for pick up/drop off points.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. I believe it is important for the local economy and to provide recreational opportunities.

----

Please accept the donation of rock island

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Parks are important to the quality of life in Missouri.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Why would we not, want another state park...

Thank You

----

The people of Missouri will get a enormous benefit from the use of this trail. It will provide opportunities for Missourians to enjoy the nature and beauty of our State. I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

We Need the Rock Island Trail

----

affect on the surrounding properties, flora, fauna, indigenous lives that depend on the corridor for access to other food opportunities and territory for those who need it.

----

No

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Environmental impact and climate change impact

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Speaking for myself, I would love another trail in Missouri. Having more trails would lead to further economic development.

----

More bike trails ....

----

I urge the state of Missouri to accept the donation of Rock Island Trail.

----

This is a wonderful opportunity to increase the State Park system for the benefit of Missourians. Please accept the donation of the Rock Island Line from Ameren. This will be such an asset to our state.

----

No

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. This is a wonderful opportunity to increase opportunities for hiking and biking without having to buy the real estate. Sincerely,

----

Please accept the donation of the Rock Island trail.

----

MO

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the Donation of the Rock Island Trail. The more opportunities the citizens of Missouri and the USA have to explore the country side, either on foot or bikes the better. Please don't pass up this opportunity

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. This will be a good addition to the great natural recreation activities we have in Missouri that also has a historical aspect. Tourism to Missouri, small towns in particular, will increase.

----

I support the addition of the Rock Island Line Park. This will create additions economic development and recreational opportunities throughout the adjacent areas.

----

I think that this should be considered! The Katy trail has had success and this could too.

----

connectivity to other bike trails and state parks and natural areas.

----

Accept the gift and develop it as a park parallel to the trail for all citizens if the state to enjoy!!!

----

The "no cost" acquisition of the Rock Island Line Corridor.

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It should serve as a trail which is as natural as possible.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail! This is a great opportunity to expand our trail system for minimal cost!

----

Would be especially cool to minimize roadbed improvement and maximize trail access for easy length hikes.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. It would be fantastic for Missouri and make our state a leader in bike/walking trails.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. I think we should continue adding state parks and protecting land that future generations can appreciate as well. Outdoor activities need to be increased and this is a perfect way to do that.

----

Please accept this gift to the state. It will pay off in recreational opportunities, positive economic impacts to adjacent landowners and small towns/ villages and is an awesome opportunity to the parks system.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail.

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??

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No

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Missouri's most valuable asset is its wild and accessible public lands. Without them we'd be Kansas or Nebraska instead of a garden paradise.

----

Missouri residents overwhelmingly want this bike trail.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. I think it would beautify the region, increase tourism across the state of Missouri, and promote good health and exercise for Missourians as well as out of state visitors.

----

Public health.

----

Like the Katy Trail, this trail would offer another opportunity for residents and tourists to experience the beauties of MO.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

Please accept the donation of the Missouri Rock Island Corridor.

----

Long-term opportunity to build infrastructure that supports community-wide exploration of the great outdoors.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

We believe that the Rock Island Corridor is a great opportunity for the state. We have enjoyed the Katy Trail on several occasions and look forward to this addition. The findings of the field team showed that the corridor is already

being used by locals for recreation. Preserving and promoting this as an opportunity for the entire state would be a good investment in Missouri's future. Full development does not have to be immediate. Demonstrating a plan and a commitment to preserving this feature of our state is key. Please decide to preserve the Rock Island corridor as another trail system for the state of Missouri. Demonstrating a commitment to preservation at the state level would help to bolster confidence for funding more of the project outside of the state's limited resources. Thank you!

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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no

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

This opportunity will only happen once and we need to take advantage of it

----

Keep in mind people from other countries come to ride the Katy Trail. Having the Rock Island Line Corridor connect to the Katy Trail will be an asset to the state of Missouri

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. My family and I live near the KT and MKT trail, and we use it often. It helps my children appreciate nature, and if children in nature, how will they know what they are missing, and what will they do to protect it? Please accept the Rock Island Trail as another addition to Missouri's beauty, so we all can learn what value nature has for us all.

----

No!

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How trails such as this can be used to improve the health of Missouri's citizens

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. I regularly use the current Katy Trail for recreation. I think the Katy Trail is a jewel. The addition of the Rock Island Corridor will add to the national reputation of Missouri for recreational cycling, hiking and camping.

----

We highly encourage the State of Missouri to ACCEPT the donation of the Rock Island Trail to our state system of trails! Thank you.

----

This is an opportunity of a lifetime, free to accept and usable as it is now between bridges. The trail will be great for communities and provide a non motorized alternative to the main highway within and between towns. It will have a good economic impact. No-brainer.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Missouri scenic railways are extremely beautiful and converted this old railway to a State Park would draw people near and far to run, bike, and hike this area.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

Believe this the trail would be a wonderful addition to the States trail systems.

----

Maintenance of different species of birds, mammals, reptiles and other animals native to the region.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

Don't miss this opportunity! We the people want this land that was given to the people! Don't throw it away.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail

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urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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No

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Many citizens of MO value the outdoors, and value trails!

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail.

----

Yes, don't lose this opportunity to enlarge our park system and in particular hiking and biking trails. I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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No

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The trail would be transformed into a scenic walking and biking trail that would increase tourism and benefit the small towns it connects. It would also be an environmentally friendly use for this former railway and bring more opportunities for families to enjoy beautiful Missouri. Ameren Missouri wants to donate this trail to the state, and we just need to accept it! I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

Environmental disruption

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Thank you!

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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I urge the state of Missouri to accept the donation of Rock Island Trail. The Katy trail has brought such joy, community, and economic development that this trail could offer similar opportunities to new places and communities.

----

If it can be developed like the KATY Trail it will be a great place to bike or walk.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

I believe there is a demand for the Rock Island Corridor, and based on the success of the Katy and Frisco trails, this would be a good addition.

----

How is this going to effect watersheds and environmental impacts.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Consider the success of the Katy Trail as a model for how communities can benefit with few to no downsides to adjacent landowners. It will be a blessing to the state and the communities along it.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. We love having more places to walk and bike to enjoy our beloved Missouri environment.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

Environmental impacts with any changes/additions being considered.

----

State of MO. should accept this donation of the Rock Island Line Corridor. I would add to the quality of life for Missourians for generations to come, as well as providing an economic boost for adjacent small communities

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

We should preserve the corridor for future transportation/transmission/wildlife-corridor projects. Once broken up it would be hard to reassemble. What a nice, straight line for high speed rail!

----

Impact on the environment.

----

Not for the moment

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. It is a good use of my taxes to provide a legacy for all our grandchildren.

----

access and hygiene facilities

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail.

----

Katy Trail has proved it value and o/m costs are within very reasonable limits for the amount of use. Let's set the example of what a trail state is.

----

The trail would help make Missouri citizens healthier by making a great walking/biking trail accessible to more people.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. I love riding the Katy Trail and feel it is a state treasure.

----

The Katy trail is great for Mo and the Rock Island Trail will be just as beneficial. It is a really good use of my tax money. People can enjoy the trail without spending a lot of money.

----

I'm not really sure, but some other factor could be looked into by someone who knows the ins and outs of a state park.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. People who spend time out in nature are healthier and happier!

----

No

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Missouri is a lovely state that needs more parks.

----

Yes, please accept the land grant before this opportunity runs out. We can find a way to fund it if we have it. Look at the great attractions the Katy Trail has provided, even saving some towns from dying away. Do not let this opportunity go to waste.

----

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and the people of Missouri deserve to have a prime example of state parks to attract tourism and business.

----

My family visits numerous state parks across Missouri throughout the year. We love our experiences we have in the Missouri outdoors Adding another park would only enhance Missouri's amazing network of parks. I would suggest that when developing rock island park that rustic campsites be added along the route so hikers and bikers could complete overnight multi day trips in Missouri wilderness.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail. Thank you!

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. I live within 3 miles of one end of the trail, and I want to be able to hike and bike this trail as part of the Missouri parks system.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail.

----

I would like to see this happen. Please accept this donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Trees and nature provide so many benefits! Clean air, relaxation opportunities (it's been clinically proven that seeing and smelling trees lowers blood pressure and stress hormones!), stops erosion, draws clouds and rain to the area, provides resting places for migrating birds, so much more!!!

----

The Katy has made such a positive social/economic impact on the communities it serves. Please bring these improvements to those of us on the Rock Island corridor! Let's make Missouri the vacation hub!!!

----

I strongly encourage the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. This is a wonderful, one-time opportunity to create a great recreational opportunity for our state.

----

Please accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. As an avid biker and user of state parks, I believe additional opportunities such as this, the Ozark Trail, and the Katy Trail systems continue to bring people to the state of Missouri.

----

[REDACTED]

----

What a wonderful gift to the people and the State of Missouri! The positive recreational and economic impact would greatly outweigh the costs of development.

----

This is a wonderful opportunity the state needs to take advantage of. We've seen what an economic and environmental success the Katy trail has been. It will be a disappointing loss for Missouri citizens and the mid-west as a whole if this recreational opportunity is not realized. Missouri Master Naturalist chapters seek out opportunities to support our state parks and the DNR. There are chapters in Franklin County (Miramigoua Chapter), Rolla (Meramec Hills), Lake of the Ozarks Chapter, Benton County (Hi Lonesome), Kansas City (Osage Trails). These chapters could supply hundreds of volunteer hours in trail maintenance. Thanks for reading this.

----

There is never too much land preserved.

----

I strongly support this project but the Rock Island spur southeast of Pleasant Hill is is very dangerous and must be completed before this. The next most important should be the portion through Raytown, MO. Thank you!

----

There must be a compromise between both parties. If each would meet each other half way.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Having this trail available offers people a chance to see a beautiful part of Missouri that would be otherwise difficult to access. It would provide business opportunities to the small towns that used to thrive along the old railway.

----

Connecting Kansas City with St. Louis through a state park would be an incredible attraction for the state of Missouri, along with providing wonderful biking and hiking trails to individuals across the state.

----

I strongly urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail and develop it for recreational opportunities.

----

The fact that the corridor already exists.

----

Impact on animals in the area

----

"I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail." Missouri has an enviable collection of state parks that are of huge benefit to citizens and a draw for tourism. Any opportunity to maintain, enhance, or increase the value of the natural treasure should never be passed up. Yes, I am willing to provide additional tax revenue or fees to natural resources where that is necessary, if that is the issue. It is what we receive for what we pay that is most important.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail.

----

I urge the state of MO to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

I believ paving a trail like this would attract even more use by cyclists! I would ride the Katy every year if it were paved.

----

Environmental impact

----

This is a great opportunity to expand the Missouri trail system, opening a beautiful part of the state to hiking and biking. It would benefit small towns in the center of the state and make excellent use of a former rail line.

----

Impact on overall health of citizens and tourism draw that would benefit local and state economies.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

The Katy has proved its value to the state economically and recreationally for years. This additional opportunity is a no brainer.

----

This is an incredible opportunity for Missouri tourism!

----

We just need to do it.

----

Our state could have National recognition for its fabulous parks and recreational areas. It could bring bikers from throughout the world to our area and have a significant impact economically.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. We need to preserve as much green space as possible. This would be a great opportunity to allow residents to enjoy this green space for years to come.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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My wife and I love the trails of Missouri. Please help protect and establish this trail for us and those who will come after us! Let's keep Missouri beautiful and make it more beautiful for the future!

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail.

----

I believe that this is a very beautiful part of the state and will bring more tourism to the area.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail.

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no

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I strongly urge the state of Missouri to accept the donation of land for the Rock Island Trail. I personally would love to see how the additional recreational trails will benefit the lives of Missourians.

----

We retired here from California state and one of the important factors was proximity to the KATY trail. I strongly urge the acceptance of the Rock Island line based on the value it will create for our state.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. What a great opportunity for our state! Thank you!

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

You should accept the donation of the land. It has a great potential for recreation and local economic development.

----

Mo becoming the first state to have a bike trail across the whole state

----

This addition would be an asset to the state by bringing in more tourism and dollars. Having more natural areas would also add to the beauty of Missouri.

----

First to have an across the state trail

----

I use all the parks in my region and really appreciate the opportunity to add my voice in support of this new project. I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

Look at your own data. The Katy Trail is a regional draw and resource. This a low maintenance project with regional potential. Accept the gift from Ameren.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Like the Katy Trail I feel this would be a terrific addition to the State Parks and make Missouri a more desirable place to live and/or visit.

----

na

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You do not get a second shot at this - cross-country easements are protected or they are gone forever - not embracing this opportunity would be a betrayal of the public trust. I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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No

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Public health

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Preserving wildlife corridors and supporting spaces that improve ecological balance

----

Development of the Katy Trail for possible eco-tourism could help spark the economy in the towns along its corridor and should be considered. Cyclists, campers, hikers and bird watchers could bring income to the small communities without disrupting the peace and the habitat, a real win/win for everyone.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. This is a great use of the land and has a lower impact on the environment in MO.



----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail and make rail-to-trail our state's legacy.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Our state has beautiful state parks--I've visited all of them during the centennial anniversary. This would be a great addition to our park system!

----

Please accept the rock island trail donation. More recreational opportunities and preservation of our beautiful natural resources is good for Missouri.

----

Benefit to the environment to have additional protected outdoor space.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

please accept the donation of the rock island corridor for public use. this is a wonderful opportunity to increase our recreational green space. thank you for considering.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

I urge you to accept the Rock Island Line donation for its environmentally friendly recreation and tourism potential and its ability to connect communities along the trail. Thank you.

----

Reputation of the state Tourism's economic impact in the state generally Conservation of habitat for birds and animals and plant life Promotion of eco- consciousness among Missouri residents Not least, citizen gratitude to our State Parks leadership

----

The future of maintaining open space and natural opportunities for our children's children's children.

----

Environmental Cleanup surrounding the trail.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. My husband and I really enjoy the KATY trail and know that people from all over the country come to enjoy it

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. The Katy Trail has been very successful, and another trail will provide Missouri residents and visitors with opportunities to enjoy even more of our state's natural beauty.

----

In a world where we are losing species at an alarming rate, air is becoming toxic, and much of what our "leaders" have done has impacted us all negatively, it is our duty to preserve what we have left.

----

I urge the state of Missouri to accept and develop the Rock Island Corridor. With the ability to cycle from St Louis to Kansas City would attract hundreds or thousands of cyclists and tour groups to Missouri.

----

This is an incredible opportunity to save a long stretch of land for preservation. It should not be missed.

----

If we ever decide to go back to rail transportation, we would have this land available.

----

Clear mark private property so to not forget landowners, and I cross the rock island at Barnett, Missouri, and it is an eyesore, what a wonderful opportunity for the State and people

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

Opportunities for a growing segment of bikers and hikers. Healthful recreation. Fights against rampant materialism & consumerism.

----

I live near Belle, Mo. This would be a great use of an old rail road right of way and would really be a boost to these old railroad towns.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. What an amazing opportunity for all of us!!

----

It would provide an extensive trail to bikers in the Kansas City area.

----

Preserve the indigenous animal and plant life.

----

The more Parks the better for Missouri....preventing deforestation for farms, suburbs, bringing more people to enjoy the beauty....

----

We need CONNECTED wild areas for the enhancement of habitat for birds, native plants and butterflies.

----

I'm originally from Arizona where numerous historic railways have been transformed into hiking/biking trails. Not only is it good for locals but they tend to attract tourists to the area.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

National image of our state San be improved.

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No

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Increased tourism

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Interesting recreational opportunities enhance the health of Missourians and make us a more attractive state.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. This additional Biking trail definitely would increase tourism and benefit the small communities it connects. Its a must!

----

More RV opportunities, concrete pads, water, electric, and sewer connections.

----

We should always consider the land and wild life, it's their home to and we are responsible for the care of both, also i don't think this should effect other parks, we need to take care of them all

----

This is a beautiful gift to us Missourians as well as all the citizens of our great country. A once in a lifetime opportunity

----

Please accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail to be put to this positive use. Failure to take advantage of this offer will leave that acreage "loose" for a use that may not have such a positive effect on our state.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail.

----

Our children need it

----

Just get it!!!

----

Like the Katy, the preservation of this trail is a wonderful asset to Missouri. It will promote tourism, and expand the opportunities of the state.

----

urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. I have been an ongoing user and advocate of the Katy Trail since it's inception 25+ years ago. I believe the recreational and economic opportunities it provides for the state are invaluable. I feel the Rock Island line would have the same positive impact.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

no

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We need to preserve as much land as possible for use by the public. This becomes more important with urbanization. I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

Keep this trail alive!

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. MO has some of the best state parks in the country. This would help the small communities stay alive.

----

Importance of parks in general to future generations. We need more parks.

----

Environmental corridors for wildlife.

----

Let's do this!

----

Hazardous material in rail line

----

Any donation to parks should be accepted.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail!

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

it would be a more direct link from Kansas City to St Louis than the Katy Trail

----

As information I personally seen te area near Columbia, Mo. the benefit of the bike trail and the economic benefit, locally to the area. Also I was roadmaster for the Santa Fe when they were involved with the RI line in Both MO and Kansas

----

Studies have shown green space is very helpful to mental well-being and provides a venue for free family/individual activities.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. I know what a positive impact the Katy Trail has had to small businesses along it's route and believe that the Rock Island Trail will have a similar pisitive impace in the towns the railroad forgot.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

Please be patient and willing to negotiate with those that may not be entirely happy with the idea. Even perhaps rerouting if it comes to it

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

We need to move on it soon opportunity for people to exercise and improve health encourage tourism from out of state have races and other events based on Katy trail and rock island trail

----

Over 50 years my family has used MO State Parks, and we consider them a unique resource. The Rock Island Line Corridor seems an opportunity to obtain a new type of resource, and one that could be enjoyed by the whole family, and by small towns along the way. I urge the state of accept this offered gift to add to the existing excellent MO Park system.

----

The economic impact I'll tens of thousands of visitors, many from out of state will have on the local economies.

----

Impact on wildlife.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail - more tourism and healthier MO for all us!

----

Security - while most people carry cell phones with them, it would be good to have 9-1-1 dedicated phones. and don't forget many trashcans to make it easy for people to dispose of trash...recycle bins, too

----

Continue to get citizens involved and active!

----

I urge Missouri to accept this donation. I think another state park would increase tourism and benefit all the smaller towns it would connect.

----

I urge Missouri State Parks to accept the gift of the Rock Island Line Corridor.

----

Please accept the donation of the the Rock Island corridor. Thank you!

----

The health benefit to people that live near the trail. I use the Katy Trail often and many times I see families who live adjacent to the trail walking or biking daily.

----

Our grand kids need every opportunity for an optimal state park program.

----

Cycling trails have proven to be huge additions to a states tourism and to their economies.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. I have ridden my bike completely across the Katy trail twice now and ride a chunk of it casually. Having another trail like it in missouri would be a absolutely wonderful.

----

Maintenance and safety

----

na

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No.

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The health & affordable exercise opportunities of the residents of MO

----

Keep politics out of this endeavor.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

Missouri State Parks should learn from the example of the Katy Trail that this sort of park would be very successful both for providing high quality recreation as well as local economic development.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. The Katy trail "works." So can a Rock Island Trail.

----

All existing MO State Parks need upgrades/improvements. Some parks are in need of funds to improve ALL sites, interior roads, electrical upgrades ie Meramec State Park. This heavily used park could look as good as Echo Bluff. Other parks have unmet improvement requests. Existing parks deserve to have first class facilities. When those funds are set then add this new trail. Yes, bike trails have a place in the state system but the "use" numbers would indicate established parks have overwhelmingly bet biker usage.

----

Protection of the people , animals and environment on using the trail

----

urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail.

----

The old Rock Island railroad is a historic line and being able to save the trail it took would be beneficial to a lot of folks. My Grandfather worked on that line in the 30s. Imagine walking the same route my grandfather road for work daily, same places and sights. Other Missourians and Kansas folk have history with that railway. It would bring in others to hike the trail and help communities along the way. People will experience part of our beautiful state and outdoor fitness is huge now.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail.

----

It would be a wonderful addition to the Katy trail. Please accept the addition of this trail!

----

Would it be competition to the Katy Trail or just offer a choice?

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail

----

I encourage the Missouri State Parks to accept the gift of land from Ameren UE.

----

As our population is increasingly urban, projects like this park proposal provide ways to connect urban communities to rural ones: this is a critical divide: breaking down barriers is essential to our polity.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

Well don't China or Japan own all our other parks and more ect. It would be great to keep one. It would be good for the town's round it another way to get the am.pl up out and moving to stay healthy

----

Even if there are no immediate plans or funding for maintenance and park facilities on Rock Island Corridor, the state should acquire the land for future use.

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MO

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I strongly encourage the Missouri State Parks to accept the donation of the Rock Island Line Corridor.

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As population grows in the future our opportunity to preserve parkland will decrease and become more expensive.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Missouri's State Parks bring a lot of tourists and income to our state. We love using Katy Trail state Park

----

Restricting the trail from use by off-road vehicles and motorized bikes.

----

This park would be an excellent addition to the existing set of trail networks and would provide a beautiful space for recreation for families in the area as well as a draw for visitors. I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

the benefits to the health of Missouri citizens by using this proposed trail

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Place clean drinking water sources at strategic points along the trail.

----

I fully support the Rock Island Line Corridor. This needs to become a reality.

----

This is a least cost option to seize an opportunity to enhance our state. Please don't hide behind maintenance costs of a park the whole state can enjoy. Missouri needs this.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

I urge you to accept the donation to be turned into a new state park. I live in the St Charles area and I've seen the benefits of the Katy Trail to our area.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail.

----

Yes! I have biked the Rock Island Trail & it is fun! It connects KC & other towns to the Katy Trail which is important for bicycle tourists. I've biked Katy Trail too & it is one of the top most popular rail trails in the USA & world. The bike trails bring visitors to MO.

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No

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

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I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail.

----

Missouri is very unusual state with many areas still sufficiently natural to allow some contact of humanity with nature. The ancient geography of Missouri has yet to be fully understood or appreciated. I support full and complete protection of very Missouri State Park and hope that additional parks will be added to the system.

----

I urge the State of Missouri to accept the donation of the Rock Island Trail. Increase your impact by adding a personal comment about why you support the Rock Island Trail.

----

No

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Completing this project will make Missouri a huge draw for gravel riding. The cycling world has seen a huge shift away from traditional road or mountain riding and toward long rides on gravel roads and trails. The Katy Trail is already a popular destination for such rides but the addition of the Rock Island line will create the potential for simple, extended rides that cyclists are hungry for. Bike packing and gravel riding bring tourism to small communities with high economic benefit but low impact on the communities themselves. This type of cycling will continue to grow and Missouri is positioned to be a uniquely desirable destination for riders across the Midwest and the nation. Let's make it happen. Fund the Rock Island trail!

----

I live in South Dakota. We drive down to MO for a long weekend to ride 140 miles of the Katy trail. I would likely do the same if you open up the Rock Island Trail.

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No

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International significance of trail combination of Rock Island Trail and Katy Trail

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Look at the success of the KATY . Combining these two would bring more cyclist from all over the world, which means they are spending money in Missouri. Concerns with local land owners could be worked out and maintenance cost can be from state and nonprofits.

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No

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None. Looks like all my considerations and concerns are planned for already.

----

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. This is a great way to put MO a cyclists tourist attraction.

----

Tourism opportunities- this seems like a great way to see your state!

----

I came from out of state to ride the KATY, and will do the same Rock Island Line.

----

The great benefits of a healthy environment that promotes walking and hiking and biking and spending time with friends and family.

----

They should look to their neighbors to the north, the state of Iowa, to see the positive economic impact that embracing cycling and how giving cyclists opportunities to explore their state provides a huge economic impact to towns and businesses associated with the trails.

----

This will be an economic boom for the state

----

Give people another fantastic way to cross the state, and also be healthy, happy, and active as well!!!

----

Benefit of healthier Missourians,

----

Future opportunity to connect with KATY trail to complete a world class bicycle loop that will attract riders nationally and internationally.

----

The Rock Island trail would connect one of Missouri's greatest attractions (the Katy Trail) to an additional 144 miles of trail. The boost to tourism and the preservation of Missouri heritage cannot be understated. Many other states do not have such resources at their disposal to create a world class attraction and the Rock Island Trail is a key differentiator for Missouri's natural appeal. If the state has qualms over funding, it might be worth considering a minimal entrance fee of \$0.25 to \$1.00 per visit which would pay most of the cost to maintain the park.

----

Please consider the outstanding positive impact that the Katy Trail has had for local small business, as well as Trail users from around the country and worldwide.

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Trying to link all these trails should be the goal.

----

In October of 2018, I and several friends from Saint Louis just completed walking the Katy Trail from Machen, MO to Clinton, MO. It took 9 weekends spread over 2.5 years. On average each weekend involved overnight stays in 2-3 Missouri towns along the trail. Over the course of the trip we stayed in ~20 hotels/bed&breakfasts and ate a meal in 30+

different locations. We made it a point to support the local community as we hiked through. A conservative estimate would be that we spent \$3000-4000 over the course of our "adventure". Without the Katy trail, I doubt we ever would have stopped in these rural communities much less patronized a store other than the local gas station. The interstate system makes it too easy to cruise by these towns. The Katy trail serves as a unique conduit that benefits and connects the metropolitan and the rural communities of Missouri and I am proud that we have this unique Park in our state. The trail showcases the beauty and natural diversity of Missouri to visitors from all over. I am well aware that accepting the Rock Island Line Corridor as a gift from Ameren will add to the MoDNR budget. But I think the health benefits for the citizens of Missouri are tangible benefit. Further, the trip taken on the Katy Trail by my friends and I demonstrates that this investment will return dollars to communities along the trail. If MoDNR sets up the trail, I know we are ready to walk it!

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The trail/rail-line will decay into total disrepair and blight unless used for some other purpose. There is no usage better suited for this old train line.

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No.

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We absolutely need more biking trails!!

----

This will be great economic boom for communities, good for the health of Missourians, and another arrow in the quiver for Missouri tourism.

----

Other States are developing rail - trails to rival KATY, we need to keep MO out front, lest we lose the tourism

----

I think you should consider all the prior responses to the Rock Island survey. I'm not sure why we need another survey with a single question on it, and a narrowly worded question at that. The question responses are negative and cost related. This misses the huge health benefit, and the character of tourism that the trail would bring. Because this trail would go through so many small towns, the benefits, it seems to me, would be far greater than the Katy. And the natural and rail-era attractions along the Rock Island will be a strong draw for people outside of Missouri. I attended one of the Parks Dept meetings, and I have to say this survey is reflective of the department's posture toward the trail, almost as if the department itself does not support the trail. The discussion was very money focused, and while money is certainly a factor in trail development, it should not be a factor in the acceptance of the gift by the state. I do believe that the financial resources will be there, whether from federal grants, legislated budget, sales tax, or private philanthropic sources. However, the state must accept the gift before any of this can move forward. Citizens have a will that this project should be supported, and the department should honor that! I have been in touch will all my representatives and state senators to express my support of the trail, and also to ask for their support of legislative funding solutions for trail development.

----

The economic opportunities that these trails bring to parts of rural Missouri is outstanding and is greatly needed to help boost the rural economies.

----

This is a critical recreational opportunity that links some small communities.

----

accept this line

----

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. - Please preserve the entire corridor whole, complete, and intact for the future. - It would be wise to develop the trail section-by-section over time. -I support preserving the corridor intact now and building the trail over time as funding becomes available. -State Parks should accept and manage the corridor--but should look creatively to outside funding and resources to build and develop the trail. -The trail doesn't need to be built to "Cadillac" levels and it is OK to develop the trail section-by-section over time.

----

This trail would be a great economic opportunity for many small businesses & communities along the corridor.

----

Not really it would be a good idea to put it to use been abandon for some time now

----

This would make a great connecting trail to the Katy Trail and thus connecting St. Charles to Kansas City. On a personal note it would also connect my current home with my childhood hometown via some of the most scenic areas of Missouri. It will provide a much needed boost those local economies. Please make this happen. Thank you.

----

No

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Yes, preserving our history and using these sites to further our society!

----

Please keep the entire Rock Island Line across the State!!!

----

No

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Great opportunity for another landmark in our wonderful state and community

----

There are not as many parks and trails as you would see in the cities and more populated areas...

----

Expanding the KATY trail

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Long-term business impact on the small communities on the trail. This trail could truly help many of these small towns and help build community.

----

The future, let this opportunity pass and generations to come will be deprived of this recreational and financial boon

----

Health impacts should be considered as part of Community impact.

----

I feel that this is a unique opportunity to add the entire corridor to the park system providing great economic, recreational, and potential health benefits and urge acceptance of the entire corridor.

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No

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I believe including the rock island corridor in the katy trail loop will benefit the Missouri state parks. My family loves riding the Katy trail and I feel that adding to the rock island trail will bring even more riders.

----

The time to plan for the future is now. Rural areas need economic growth.

----

The enormous economic impact this project will have on the state of Missouri and all the towns it passes through.

----

no

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The incredible benefits to communities, the entire state and people that come here from all over the world.

----

I live in a small town along the line and feel it will provide economic growth to the rural areas.

----

This would make MO a world class cycling destination!

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Healthier individuals. Convenience to get and stay that way.

----

Positive environmental impact.

----

It is an important addition to Missouri trails. It would provide an important economic windfall to the local economies as well.

----

The impact on recreation, health and society overall are immeasurable. The cost per mile/year seems very inflated. Yes, it costs but the price is worth it. This would impact more than locally users. The Katy attracts users throughout the midwest. This would increase visitor traffic and the economy.

----

Tourism, I go to the KATY year round and I always meet someone from another country visiting this amazing trail

----

I believe this trail will be a great economic boon to the State of Missouri, increasing tourism \$\$ and contributing to the economic and physical health of our communities.

----

They aren't creating any more land. If not accepted the land will not be available to future generations. It seems strange that MO Parks is not accepting a free gift. There are no maintenance requirements. It can sit for decades until a plan

comes to finance. But if it passes into private ownership, the opportunity is passed and will never be reclaimed!

----

Adding the Rock Island Trail to the system of trails we already have (example: Katy Trail) would dramatically enhance the appeal for visitors to bicycle/hike within Missouri and spend their money in our shops and lodging facilities. We have an obesity crisis in Missouri. Providing fun avenues of exercise is crucial to reducing sedentary lifestyle effects that cause heart disease and an entire host of other ailments. Health insurance costs are sky-rocketing--we MUST do whatever we can to reduce the problem: ill health as a result of no exercise and an unhealthy lifestyle. This opportunity to provide connectivity to allow those who cannot drive (or who choose not to drive) a safe facility on which to travel must be chosen now or lost forever.

----

On the financial aspect, it would be great for a benefactor to step forward like was done on the Katy. Developing the least costly sections first would give the best bang for the buck - tunnel sections should fall under this. Most of all, the corridor should be acquired and preserved for future development at the very least. It is a way too nice of route to let it go. Many have also boasted about the economics in rural communities along the Katy and especially Sedalia. The recreational opportunities are obvious as many use the Katy for that purpose. The Katy, as an example, has done the opposite of that which many landowners along the trail feared.

----

Although the Missouri Farm Bureau suggests it would like to keep the line designated for railroad - freight business, that is not an economically valid argument, because if the line were viable, it would not have been abandoned! As for adjacent land owners concerns regarding trail user respect & consideration of their privacy & property along side the corridor, cyclists and pedestrians will not cause or bring a deterioration to the quality of life they currently experience along side the corridor. Although I currently reside in Arkansas, I am a native of Norborne Mo, a graduate of the University of Missouri & a land owner in Carroll County Missouri. I have long, deep ties to the Missouri countryside, its economic development, for agriculture as well as public recreation, and its preservation for future Missourians! Thank you very much for your time and consideration of my thoughts!

----

Consider the great success of the KATY trail by any measure: tourism, economy, local business stimulation, quality of life for communities and in rural areas. You can duplicate this with the Rock Island Corridor. Secure it!

----

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

----

If the trail corridor is not secured now, it will be lost forever. The trail does not need to be developed now by the state. DNR should work with local towns and organizations to develop short (5-10 mile) sections of the trail that could attract tourism and boost local economies.

----

Keep the corridor intact and let State Parks manage it. Develop later as funds are available. Would not need to be as elaborate as the KATY Trail. this is a very positive thing for our state.

----

I hope the long view is taken regarding eventually creating a nice trail here, even if current money is limited.

----

Economic and recreational opportunities are significant. Rail trails are excellent for both plus tourism.

----

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

----

The opportunity it would give more people living south of the Katy to use a trail more often.

----

Accept the donation of the corridor and work with others to develop it.

----

N/A

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Letting horses on the trail

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The opportunity to build a recreational trail with international significance cannot be passed by. Please make it happen.

----

Katy trail and the many spurs bring in visitors as well as support local residents in recreational riding. The opportunity to conserve this land for biking and walking should be a priority --coordinate/advocate inclusion with our other state parks and resources. We meet people from all over the world when we are riding the Katy trail.

----

Providing opportunities for outdoor recreation is vital to this state. The positive sense of community that enhanced outdoor activities provide is both priceless and timeless.

----

This is a spectacular opportunity for tourism and the communities in the area.

----

If you build it, they will come

----

This is an unparalleled opportunity for Missouri. Absolutely the corridor should be accepted into the state park system.

----

We will accept a corridor built over time, to varying standards as funding permits, and with major emphasis on outside funding sources. Better those options than losing the corridor altogether--or breaking the corridor up and losing the chance for a major statewide trail connection forever!

----

This is an investment that will benefit future generations. If Missouri does not take advantage of this opportunity, citizens will one day look back on the decision not to use this land and shake their heads in amazement at the shortsightedness of the decision.

----

All of the facts above are important and it's not useful at this stage to rank them. I noted the favorable letter from the City of Rolla and thought that sections of the trail would provide excellent hands-on experience for the young engineers in training at MS&T in Rolla. Secondly, there are schools through out the State where dozer and road grader operators are taught how to run and maintain heavy equipment. These schools might relish the opportunities presented by the trail, for field practice for their operator students.

----

As someone who lives in one of the small towns that the trail would go through, I urge Missouri State Parks to consider the potential positive impact this trail would have on my community and many others. Please consider the small business men and women who have already come together as a group to make the Rock Island Trail something special to the community. Businesses in Owensville, Missouri have repurposed vintage bicycles and placed them in store fronts as a reminder that we are friendly to trail-goers, and are excited about where the trail could take the community in the future. This trail could bring much needed commerce and economic growth to towns throughout Missouri that are slowly dying out, but are full of people willing to work to keep them alive. This trail would increase exposure to towns off of the beaten path, but still rich in beauty and history. Increased tourism, education on rural Missouri and economic growth should be kept in mind while considering this project.

----

Adopt a trail programs

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Quality of living improvement for many low income communities. Provides transportation and promotes healthy living

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The cost of \$935,156 a year to maintain the Rock Island Corridor is far less than the positive economic benefits and community benefits the corridor would bring to people, towns, and government. The Katy Trail also had the same concerns about cost to maintain and landowners concerns yet after many years now the Katy Trail has provided economic development for small communities and businesses while enhancing recreational opportunities and tourism in Missouri. I live near the proposed corridor and many small towns are in need of economic revitalization as well as many rural residents are in need of places to bike and walk.

----

I support the Rock Island Corridor and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

----

This would increase use and tourism for the Katy trail

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good opportunity for bringing in more tourists and vacationers

----

One can not put a price on preserving recreational opportunities that are accessible to nearly everyone. Also the secondary benefits to making our state attractive to bringing in businesses and other economic/tourism opportunities.

----

It should be preserved now even if development has to slowly be done over time.

----

The importance of investing in recreational greenways in the state of Missouri and the potential for job creation and economic growth.

----

This brings in many people from around the country.

----

I'm not aware of any others.

----

This is a chance to make our state something great! The Katy trail has such a positive impact this would be even better. Don't let this opportunity go by. I just came from Quebec and they have such a network of trails. It would be awesome to have something close to this

----

What a unique opportunity this is, to be able to add to the Katy Trail option.

----

Developing the Rock Island Line Corridor as a rails-to-trails park would make Missouri a destination for bikers and hikers - putting it even more on the map, and drawing people from around the midwest and beyond, and contributing economically and to the state's attractiveness as a place to live and work. It's an exciting opportunity.

----

Tourism, being from Texas and traveling to use the MO biking trails, I have seen the impact on towns like Windsor, MO. It is very positive. The people of MO show themselves in a friendly & welcoming way from all over, even including internationally.

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I just want to mention that I am a strong supporter of the Rock Island Trail and urge MO State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. I rode the Katy Trail for the first time last year (single female) and was SO impressed. I met people from all over the U.S. and even from foreign countries. It was one of the top experiences of my life. To think that Missouri could have another long trail linking to that is just incredible!! It would be world class indeed and would bring worldwide recognition to our state. As I understand it, this is our ONE CHANCE to preserve the corridor intact for future generations. State Parks is the best agency to do that. While State Parks should accept and manage the corridor, I believe that primarily outside funding and resources should be used to build and develop the trail. Many other funding sources are available and should be used to the maximum, so that State Parks is not burdened financially and so that other state parks do not suffer. State



Parks should make the current decision on what is the MINIMUM investment needed in order to preserve the entire corridor now. State Parks can provide that level of investment; a combination of local, private, and grant funds can fill in the rest over time. The trail doesn't need to be built to "Cadillac" levels. It is OK to begin with a basic level of service for the trail and work for higher, more expensive levels if and as funding becomes available over time. Trail riders will get out there and start using it as soon as a portion is ready, so it is okay to develop it trail section-by-section over time. The economic opportunities for towns along the corridor is wonderful. It would highlight a portion of Missouri that many people are not familiar with. This is a UNIQUE opportunity that should not be squandered. If we don't proceed, and proceed with the FULL corridor, I am positive we will regret it. Thank you so much for your consideration!

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This is a tremendous opportunity for us to connect our vast trail systems. I know there are costs involved that may not be in a current budget, but I believe the long term POSITIVE impact it will have on our rural areas is huge.

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It would be a boom to the economies of all the small towns that these tracks go through.

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- The opportunity to acquire a corridor of this size is rare—this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to create an epic resource for the state. - The corridor needs to be protected in its entirety—the benefits it can deliver are dramatically reduced if only sections of the trail are railbanked. Connectivity is key to creating the 450-mile trail system across the state that will serve as an economic driver and a tourism boon. - Partnerships with local towns and nonprofits can create flexible and creative funding for building and maintaining the Rock Island Trail. This work can happen in phases, requiring little upfront cost from the state of Missouri. In fact, the corridor surface is already suitable for horseback riding and mountain bike use—a perfect first phase of the trail. - Communities along the corridor enthusiastically support the trail and the incredible economic and recreational opportunities it will create. What's more, these communities are willing to be active partners in the development and maintenance of the trail, with several already having funds in hand to develop the corridor. - While strong partnerships are essential to the ongoing development and maintenance of the trail, Missouri State Parks is the best organization to manage the trail for the long-term, ensuring continuity in management of trails and parks facilities across the state. - Coupled with the Katy Trail, the Rock Island Trail would create a world-class 450-mile trail system that would bring astounding benefits to the 23 communities along the route.

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I support the creation of the Rock Island Trail. It's an amazing opportunity for the State of Missouri.

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No

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The Katy Trail and other trails have already proven to be huge benefits. The Rock Island will only enhance and add to those benefits.

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preservation of intact corridor.

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PUBLIC COMMENT, RE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I am a long-time user of Missouri State Parks. I am also a beneficiary of Missouri's investment in trails. I have known about the Rock Island Trail, driving by pieces of the rail-line along Highway 50 for many years. Wanting to express my support in person, and learn more about this opportunity for Missouri, I attended the public information meeting held October 30 in Versailles. I talked with state park staff and found many landowners, citizens, and local political officials all in favor. No one that I talked with was opposed. That level of initial public support was not there for the initial development of the KATY Trail. The Rock Island corridor has been sought as a possible rail to trail conversion in Missouri since 1993. Rock Island Trail State Park is featured in the 2016 edition of Missouri State Parks and Historic Sites, Exploring our Legacy running from Pleasant Hill to Clinton, but always conceived as running 144 miles between Pleasant Hill and Beaufort to complete a 400-mile long loop through the best of Missouri. The rail line itself is a unique and time-limited opportunity for Missourians and there is tremendous support to make this opportunity real. The Rock Island Trail State Park is a mature project, much more so than the Katy was at the same point in its development. Missouri State Park staff have asked for a demonstration of financial commitment to make this possible. It turns out that there are many who have either taken action, offered commitments, or made pledges and that list is growing. Communities, landowners, and small businesses have stepped up. • Owner Ameren intends to make the donation of the rail line to Missouri at no cost, and asset of significant value (estimated at \$500,000 per mile that would be \$72 million dollars). • Missouri Rock Island Trail, Inc. has gathered \$600,00 in pledges for construction. • There are 17 small communities located right along the trail. Many would step forward as partners to build the trail through their towns. If just 10 of the small towns contributed development of a mile of trail that would be \$1 million dollars in value. Belle, Owensville, Versailles and Eldon have already made that commitment. • Many of these small towns are likely to contribute maintenance costs as well. That has been estimated at \$6,494 per mile. • Each of these small towns could be approached to contribute toward law enforcement. Working with state park rangers, invaluable resources could be at hand all along the way. • For this trail each of the small towns effectively serve as a trailhead. Rather than have state built and maintained trailhead facilities, these could be absorbed by hotels, restaurants, bed and breakfasts, and local grocery stores already in the business of providing similar informational services. That approach would save or reduce the \$1,500,000 estimated by state park staff. • The overall economic impact would be substantial and placed just where it is needed most, in small, rural communities. Some suggest its economic

impact could be higher than for the Katy Trail (that was estimated at \$18.5 million annually in 2011) with a higher density of development already in place. • Completing the Rock Island Trail with these 144 miles meets statewide recreation goals and enhances the accessibility to health benefits from walking and being outdoors for many more Missouri residents. Missouri has been recognized nationally for its outstanding walking, hiking, biking, horseback riding, and river trails. The agency and Missouri citizens have the experience and vision necessary to turn this exceptional opportunity into another huge success story.

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No

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This is an amazing opportunity to boost local recreational opportunities and to bring in outside visitors to support the businesses along the trail corridor.

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This is a great way to drive tourism to the state and keep small towns along the route thriving.

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This will bring in a huge amount of economic surplus from out of state. Let's not look at this as just an added expense, but a windfall for the economy of central Missouri. One thing to consider is adding a 1% tax to all bed and breakfasts and hotels within a 2-3 mile radius from the trail. This would help fund the trail.

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This trail is something my family and I have dreamed of since I was a small child, long before it was actually planned. We live within 30 minutes of the Katy Trail and along the path of the Rock Island. Losing even a portion of this trail would be devastating. It is such a wonderful opportunity for the state of Missouri. I have fond memories of riding the Katy trail with my father growing up and completing the Rock Island corridor would allow a larger population of Missouri to have similar experiences. With all of the push to create a healthier lifestyle and the increasing addiction to technology, it is important that we consider how this would affect future generations.

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Although it will take years to develop, maybe even decades, now is the ONLY time to preserve the Rock Island corridor for future use. These long-distance trails bring visitors and for the basis for economic development along their lengths. If national parks are the nation's "best idea," then rail-trails come a close second. Don't lose this opportunity.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!! Seize it, and further develop MO trails. Please don't let it pass without providing this park for all generations to come!

----

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge Missouri State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. This is a rare opportunity to preserve the whole, complete, and intact corridor for the future. This is one for our children and grandchildren. Missouri State Parks is by far the best agency to do that. State Parks should accept and manage the corridor--but should look primarily to outside funding and resources to build and develop the trail. State Parks is in the best position to lead the way in developing public/private partnerships to move forward with fundraising and development of the trail corridor over time. Many other funding sources are available and should be used to the maximum. The current decision facing State Parks should consider what is the MINIMUM investment needed from State Parks in order to preserve the entire corridor now. State Parks can provide that level of investment; a combination of local, private, and grant funds can fill in the rest over time. The trail doesn't need to be built to "Cadillac" levels. It is OK to begin with a basic level of service for the trail and work for higher, more expensive levels if and as funding becomes available over time. It is OK to develop the trail section-by-section over time. Open the easier and less expensive sections as soon as possible, but save the more difficult and expensive sections for later as funding is available.

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The ability to acquire a corridor of this magnitude that would have such a positive economical impact on both the state and the towns along the alignment, is such a rare and unique opportunity that has to be taken advantage of. It would be a disservice to the state and the public to let this opportunity pass.

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The corridor is a unique opportunity to retain a contiguous piece of park land, who's impact has already been resolved for the adjacent land owners. It is also a good national security tool, should it be needed.

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This is a great opportunity for Missouri to create some more unique recreational opportunities through communities that could really benefit from the activity. It's a win-win for almost everyone - don't let this great opportunity pass us by!

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Getting it done soon

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a one time opportunity to obtain a rail to trail that does not flood and passes through beautiful Missouri highland/ozarks.

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As a frequent rider, I support development of the Rock Island Bike Trail. I have rode the Pleasant Hill-Windsor segment.

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I strongly support the rock island trail cooridor.

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The money to be made by tourism will ultimately enhance this entire area.

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As an active bicycle tourist and life long Missouri resident this is a unique opportunity to create a world class trail system that I believe will attract tourists from around the country and around the world to our beautiful state.

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The trail doesn't need to be built to "Cadillac" levels. It is OK to begin with a basic level of service for the trail and work for higher, more expensive levels if and as funding becomes available over time.

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The more parks the better. Parks like this help keep that rural Missouri feel.

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this is a once in a life time opportunity..once it's gone..it's likely effectively gone forever

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definitely, the state should take over the corridor

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Yes. this is the one and ONLY chance to preserve this long right of way for future generations. Just save it now, it can be developed later. I have ridden the KATY Trail in Missouri and it is fantastic. This can be great too.

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Oh! Please accept this and preserve it and let us ride bicycles on it! My son was a Scout and the favorite campout was the bicycle one. It would be great to walk, to explore, and as I get older, the ability to bike on a trail makes me feel safer. And I'd love to see more small towns, too!

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No, move forward on the purchase. Everything will fall in place after that.

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Please consider finish this trail. My family is looking forward to it.

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I believe the Rock Island corridor should be preserved now for future use as a trail. Now is the only chance to keep it intact. The state can spend a minimum and need not develop it immediately, but if it is let go now, it is gone forever, for all future generations. I strongly support preserving the Rock Island corridor for future development, whenever private (or public) funds allow for this.

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The Rock Island Trail would be a great addition to the Katy trail. It is important to get people outside and off their couches and this is a safe way to do it.

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We have a wonderful opportunity to provide safe recreation for our citizens. We must take advantage of this gift now.

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Not at this time.

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Best use for the old railway without altering the land.

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The value this would bring to MO and MO state parks in general.

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Tourism brought in by a connected network of multi use trails.

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Helps support an active / healthy lifestyle.

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Preservation of the rural landscape Sustainable maintenance and use

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Just please do it! It would be such a powerful marketing tool for the state of Missouri. Let alone the economic impact for the entire state. As a business owner who has invested a lot of money into Kansas City, it would be amazing if we could have access to such a treasure.

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Once in lifetime opportunity

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Right now DSP is caught in a Catch-22, needing to make a leap of faith in terms of "if you open it, they will come." When the Katy was in the same place, Ted and Pat Jones provided the push. The train towns are not multimillion dollar partners, but they are determined to have something so positive for their local economies. Leap. Say you will do it, and people, having seen the example of the Katy to revive small and dying places will follow through with their local support. My only concern are what are the workarounds for the Gasconade and Osage River bridges. The rest of the system will take care of itself. Remember that almost 80% positive vote for parks and soils taxes? The people are behind you. LEAP NOW!

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete, whole, and intact for the future. This is our chance, and it must be acted upon NOW! The economic impact is an opportunity that must not be passed up.

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The opportunity, in terms of attracting tourists to Missouri, by being able to promote the Rock Island Trail in conjunction with the Katy Trail. To me, this would make Missouri an even more desirable place to visit. Plus, it is huge amenity for those of us that already live in the state.

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It is critical at this juncture that the trail be retained intact with all sections included. Future development and maintenance can be funded by outside sources and dealt with later but once the opportunity is lost to have the uninterrupted Trail section it will never return. We live in Idaho but plan our vacations around trails and they are an important destination to us as tourists.

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Extending State recreation areas when they are available.

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MO need this trail!

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The trail is a well used place that cyclists, equestrians, and hikers enjoy. Why would you WANT to shut it down especially with it only being in use for a couple years?

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The katy trail runs across the state is another katy trail really needed when yo can run other trails that connect to the katy from KC, STL, Springfield, Southeast MO, and Hannibal.

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National status and public appeal, of the combined Rock Island and KATY corridor parks.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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Please save our trails! My 4H horsemanship kids and our Cowboy Church riding group love the trails! They are so beneficial to our rural community!!!

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Acquiring the Rock Island Line Corridor is golden opportunity to create an amazing park that will be treasured forever by thousands of Missouri residents. The park will also bring in significant tourism.

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This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. The infrastructure cost versus economic and quality of life outcome are clearly in favor of making this an absolute state win. I would travel to MO to ride on this corridor.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. Please don't let this opportunity be missed. Thank you

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it could mean more opportunities for our community to get active, fight obesity, bring Tourist spending to the local struggling communities along the trail, as well as a wonderful low environmental impact intercity mode of transportation, and one of the most amazing ways to connect with nature! I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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The value of the opportunity. We must take advantage!

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Monies spent now will benefit generations of Missourians in mental and physical health, attracting quality residents and visitors to our state, and enrich our image nationwide.

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Health of our citizens . Also think about future generations. If the Rock Island corridor is allowed to slip away, this opportunity will be lost forever. Future generations will condemn this loss

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You strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. This is a unique trail that is very valuable. As a resident of KCMO, it's close enough to visit often. I have a lot of fun biking on this trail.

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I support the rock island corridor. Please save it for future generations!!

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It could mean more opportunities for our community to get active, fight obesity, bring Tourist spending to the local struggling communities along the trail, as well as a wonderful low environmental impact intercity mode of transportation, and one of the most amazing ways to connect with nature! I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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The past economic impact of the Katy Trail and the future economic benefits of having a world-class trail system in Missouri

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With obesity on the rise every recreational activity opportunity should be preserved. This trail will also bring more commerce to the local areas along the trail. This is an intercity mode of transportation that is of low impact on the environment.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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I am wholeheartedly in favor of the Rock Island Libe Corridor. I believe the economic benefit will exceed costs over time, develop active tourism along the mend the of the line, and make Missouri a touring cyclist destination.

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I strongly support the development of the Rock Island Trail and urge the Missouri State Parks department to accept the corridor and preserve complete and intact for the future. We have one chance to make this trail possible and its future lies in the hands of Missouri State Parks. A request is not being made for Missouri State Parks to fund the complete building of the trail. There are many organizations that will come to assist with that portion. What is being asked is for Missouri State Parks to take on the task of assisting with on-going management of the trail. Missouri has had great success with the Katy Trail... let us add another great success with making the Rock Island Trail a possibility. [REDACTED]

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Build the trail for all to enjoy nature

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Please consider keeping the entire length of the trail intact. We visit areas that have preserved these parks.

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Please don't let this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity pass us by. After all we are the show me state.

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we need to keep nature a part of our lives. Please make this historic decision. Thank you

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Potential health benefits for families and communities is huge. Anything to encourage and make healthy lifestyles easier is a good thing.

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I support the opening of new state parks in Missouri.

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This is a golden opportunity to acquire an amazing corridor and to provide needed outdoor opportunity to the citizens of Missouri as well as a great economic opportunity for towns near the trail. Please accept the corridor.

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I hope you continue maintains the trail. Starting in June 2019, we are making annual trips to ride the rock island trail.

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Please accept the land before the deadline. Funding for improvement and maintenance can be raised and implemented at any point, and at a painstakingly thorough pace if necessary, but an opportunity to acquire a length of potential trailbed such as this may never again occur in our lifetimes. The Katy Trail, like many other long distance trails in other parts of the country (i.e. Appalachian Trail) has established a firm legacy in the ethos of our state. Even if only a brave few travel its entirety, all neighboring lands and communities benefit from its history, commerce, and the ideals it stands for. We have at our doorstep the potential for another storied trail, to be used by state residents and tourists to our region alike. I have spent all twenty seven years of my life in this great state and when my children or grandchildren have done the same I would hate to look back and tell them of a tremendous opportunity wasted for fear of maintenance costs alone. When will our state ever have another opportunity such as this? Please look beyond the "liability" towards our future's possibility. Thank you for the consideration.

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The opportunity for Missouri to take a unique place as a leader in Rails-to-Trails state parks with two state-crossing routes.

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Awesome tourism opportunity. People want more off road options. The local communities are ready to support this project

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I believe that we should consider the heritage impact as well. I was fortunate to ride the Katy trail with a friend of mine from LA California and we both learned so much about the history of Missouri and how the west was settled by train. I believe it is culturally significant and that a trail corridor across the entire state makes for a great way to experience it first hand.

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No

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Affluent people primarily use these trails so it attracts recreational dollars/economic opportunity for businesses supporting/near these trails. Promotes Missouri as a healthy state to visit/live in.

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Rails to trail paths are and can be a great resource to the state of Missouri. Adding more mileage will help make the state a destination for people to use and explore those paths and the historic connection they have to the land around them.

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Above all, the entire corridor must be preserved whole, complete, and intact for the future. This is one for our children and grandchildren. Right now is our ONE CHANCE to

preserve the corridor intact and State Parks is by far the best agency to do that. State Parks should accept and manage the corridor--but should look primarily to outside funding and resources to build and develop the trail. No one is expecting State Parks to lead the way in covering the expense of trail building, when their budget is already stretched to the limit. Many other funding sources are available and should be used to the maximum. Given State Parks' current budget pressures, State Parks should be making its current decision based on: What is the MINIMUM investment needed from State Parks in order to preserve the entire corridor now. State Parks can provide that level of investment; a combination of local, private, and grant funds can fill in the rest over time. The trail doesn't need to be built to "Cadillac" levels. It is OK to begin with a basic level of service for the trail and work for higher, more expensive levels if and as funding becomes available over time. It is OK to develop the trail section-by-section over time. Open the easier and less expensive portions as soon as possible, but save the more difficult and expensive sections for later as funding is available. This might take decades--that is OK!

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Status of MO as a proactive progressive state serving the citizens

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I believe they should consider that this is probably a one-time opportunity, if this is allowed to be passed by, there won't be an opportunity to acquire this trail again, and possibly never another one like it. The Katy Trail has been a boon for Missouri, I believe Rock Island will be as well.

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The out-of-state and in-state tourism that our parks and trails bring us very important.

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The overwhelming number of people in support of it that took their time last year to fill out the online surveys in favor.

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The availability of outside sources for funds and volunteer labor to maintain and improve the recreational asset over the course of time.

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More trails will bring more tourists and generally more money.

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Maintenance is key! The economic impact is huge. Just do it.

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1) Improving Missouri's quality of life . 2) Promote healthier lifestyles 3) Rock island corridor can be just as successful as the Katy Trail

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The opportunity to acquire a corridor of this size is rare—this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to create an epic resource for the state. The corridor needs to be protected in its entirety—the benefits it can deliver are dramatically reduced if only sections of the trail are railbanked. Connectivity is key to creating the 450-mile trail system across the state that will serve as an economic driver and a tourism boon. Partnerships with local towns and nonprofits can create flexible and creative funding

for building and maintaining the Rock Island Trail. This work can happen in phases, requiring little upfront cost from the state of Missouri. In fact, the corridor surface is already suitable for horseback riding and mountain bike use—a perfect first phase of the trail. Communities along the corridor enthusiastically support the trail and the incredible economic and recreational opportunities it will create. What’s more, these communities are willing to be active partners in the development and maintenance of the trail, with several already having funds in hand to develop the corridor. While strong partnerships are essential to the ongoing development and maintenance of the trail, Missouri State Parks is the best organization to manage the trail for the long-term, ensuring continuity in management of trails and parks facilities across the state. Coupled with the Katy Trail, the Rock Island Trail would create a world-class 450-mile trail system that would bring astounding benefits to the 23 communities along the route.

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Tourism from around the world to cycle the longest closed path in the USA

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The rock island trail will bring people into a beautiful area of the state not many are familiar with. Great opportunity!

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The RILC should be a supported project. While there are certainly costs to having this trail the economic benefit of having the trail outweighs its cost. It is important to remember that healthy, outdoor activities are becoming an important factor to tourism and even permanent residents. Please support this project!

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It's unbelievable MO State Parks is reconsidering what it set in motion years ago to secure the highly valuable Rock Island. The corridor must be accepted now or the opportunity is lost. The corridor is usable now for hiking, horseback riding and fat tire biking. It will be wonderful for the quality of life for dozens of communities and strengthen MO as a trail tourist destination. The gift of 144 miles of the Rock Island is a historic opportunity. Not accepting Ameren's gift would be extremely short-sighted. It is only available now. If we think we will ever want it, it must be accepted now.

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I support the construction of the trail for residents and visitors to use. Missouri is a hotspot for gravel riding, and a trail like this can boost the local economy. A basic, useable trail is all we need, adding additional services over time.

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Opening the new trail system will more than pay for itself in increased tax revenue. How many state parks can claim to have a positive impact like that on so many communities?

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For now, just accept the whole corridor from Ameren. Much of the trail is already usable. Don't let this opportunity for economic growth for many small towns across the state slip away. I'm certain that Cole Camp will do its part in developing the trail.

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The Rock Island corridor is the opportunity MO needs to have a very attractive cycling feature, compared to trails in other states in the Midwest. I have traveled to MI, MN,OH, to use their trail systems, and their long trails (50 miles or longer). This type of infrastructure helps bring tourism to the state; races and rides associated with trails have helped immensely small towns. PLEASE finish, and preserve the corridor.

----

Many communities lack adequate safe spaces for local residents to exercise and have outdoor experiences. I love to cycle but there are few places to do so safely. I was once hit by a driver and have been run off the road into ditches multiple times on narrow and unsafe byways. I love riding the Katy and this opportunity to add to our amazing trail system cannot be passed up. Please, consider taking the lead for recreation and for safety of our citizens and accept this wonderful chance!

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Missouri health and wellness as well as creating a destination to capture tourism and recreational revenue makes this a no-brainer.

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This is a Once in a lifetime, a once in an ever time opportunity. Citizens are willing to help with money, volunteer hours, lets find a way to make this work.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. I don't expect State Parks to bear the full burden of the cost. Complete the project in sections as grants and donations come in.

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Having a trail that spans the state like this will make Missouri stand out. The extension could be an extraordinary way to bring in tourism from people who might want to traverse the length.

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The knowledge that future generations will appreciate action now which mostly benefits them but must be taken now!

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It is opportunity for health and well-being of individuals, businesses and rural communities all over Missouri desperately needing a change for the better!

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Worldwide cycling touring is a growing rec activity. Creating this loop will bring in thousands of individuals from all over the world to ride it. The impact to local communities could be huge.

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I support accepting the corridor whole, as I think such a trail, over time, would be a tremendous asset to the people of Missouri.

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Even if the land is never fully developed, or it takes several years to develop, why would the state not accept this land? It would be crazy not too. I think private donors will come forward once the land is accepted.

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Tourism dollars from the completed trail

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Continuing to advance Missouri as a leader with developing recreation corridors for the benefit of healthy people.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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Please make sure that the Rock Island Trail deal goes through. We LIVE and use the Katy trail and have seen how the communities get involved and are financially blessed by its presence. I believe the MO Dstate Park system is the best to manage this new venture for the long term. We understand the plan is development in stages and that is great with us. We cannot wait till this is up and running. It will be a great benefit to MO and would be a terrible mistake to not take advantage of it.

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The Rock Island corridor provides an excellent opportunity for me to do something healthy with my family. We need more things like this in MO to support the residents of the State who value having outdoor recreational activities nearby and to increase tourism in the surrounding areas.

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Please accept and continue to develop the Rock Island Trail corridor for recreation. If we miss this chance, it would be virtually impossible to get the chance again once it is divided up and falls into private hands. Accepting it does not mean that it needs to be fully available for recreation immediately. I am willing to wait, this is an investment that may take a long time to realize. One way to reduce the cost of some types of trail building and maintenance is to involve local recreation groups for volunteer workers. Many people, including myself, have volunteered for organizations to help build or maintain areas for recreational opportunities. Look for mountain biking groups, hiking group, or equestrians, for example.

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Purserve whole 144 miles tfail.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future

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Love any rails to trails program. I am scared to ride on streets and roads for fear of getting hit by an inattentive driver. I love the beautiful MO trails that we have here.

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The positive impact to the community, adjacent land owners and other state parks and historic sites will be more than worth the effort and expense of maintaining and developing this trail.

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Health benefits

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Health benefit to the citizens of Missouri in exercise

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The economic impact is very positive for the Katy Trail corridor. I believe the same will be true for the communities along the Rock Island corridor. Everyone wins!

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No

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Creating the only 500 mile bike loop in North America is a unique economic development opportunity that we cannot allow to expire.

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Please except the donation of 144 mile from Ameren. We need to expand this trail for public use

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No

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The current developed section of the RI Trail draws people from world-wide. The trail would have an even greater draw if the entire route were developed.

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What a great asset for our state!!!

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Develop what Missouri can afford to develop and be patient about completing the entire trail.

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Just the economic impact on small towns along the trail. I grew up in central MO. But live in Dallas. I have seen small town like Belle, Bland, etc. dwindle to nothing. As an avid cyclist our group has travel to MO and Maryland and PA for destination rides. Groups like ours spend a lot of \$\$ in small towns along the trail. There are no businesses currently knocking on these city offices to bring jobs. Trails like the Katy and Rock Island will boost small business and bring in tax dollars. Farmers worried about trespassing need not. Damage to property along the trail will not come from Cyclist. If any damage it will come from local hoodlums. True and avid cyclist are only interested in their rides, scenery, nature and comeradery within their group.

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Economic benefit to the state and communities along the corridor.

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It will improve & benefit the small towns on the trail - economic improvement & business opportunities!

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no

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Public safety

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The Katy Trail is a tourism magnet, as I have seen on my many rides, connecting with tourists from across the country and internationally who journeyed to Missouri solely to ride the Katy. Adding the Rock Island Corridor will increase our visibility and attractiveness to even more tourists, as well as helping to draw business to less improved areas of Missouri.

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The Rock Island Trail is a great opportunity to increase the Rails to Trails system in Missouri. As evidence by the Katy Trail the economic impact on the state is immeasurable

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MO

Trails get people out and moving. So, the positive health impacts of providing such facilities is important too.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future

The national and international interest in the Katy Trail is well documented. Adding the Rock Island Corridor will further enhance Missouri exponentially as a recreation mecca.

This is a one time opportunity. Preserving the entire corridor will allow the trail to be developed as money - both public and private become available.

No. I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

Preserving the entire 144 miles for use by future generations

Think along the lines of the future, not so much the cost. Money can be raised outside of the tax fears of the legislature. The general population may not like the trail, but there is a large segment that wants it in place.

I strongly support the Rock Island Line Corridor

Done right this could be a destination for cyclists to enjoy Missouri and have a huge economic impact on communities and individuals near the trail.

A fantastic national resource. Very hard to find trails of significant length. Would be a major driver for me to come to MO.

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. I have ridden the Katy Trail many times. It is a wonderful and lovely state park and attracts many visitors. I'm sure the Rock Island Line Corridor will do the same.

The park system is uniquely positioned to protect the WHOLE of the train for the future. Development can come later and be funded by nonstate \$. But the preservation needs to happen now.

Safety of users and adjacent persons

I strongly support the Rock Island Spur of the KATY Trail and other similar projects I have ridden the Rock Island and have multiple trips down the complete KATY Trail. I plan to continue to riding both trails.

One-time opportunity. Do not disregard the health of our great state. Less sugar and more outdoor opportunities.

No

I ride RAGBRAI in Iowa every year. It is a huge boost to the local Iowa economies. We can have similar benefits on a smaller scale with this trail. The loop option with the Katy trail is an amazing opportunity.

The success of the Katy Trail

No, just build the trail!

I've walked portions of it. Like the Katy Trail, it is a real asset to the citizens of Missouri and also to visiting tourists. Keep it whole, please. Cut somewhere else.

N/a

The positive impact the Katy Trail brings to the state could be magnified by an additional trail.

No

Please preserve the entire corridor! It can and should be developed for use in stages, as the Katy Trail was. MO Parks should only be expected to put in the minimum amount of funding to preserve the entire corridor at this time, with other funding sources providing the remainder. Each stage needs to meet only a basic standard. But the most important thing is to preserve the entire corridor, now while it still can be done.

This type of facility will be a cash cow for the state if done right.

The value of tourism to Missouri economy!

The long term economic impact of a park that will serve generations for years to come.

Get r.done asap

Positive Tourism pacts for adjacent communities.

No

No, I think it would be great for families and for local businesses

Adding more trails will only help Missouri

The corridor should be preserved as a whole to eventually provide recreational opportunities that will generate dollars to the local community to assist with further development and maintenance. First preserve the corridor, then over time develop as funds become available.



none I can think of

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Biking draws people from all over and is good having a positive impact for the community from multiple perspectives! Please support! I along with my friends bike the Little Blue Trail at least 3 times a week and would use this also.

----

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. As an Osage County native, I believe this will be a win-win for all Missourians.

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no

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Economical impact to communities. How it could be positive for Missouri small towns!

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Keep in its entirety. Develop over time. Preserve the history.

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the safe corridors the trail could provide

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Missouri State Parks should make sure that the RILC remains intact. Don't worry about funding amenities or making the trail perfect NOW, just minimally fund the trail's preservation. This is going to be a jewel in the State Park's system!

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This will be a gift that will only keep on giving not only to Missouri citizens but to the tourism \$\$ that will flow into the local communities. What a historic opportunity for Missouri to have such a gem.

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You strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. Our trails are one of the very few outdoor recreation attractions in Missouri.

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No

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This is a rare opportunity for the State of MO to create such a treasure for all citizens to enjoy.

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First off, I feel the costs provided were excessively high projections of cost. Having spoke to the engineer founder that has worked on the Katy...they are very high. Also, please consider that fact that this trail will be used by the locals in a far more profound way than the Katy Trail or other state parks. (I use to work for state parks for several years.) For example, the Rock Island line, within a span of 35 miles, touches, 4 school properties! One school property that has prohibited students to walk or bike to school due to unsafe road conditions (Hwy 19) would have safe available access to its 134 acre school campus of 1,800 students! So, from Gerald, MO to Belle, MO, four schools could directly use it for their students and the students could have a safe means for travelling to their homes, self-propelled. That would be AMAZING. And that is just one of several reasons it would highly impact local communities in a positive way. In fact, I see Gerald Elementary kids walking on it now, so they can

head home...they even did when it was an unused railroad with rails on it. Let's make it REAL for them. Thanks for your time.

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Trails like this are a great benefit to the state as a whole as well as local communities nearby. The opportunities provided for recreation and the economic benefits are great.

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Please preserve the corridor for now and future generations. If it is allowed to slip away it is lost forever.

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Use it now or possibly lose it forever.

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We need to keep the Rock Island Line Corridor intact and that is the first and least step which must be taken. Development and improvement can take whatever time is needed; funding should come from private/public sources. The State of Missouri should not shoulder the entire financial burden.

----

Think bigger about the ability to attract visitors to the area from around the region. This could be a competitive edge for the state.

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The most important thing is to accept the full 144-mile Rock Island Trail corridor. These opportunities do not come along every day and this corridor should be preserved complete and intact for the future.

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If you build it they will come. I have traveled to many other states for the sole purpose of riding on their trails!

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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This represents a one time opportunity to provide a different type of "get away" for those on two wheels or by foot in the heart of our state. The benefits of being outdoors and the exercise opportunities this trail can provide will bring long term positive gains for all Missourians. As a frequent user of the cross state Katy trail since its inception, I've encountered countless numbers of folks enjoying bikes and hiking. They include Scouts, retirees, groups, and round the world trekkers. Please find a way to make this project happen. Thank you

----

Consider the uniqueness of the opportunity for the state to attract cyclists from the larger region and country. Further development of events utilizing the trail should also be encouraged to build awareness and following, not unlike the very popular RAGBRAI. These can be opportunities to increase appreciation of Missouri's landscape and history.

----

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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Preservation of natural resources through public awareness and involvement, via corridors such as these.

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Economic impact, tourism (I rode the entire Katy Trail and met people from all over the country who were riding the trail from Baltimore to California and points between. Also keeps the public healthy!

----

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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Rock Island Line Corridor will add to tourism in Missouri. The recreation it will provide will be healthy for bodies and for the State of Missouri.

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Very important to develop trails that bring people to rural communities and provide safe recreational paths for all.

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This trail will bring all types of people together to enjoy our state region and help to unite the divide between the people. Bicyclists have money to spend in the areas included in the project and beyond.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail.

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I support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. It doesn't have to be built out all at once, or in a hurry. Development should be done with private funding. Accepting the corridor preserves the options.

----

This is a tremendous one time opportunity to bank an interconnected trail. I travel multiple times each year from Springfield, MO to the KATY trail and am amazed to see tourists from all over the world. Every area has to work with what it has to both develop economically and support community. The stock Island is what we have and should be developed to a rails to trails system that will pay dividends for generations.

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Biking for your health is one of the best exercises you can do at any age. And safe biking on trails is the best way to do it.

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Missouri as a "destination" tourist attraction

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I most important comment: You strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. This is important for our children and grandchildren, and Missouri's future.

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Don't let this opportunity slip away to add to the fantastic trails in MO, which is the best thing this state does! Our green space is slipping away, even in rural areas--please don't let this gem pass us by.

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Health, tourists

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Missouri future generations! Planning Tomorrow Today!!! National recognition destination!

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Tourism would help the entire state

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will bring lots of tourist dollars into missouri

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. It is not often that we will get an opportunity to preserve lands of the greater good and keep them out of private development. We must think about Missouri's future and the green spaces that we'd like her to have in that future.

----

No. I believe strongly that the Missouri State Parks should go forward with this historic opportunity for the citizens of the state of Missouri.

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This is what Missouri does best- state parks. I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. this park will have a positive generational impact.

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Uniqueness of the asset to MO coupled w Katy trail

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This is an amazing resource that won't be available again. We need to take advantage of this opportunity.

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People will travel and make Missouri a destination just to ride the trail.

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Safety of walkers, bikers is best served by providing trails away from vehicles

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The more recreational opportunities we have in the state, the more vacation time/monies are spent in-state.

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This trail should be done all the way through. Look at how successful the Katy trail is.

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Safety, easy access,

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The benefits of fresh air and exercise to the overall physical and mental health of people. A rail trail provides a safer place to hike and ride bikes than sharing roads with motor vehicles. Beginner cyclists I particular might be too intimidated to try cycling if their only option is on roads with motor vehicles.

----

Given State Parks' current budget pressures, State Parks should be making its current decision based on: What is the MINIMUM investment needed from State Parks in order to preserve the entire corridor now. State Parks can provide that level of investment; a combination of local, private, and grant funds can fill in the rest over time.

----

Trail will promote Missouri across the growing millions of cyclists in US and Europe.

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We only have one chance a preserving this area. If not it will be gone forever. You only have to look at the success of the Katy to see how important it is to accept ownership of this property. It will benefit all citizens of Missouri.

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I support rock island trail. We need options for recreational and health.

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I grew up on a farm in west central Missouri and now live in Southwest Missouri. There is a marked scarcity of trails in S.W.Mo. I have toured the Katy, C&O Canal Towpath, and G.A.P. trails in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. The addition of the Rock Island Trail to the Katy Trail would place Missouri as a major destination for trail users from all over the U.S.; perhaps even the world. Also, this addition would speak volumes to people looking around the U.S. for healthy living opportunities and new places to live.

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My cycling group travel, spending funds for lodging and meals, to ride trails with senic beauty and length. I'm told from a study via Rail to Trails, you will receive an \$18 dollar return for every dollar spent.

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I strongly urge MO State Parks to accept the Rock Island Line Corridor in its entirety. This is a wonderful opportunity for Missourians to have expanded access to a wonderful recreational area that will be preserved for the generations to come as well as for the present generation. I feel that it would not have to be developed rapidly or to the most expensive levels of development to be a valuable asset to the state. Additionally, I'm happy to be patient for the corridor to be developed bit by bit, making access available as time and resources permit.

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No

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No

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These trails .. greenways are so special, we only get one chance to save them. the last two times we visited Mo. the main enjoyment we had were your wonderful trails

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This is a one time chance for Missouri to stand out with the best trail system in the nation.

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The Katy trail brings visitors from around the world. Adding this trail may bring returning visitors and new ones, showing the world our lovely state and economic benefits.

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The RILC acquisition and development provides a unique opportunity to add to Missouri's diverse recreational heritage. The trail will non only provide Missourians with those additional recreational opportunities but will help attract interest from outside the state and nation which should have an overall positive economic benefit to the local economies along the trail. Preservation of the trail in total should be considered a priority. The historical significance of the line

will help be preserved through the construction of the trail. Although the cost of trail development is high, the trail can be developed as funds become available. It is likely that once state ownership is assured, that funds will be more readily attracted to the project. On a personal note, having riden the Katy trail and lived along the Rock Island line, the idea of these trails connecting in a grand loop is amazing. The Rock Island train came just east of my home in Versailles and I remember many days spent exploring the rails and listening to the train pass our home in the night. Please help protect the memories of us old fellows and preserve the future memories of the line for all Missourians.

----

I have been involved in our rural community in seeking the improvement of a rail bed owned by the state of Michigan. With funding from the state and MDOT, it was improved with crushed limestone. It is now a multi use trail. When it was only ballast, only snowmobiles could use it. Now it is open for bicyclists, hikers, equestrians, etc. We depend on tourism and anything that will bring tourists to our small community is a positive for our community. Personally, my husband and I have traveled to several states to ride rail trails, where we use local accommodations, dine out/purchase food, buy snacks, gas, souvenirs and enjoy local entertainment. Please consider developing this corridor with an accompanying maintenance plan. <http://www.facebook.com/railstotrailslakecountymichigan>

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A great experience for families/friends to be outside and exercising!

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This is a low environmental impact to bring tourism into the beautiful mid Missouri

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I support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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Get started so I do not get too old to use

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Preserving the Rock Island Line Corridor is a once in a lifetime opportunity to provide recreational opportunities to future Missourians. Preserving corridors is visionary and provides the greatest good for the greatest number of people over the longest period of time

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Keeping the land for use by as many people as possible.

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No

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Those rankings and factors can be misleading in the abstract. Regardless, Please do it! This is part of what makes a state attractive to residents and tourists. Postive economic impact!

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Not that I am aware

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Being fortunate to live in an area (Philadelphia) where we have access to one of the largest rail trail networks in the country, I see firsthand every day how integral these trails

have become to the economic, social, recreational, tourism and transportation infrastructure of this region and surrounding areas.

----

Health of individuals in cities, towns and counties! In Denver there are many trails for walking, running and bicycling. Denver is considered a healthy city, I believe the Rock Island Trail could have the impact that some individuals or families, not doing exercising now, would get up and walk or ride! Being a healthier City, Town or County could have a great impact on the State. Get Hospitals, Insurance (and other health thinking groups) involved with the healthful thinking side of this Trail, to help with the budget!

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The economic benefits to the area surrounding the corridor when the trail is in use.

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The health benefits to the public of having a trail for recreational purposes.

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I believe there is an urgent need to save the Rock Island corridor for the future needs of all Missourians. We need to enhance the natural beauty of our state. Don't let future generations wonder why we didn't act at this critical moment.

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Development of a world class trail system will bring our state the attention it deserves from industry because trails attract a well-educated & healthy workforce.

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Allow local funding for sections of the Rock Island Trail

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Great for the state tourism

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Tourism. I just spent a week touring the Katy, and would do the same with this.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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My family strongly supports the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future families.

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No.....build the thing!

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Economic health as well as human health benefits with obesity being so rampant in our country

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I fully support preserving the corridor intact now and building the trail over time as funding becomes available. The trail has laid empty for decades. Over time, this can be rebuilt.

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Missouri needs to improve its reputation for fitness and well-being. This trail can help make the state a destination, which will attract not only tourists but residents.

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not sure

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I don't think Missouri should hesitate in taking on this awesome opportunity. I look forward to using this trail.

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Allowing horses on more of the Katy Trail.

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Parking and trail access

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Preserve the whole corridor. It's okay for the trail to be built over a longer period of time.

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Opportunity like this is a unique...the long term impact of having a world class trail system is phenomenal We've got to do it!

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No information factored

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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No

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Not that I can think of

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. If you would like to go into more detail, and respond to some of the specific issues State Parks raised in the information presented in recent Rock Island Trail corridor public meetings, here are some ideas: Above all, the entire corridor must be preserved whole, complete, and intact for the future. This is one for our children and grandchildren. Right now is our ONE CHANCE to preserve the corridor intact and State Parks is by far the best agency to do that. State Parks should accept and manage the corridor--but should look primarily to outside funding and resources to build and develop the trail. No one is expecting State Parks to lead the way in covering the expense of trail building, when their budget is already stretched to the limit. Many other funding sources are available and should be used to the maximum. Given State Parks' current budget pressures, State Parks should be making its current decision based on: What is the MINIMUM investment needed from State Parks in order to preserve the entire corridor now. State Parks can provide that level of investment; a combination of local, private, and grant funds can fill in the rest over time. The trail doesn't need to be built to "Cadillac" levels. It is OK to begin with a basic level of service for the trail and work for higher, more expensive levels if and as funding becomes available over time. It is OK to develop the trail section-by-section over time. Open the easier and less expensive portions as soon as possible, but save the more difficult and expensive sections for later as funding is available.

----

I support the Rock Island Trail and think Mo State Parks should accept and preserve the corridor.

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We urge Missouri Parks to accept the offer of this corridor, even though the funding for development may not be clear at this time. Such a grand opportunity for our state!

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No

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Future recreation

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The opportunity to acquire a corridor of this size is rare—this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to create an epic resource for the state. • The corridor needs to be protected in its entirety—the benefits it can deliver are dramatically reduced if only sections of the trail are railbanked. Connectivity is key to creating the 450-mile trail system across the state that will serve as an economic driver and a tourism boon. • Partnerships with local towns and nonprofits can create flexible and creative funding for building and maintaining the Rock Island Trail. This work can happen in phases, requiring little upfront cost from the state of Missouri. In fact, the corridor surface is already suitable for horseback riding and mountain bike use—a perfect first phase of the trail. • Communities along the corridor enthusiastically support the trail and the incredible economic and recreational opportunities it will create. What’s more, these communities are willing to be active partners in the development and maintenance of the trail, with several already having funds in hand to develop the corridor. • While strong partnerships are essential to the ongoing development and maintenance of the trail, Missouri State Parks is the best organization to manage the trail for the long-term, ensuring continuity in management of trails and parks facilities across the state. • Coupled with the Katy Trail, the Rock Island Trail would create a world-class 450-mile trail system that would bring astounding benefits to the 23 communities along the route.

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Connection of both sides of states and largest urban areas while including towns adjoining MO River.

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Bicycle tourism.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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This will bring tourism and revitalize small communities along the trail. It will make accessing the Katy Trail much easier as well.

----

I support the Rock Island Trail and would urge the State to accept the corridor intact. This is a great resource that can be preserved for the future. I have meet several individuals that have come to Missouri just to ride the Katie Trail which brings revenue into the towns that it runs through. The Rock Island Corridor will be the same way. The Rock Island Corridor can be built in sections when funding is available, the same way the Katie Trail was built.

----

I would like them to consider strongly the positive impact of the Katy Trail and that the Rock Island Line has the potential to be just as important an impact to the State of Missouri

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i do bicycle tours around the country. The katy trail is one that has drawn many to our state. The addition of another loop would make it extraordinary!

----

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

----

Will draw many more visitors to our state, contributing to our economy.

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The effect on the health of the community. the bike and waking trail could encourage more people especially youth to use it and become more active. It also can attract more people to our state which could boost the economy of the community.

----

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. Above all, the entire corridor must be preserved whole, complete, and intact for the future. This is one for our children and grandchildren. Right now is our ONE CHANCE to preserve the corridor intact and State Parks is by far the best agency to do that. State Parks should accept and manage the corridor--but should look primarily to outside funding and resources to build and develop the trail. No one is expecting State Parks to lead the way in covering the expense of trail building, when their budget is already stretched to the limit. Many other funding sources are available and should be used to the maximum. Given State Parks' current budget pressures, State Parks should be making its current decision based on: What is the MINIMUM investment needed from State Parks in order to preserve the entire corridor now. State Parks can provide that level of investment; a combination of local, private, and grant funds can fill in the rest over time. The trail doesn't need to be built to "Cadillac" levels. It is OK to begin with a basic level of service for the trail and work for higher, more expensive levels if and as funding becomes available over time. It is OK to develop the trail section-by-section over time. Open the easier and less expensive portions as soon as possible, but save the more difficult and expensive sections for later as funding is available. This might take decades--that is OK!

----

A vision of the future requires looking past the current state and dreaming of what can be.

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Look at the front range trail system in CO - possibilities for recreation, commerce and commuting abound - it's forward thinking and enables communities to build their own trail projects around a central 'artery'. Growing in in Columbia, MO I've seen how a trail system (katy) can make an impact on the local landscape and mentality (MKT) and believe it promotes a positive vibe for the surrounding community.

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Rock island trail needs to be open to equestrians the entire route. Not just a tiny portion like the Katy trail

----

For a number of years I have traveled to other states for 1-2 weeks of bike riding. The money I spend in those states could be spent in Missouri if we had a better-developed trail system

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Unique opportunity for residents across the state to easily access the trail/state park. Fantastic opportunity to link with the Katy for an amazing and rare length trail.

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[REDACTED]

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Success of the Katy Trail on Missouri's economy.

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this would be a crown jewel for Missouri in addition to the Katy, for the national recreational trail network.

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People come from out of State to use bike trails. So it's not only for people in State!

----

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future.

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Improved health for users

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Years ago, I remember the obstacles that the KATY trail faced before it was approved. Decades later, it has become one of our nation's "Hall of Fame" trails. It has provided an economic boost for adjacent communities and a recreational outlet to countless patrons (state residents and visitors alike). Linked with the Katy Trail, the Rock Island Trail would create a fantastic 450-mile trail system that would economically enhance the 23 communities along its route. Partnerships with local towns and nonprofits can create flexible funding for building and maintaining the Rock Island Trail. Like the KATY trail, the work can happen in phases, requiring little upfront cost from the state of Missouri. The corridor surface is already suitable for horseback riding and mountain bike use. Your continued support of the Rock Island Corridor is greatly appreciated!!

----

I think it is important to acquire the land and right of way when it is available, once this opportunity is lost, it is gone forever. Development of the trail may take many years but it all starts with getting the use of the land. I believe the experiences with the Katy has shown it to be a boon to recreational users and to the local communities and people.

----

The opportunity to obtain a world class linear park, beneficial to both recreational users and the communities through which the trail goes, is exceedingly rare. It's even more rare that this is a donation. MO State Parks has already shown their leadership in managing the Katy Trail, one of the most popular

state parks in Missouri. Please do not pass this opportunity up! Accept the donation!

----

The trails bring many visitors from other states and other countries. They spend their money at the local businesses and get to learn first hand the wonders of the great state of Missouri.

----

I urge you to protect this resource for future Missourians. Even if it not completed on my lifetime, I will enjoy any sections that are currently funded with the excitement that others after me will have the total trail plus the Katy. This seems like such a great opportunity for the residents of our state as well as building tourism. I'd hate for us to miss out on this great opportunity.

----

We have the option to do sections at a time as funding permits.

----

Missouri can be a leader in the country wi4h the mosr and best miles of vehicle restricted trails a tourist magnet.

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It seems obvious to me, although I live in downtown Kansas City, MO, that Central Missouri needs the boost that the Rock Island Trail would provide. Even though the Corridor is to be donated, I realize the costs involved for maintenance and development of the Trail. I hope that Missouri State Parks realizes that in addition to the share of these costs to come from its budget, thousands of supporters like myself stand ready to help out with our time, labor, and money to make this project work. I urge you to accept this land donation on behalf of the people who stand to benefit in Missouri. Thank you.

----

I support the making the Rock Island Line Corridor part of the state park system. We need a connection to the Katy Trail in the Kansas City area.

----

The Rock Island Trail will be an economic boon to small communities along the trail, like Owensville, where my parents own a farm along the trail. They are so excited for the trail to help the community, and several restaurants have already gone up in anticipation. They are also excited to display their farm along the trail to show people from all over the country that farming is important to Missourians. I'm excited to eventually take over this farm and live and farm along this exciting new trail.

----

We can be a national leader in developing this type of bike/recreational trail, prioritizing both physical and mental health, while also promoting tourism and economic development

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Above all else do not let the opportunity for the stae to hold this priceless resource for future development of a second cross country open air, sky-is-my-ceiling walking and biking trail that surely will appeal to the growing urbanized population of the next and future generations.

----

Rail trails bring a lot of out of state riders to Missouri.

----

MDNR should accept the entire 144 mile donation. If they don't, it will be a missed opportunity that won't come back again. The trail could be constructed in phases over time. Several towns on the route are anxious to develop trails.

----

It will Be used and not abused...once up and running the overhead should not be great\$.I use the KATY a lot..

----

I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. Don't try to build the trail immediately, that can be done down the road as time and financing become available.

----

Preserving these types of recreational opportunities before they are lost to other neglected actions.

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Ranking with other states with trails

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No

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Spaces open to the public that preserve peace and tranquility and nature need to be protected, built and enlarged. This trail would contribute to that.

----

Other states are ahead. This needs to be done to keep up with them and continue to make Missouri attractive.

----

As a daily user of the Katy Trail, having an additional trail would be a huge boon to MO. Those of us who are outdoor walkers, runners, bikers, hikers like having new and interesting places to visit. We go out of state to enjoy these opportunities. Having a full circle trail would bring many people to state. We have been to Arkansas, Georgia, North Carolina, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona, Minnesota, and others simply to enjoy their state park trail systems.

----

There has been enthusiastic support from the communities along the corridor. Obtaining this rail trail corridor is the opportunity of a lifetime and should not be wasted. It will bring economic opportunity from tourists/cyclists from across the country and add significantly to Missouri's attraction as a destination for trail lovers. Don't blow this chance!

----

This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to create an epic resource for the state and an incredible economic and recreational opportunity!

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No

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This is a poorly designed question. First, you should consider that individuals who live in towns along the trail are ALSO adjacent landowners whose voices are not reflected by MFB. We should also consider the fact that MO ranks poorly on many health indicators with obesity being a leading problem. Access to safe and effective trails and improved economic opportunity is likely to improve quality of life for many citizens - regardless of their trail usage. My husband and I

have invested over \$250K renovating an historic building so we can live and have guests come experience the trail and the wonderful communities along it. This trail is likely to have positive - not negative- impacts on general support for MO parks and historic sites. The ranking of these factors without explanation is clearly designed to work AGAINST the trail. Sad to see such manipulation.

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. It will become an invaluable recreational resource for the citizens of our state as well as tourists attracted to its natural beauty.

----

I ride a bike and travel all over the US several times a year to ride. I usually spend \$1000 to \$1500 a trip with local businesses. There are always many other riders

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The more continuous and linked the portions of the line are the more all the communities involved benefit economically and the healthier the public can be with more opportunities to stay active!

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The opportunity this offers to create a 400+ mile contiguous trail for the state to use and promote.

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Missouri State Parks should consider that volunteer groups can be organized to help with the upkeep and maintenance of the trail. Cost of maintenance would be minimal with the use of community volunteer groups along the trail. Speaking as a former trail builder of the San Felasco Hammock State Park Preserve trails in Florida, that Park Manager learned through years of experience that the volunteers provided all the manpower needed to build and keep that vast trail system maintained and funded. The cycling community has plenty of people that are willing to orchestrate and provide volunteer manpower for trail maintenance activities.

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This would be a total GAME CHANGER. One ginormous rail trail loop (Rock Island - Katy Trail) in the state of Missouri.

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The tremendous opportunity this gift provides for the people of Missouri.

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I have had the opportunity to ride the Rock Island in Lee's Summit and have seen first hand how the trail going between back yards have brought back the community in the neighborhoods. I was delighted to see neighbors walking and talking together, even landscaping their back yards towards the trail. Dozens of people in the outdoors and building good will in the community!

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why not do this?

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Our society is aging and health is becoming an issue of paramount importance. Unlike rural citizens, city/suburban ones have few places to enjoy nature and exercise. This in turn reduces cost to society through improved health!

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no

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good health and exercise opportunities offered by trail use.

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The Katy Trail is already a huge recreational and tourism attraction that Missouri is known for. Creating the Rock Island Line Corridor not only adds another attraction to that area, but brings back past tourists/recreationalists who would love to explore a different rail-trail and/or have a longer, new corridor to explore that is linked to the Katy Trail. Additionally, preservation of this corridor for recreational and historical use is the least invasive option of development for land owners to that are adjacent to the line face, allowing it to remain a peaceful rural area.

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I love riding my bike on the Pleasant Hill to Windsor section of the Rock Island spur. I've also ridden the Katy Trail and would love to be able to loop around the state

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Coupled with the Katy Trail, the Rock Island Trail would create a world-class 450-mile trail system that would bring astounding benefits to the 23 communities along the route. We can't let the opportunity to acquire this gift of a railway corridor of this size, in its entirety, slip through our fingers. It is evident that the Katy Trail has boosted the economy of rural towns that might otherwise be ghost towns by now. Let's continue to improve the economic infrastructure of rural Missouri.

----

The opportunity to acquire a corridor of this size is rare—this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to create an epic resource for the state. The corridor needs to be protected in its entirety—the benefits it can deliver are dramatically reduced if only sections of the trail are railbanked. Connectivity is key to creating the 450-mile trail system across the state that will serve as an economic driver and a tourism boon. Partnerships with local towns and nonprofits can create flexible and creative funding for building and maintaining the Rock Island Trail. This work can happen in phases, requiring little upfront cost from the state of Missouri. In fact, the corridor surface is already suitable for horseback riding and mountain bike use—a perfect first phase of the trail. Communities along the corridor enthusiastically support the trail and the incredible economic and recreational opportunities it will create. What's more, these communities are willing to be active partners in the development and maintenance of the trail, with several already having funds in hand to develop the corridor. While strong partnerships are essential to the ongoing development and maintenance of the trail, Missouri State Parks is the best organization to manage the trail for the long-term, ensuring continuity in management of trails and parks facilities across the state. Coupled with the Katy Trail, the Rock Island Trail would create a world-class 450-mile trail system that would bring astounding benefits to the 23 communities along the route.

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Love the idea of riding across Missouri on the Katy and Rock Island Trails. Please work to make this happen.

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The State should develop this land and turn it over to the State Parks for preservation. It is a one time opportunity to create a unique system

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Health benefits for local and regional residents.

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This is truly a historic moment and opportunity, and once gone, it would be gone forever. This corridor needs to be preserved, whole and intact. Kansas missed this opportunity 40 years ago with an abandoned right of way between Lawrence and Leavenworth, and the long-term loss would be very hard to overstate. Picture Missouri becoming something of a mecca for recreational tourism and cycling. The quality of life enhancement can be tremendous. This right of way is a crucial piece of that potential. It can push the Missouri recreational route system over the top, to "critical mass", making all the difference.

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This is a rare opportunity to acquire a rail corridor in its entirety. The success of the Katy trail should be the best example of the positive economic impact it has had for the state of MO and for areas near the trail. People come from all over the USA and beyond use the Katy trail. By acquiring and developing the Rock Usland Line Corridor, there will be an even greater increase in tourism, which will offset the expense of maintaining the trail. Communities along the trail can be engaged to support the trail. It is imperative to procure the entire corridor for development. Do not be short-sighted and miss the great opportunity. Thank you.

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We need to proceed with the development of the Rock Island Corridor!

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Creating a trail that will connect to the Katy Trail (loop) will bring cyclists from all over to Missouri. Cyclists spend money. Lengthy trail systems provide great recreational opportunities and life-changing adventures.

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It's an opportunity for Missouri to become an outdoor travel destination offering world class rail to trail systems. This is a no brainer... Missouri must act on this opportunity.

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The economic benefits of the Katy Teail are proven. Extending the trail network will make it that much more popular. It would be tragic if Missouri lost this opportunity.

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I support increased funding to improve tourism opportunities across Missouri. Across the state there is steady increases in usage of linear parks.

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As this is the best chance we will ever have to acquire and preserve the entire corridor, doing that now is the most important thing, even if we have to defer developing trails and facilities.

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I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT FINISHED

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You strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future

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I have ridden many rails-to-trails throughout the US. I have personally witnessed the positive impact these trails have on surrounding communities. I have ridden the Katy Trail end-to-end, one of my favorite adventures. I look forward to doing the same in the near future on the Rock Island Line Corridor!

----

The opportunity to acquire a corridor of this size is rare—this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to create an epic resource for the state. The corridor needs to be protected in its entirety—the benefits it can deliver are dramatically reduced if only sections of the trail are railbanked. Connectivity is key to creating the 450-mile trail system across the state that will serve as an economic driver and a tourism boon. Partnerships with local towns and nonprofits can create flexible and creative funding for building and maintaining the Rock Island Trail. This work can happen in phases, requiring little upfront cost from the state of Missouri. In fact, the corridor surface is already suitable for horseback riding and mountain bike use—a perfect first phase of the trail. Communities along the corridor enthusiastically support the trail and the incredible economic and recreational opportunities it will create. What’s more, these communities are willing to be active partners in the development and maintenance of the trail, with several already having funds in hand to develop the corridor. While strong partnerships are essential to the ongoing development and maintenance of the trail, Missouri State Parks is the best organization to manage the trail for the long-term, ensuring continuity in management of trails and parks facilities across the state. Coupled with the Katy Trail, the Rock Island Trail would create a world-class 450-mile trail system that would bring astounding benefits to the 23 communities along the route.

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The Katy Trail already attracts cyclists from around the world. This addition will make Missouri a premier destination for cyclists.

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The success of the KADY

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Missouri pride.

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How much fun folks will have on the trail

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The Katy Trail is a HUGE draw for people both in state and out of state. Having two choices for bicycling across the state would be beneficial to the state, adjacent land owners, communities nearby and businesses near both trails.

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Health and wellness of our citizens and community building

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This is a significant recreation opportunity to provide our citizens. Additionally, this will provide economic growth along the whole trail.

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Let Belle MO finish the 1.5 miles in our town!

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Coupling this trail with the Katy Trail is an unbelievable opportunity that will benefit generations - Don't let it slip away!

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Definitely recommend purchase and development of the entire right-of-way with a reasonable development over ensuing years. Thank you. ■

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This is a long term investment that will not come along again. When opportunities like this come along you take advantage or you constantly regret not doing what the future generations will enjoy

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current opportunity that may not come up again

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This is a unique opportunity to create a trail that will attract bike riders from all over the world. It is by far the best use of that land. It will bring economic development to out-state MO which is losing jobs daily. It's a "no-brainer".

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For the long term health both physically & economically , our citizens need to acquire & develop the new rails to trails project.

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The last 14 years, my family rides the entire KATY trail. Last year, we included the Rock Island spur. We would like to make it a part of our next 14 years, at least.

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The opportunity lost by failing to move forward on the Rock Island Trail. The health benefits to those that use the trail. Missouri's image of the state with the longest rail to trail segments in the country.

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Missouri State Parks is approaching the Rock Island trail with a cost avoidance and let's not do anything new mentality, instead of the way most citizens are looking at it, which is " What a great and unique opportunity to make something that would benefit the entire state of Missouri. How can we make this work?"

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no

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There was resistance in developing the KATY Trail and look at it's importance to Missouri national reputation today. Our family has ridden the KATY trail end-to-end over six times and have met riders from all around the US and international as well. We understand the great potential of the Rock Island Corridor. It is a once in a life-time development opportunity for Missouri.

----

I would support a trail being built as funds allow. I don't expect it to be built quickly but I would like for the land to be preserved for future development.

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The opportunity to acquire a corridor of this size is rare—this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to create an epic resource for the state. The corridor needs to be protected in its entirety—the benefits it can deliver are dramatically reduced if only sections of the trail are railbanked. Connectivity is key to creating the 450-mile trail system across the state that will serve as an economic driver and a tourism boon. Partnerships with local towns and nonprofits can create flexible and creative funding for building and maintaining the Rock Island Trail. This work can happen in phases, requiring little upfront cost from the state of Missouri. In fact, the corridor surface is already suitable for horseback riding and mountain bike use—a perfect first phase of the trail. Communities along the corridor enthusiastically support the trail and the incredible economic and recreational opportunities it will create. What's more, these communities are willing to be active partners in the development and maintenance of the trail, with several already having funds in hand to develop the corridor. While strong partnerships are essential to the ongoing development and maintenance of the trail, Missouri State Parks is the best organization to manage the trail for the long-term, ensuring continuity in management of trails and parks facilities across the state. Coupled with the Katy Trail, the Rock Island Trail would create a world-class 450-mile trail system that would bring astounding benefits to the 23 communities along the route.

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The added value of having a link to the Katy Trail and bringing it closer to the KC metro would be amazing. The benefits would be tremendous.

----

As a society as we become more tech dependent I believe it is crucial that we provide ways for us to connect with nature more. The Katy trail specifically has been a great resource for my family to bond and connect with nature for the last 10 plus years.

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The Katy trail saved my life after my stroke. The positive impact on many lives and communities is unmeasurable. Let's make the Missouri trails the destination for all riders and vacationers

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Walking, Running, Biking improve Health

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Great opportunity to create additional trail. Will make Mo a destination for cyclist and runners/walkers.

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Have them talk to the citizens of Rhineland, the town was against the Katy and now loves the trail!

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Nationwide and global tourism for trail use.

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It's an excellent opportunity to develop a rail-trail that the state should not pass up!!

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The amount of development along the trail will be similar to the Katy it something that should be done

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Economic impact studies from other rail trails across the country should be reviewed.

----

I believe this trail would benefit so many people in Missouri and the state itself. There are many people I know just waiting to ride this trail and I believe it will provide a major infusion of money along the trail.

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no

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Just do it. The economic/community benefits will far outweigh the upfront and continuing maintenance costs.

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The opportunity to mirror the incredible success of the Katy trail should make this a simple decision.

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This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a world-class trail system that would attract tourists from around the world. We cannot think small with an opportunity like this. Missouri State parks could be the overall coordinating entity but should work on partnerships with local communities and trail interests to maintain and implement the trail.

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No

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The existence of state parks like the Katy Trail and the rock island line corridor bring not only quality of life two are citizens, but economic benefits to the state of Missouri. With a donation of 144 miles of trail the state of Missouri should absolutely accept the donation and enhance our state parks.

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It would seem incredible to is that Missouri has not already accepted the gift of this post trial park!

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Linking the Rock Island Corridor to the KATY would make Missouri the premier location in the U.S. for tourists that cycle.

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Long term benefits of building a world class trail system connecting to the already famous Katy Trail. Great opportunity to expand on what we already have. The Rock Island Line is a might fine line.

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As mentioned, this is a one time only offer. MSP won't get a second chance to accept this.

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Positive impact on conservation and protecting the earth through exposure to nature and recreational experiences.

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THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITY TO FEATURE RURAL MISSOURI AND THE COMMUNITIES. THIS IS A WAY TO KEEP RURAL COMMUNITIES RELEVANT.

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This is such a wonderful plan to have a cross state trail, it will really be a gem in Missouri and make us known nationally for the trail system. Also, it is good for the towns along the route. My husband and I love the Katy Trail and were thrilled to hear about the potential Rock Island Trail. We hope that Missouri State Parks will go forward with this wonderful project.

----

We fully support this unique opportunity for Missouri. The opportunity to acquire a corridor of this size is rare—this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to create an epic resource for the state. The corridor needs to be protected in its entirety—the benefits it can deliver are dramatically reduced if only sections of the trail are railbanked. Connectivity is key to creating the 450-mile trail system across the state that will serve as an economic driver and a tourism boon. Partnerships with local towns and nonprofits can create flexible and creative funding for building and maintaining the Rock Island Trail. This work can happen in phases, requiring little upfront cost from the state of Missouri. In fact, the corridor surface is already suitable for horseback riding and mountain bike use—a perfect first phase of the trail. Communities along the corridor enthusiastically support the trail and the incredible economic and recreational opportunities it will create. What’s more, these communities are willing to be active partners in the development and maintenance of the trail, with several already having funds in hand to develop the corridor. While strong partnerships are essential to the ongoing development and maintenance of the trail, Missouri State Parks is the best organization to manage the trail for the long-term, ensuring continuity in management of trails and parks facilities across the state. Coupled with the Katy Trail, the Rock Island Trail would create a world-class 450-mile trail system that would bring astounding benefits to the 23 communities along the route.

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Overall health and well being of MO residents

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The opportunity to acquire a corridor of this size is rare—this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to create an epic resource for the state. The corridor needs to be protected in its entirety—the benefits it can deliver are dramatically reduced if only sections of the trail are railbanked. Connectivity is key to creating the 450-mile trail system across the state that will serve as an economic driver and a tourism boon. Partnerships with local towns and nonprofits can create flexible and creative funding for building and maintaining the Rock Island Trail. This work can happen in phases, requiring little upfront cost from the state of Missouri. In fact, the corridor surface is already suitable for horseback riding and mountain bike use—a perfect first phase of the trail. Communities along the corridor enthusiastically support the trail and the incredible economic and recreational opportunities it will create. What’s more, these communities are willing to be active partners in the development and maintenance of the trail, with several already having funds in hand to develop the corridor. While strong partnerships are essential to the ongoing development and maintenance of the trail, Missouri State Parks is the best organization to manage the trail for the long-term, ensuring

continuity in management of trails and parks facilities across the state. Coupled with the Katy Trail, the Rock Island Trail would create a world-class 450-mile trail system that would bring astounding benefits to the 23 communities along the route.

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the boost to tourism and the impact on community health by promoting a healthy, outdoor lifestyle.

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I believe the existing KATY Trail has provided countless recreational opportunities and economic growth. The Rock Island Trail would expand those opportunities.

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special opportunity to produce a fabulous Missouri treasure

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Once in a lifetime opportunity here; along with the Katy Trail, the Rock Island Trail would create a world class, 450 mile trail system; huge gem to the State, benefits 23+ communities who wish to participate, and such a resource to people like me who truly love recreating outdoors and frequently do so.

PLEASE DO THIS!!!

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One in lifetime opportunity to connect with Katy Trail making it a unique and very important attraction to our state

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It will bring more vacation dollars to the state.

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Pick option that closes no future doors and maximizes unknown future opportunities

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Health benefits for a more active lifestyle choice helps all taxpayers

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This new trail will build tourism and add to the opportunities of communities along the trail to earn revenue from trail users. I believe it is a good thing for Missouri,

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No.

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MO

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I strongly support the Rock Island Trail and urge State Parks to accept the corridor and preserve it complete and intact for the future. Above all, the entire corridor must be preserved whole, complete, and intact for the future. This is one for our children and grandchildren. Right now is our ONE CHANCE to preserve the corridor intact and State Parks is by far the best agency to do that. State Parks should accept and manage the corridor—but should look primarily to outside funding and resources to build and develop the trail. No one is expecting State Parks to lead the way in covering the expense of trail building, when their budget is already stretched to the limit. Many other funding sources are available and should be used to the maximum. Given State Parks' current budget pressures, State Parks should be making its current decision based on: What is the MINIMUM investment needed from State Parks in order to preserve the entire corridor now. State Parks can provide that level of investment; a combination of local,

private, and grant funds can fill in the rest over time. The trail doesn't need to be built to "Cadillac" levels. It is OK to begin with a basic level of service for the trail and work for higher, more expensive levels if and as funding becomes available over time. It is OK to develop the trail section-by-section over time. Open the easier and less expensive portions as soon as possible, but save the more difficult and expensive sections for later as funding is available. This might take decades--that is OK!

----

This will be beneficial to all in communities and state of Missouri love the Katy trail and business by the Katy

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No

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I think that the potential economic value to the small communities along the Rock Island Line is huge and should not be underestimated. I regularly use the Katy Trail and patronize business along the way. Please, please let's move forward with the Rock Island Line!!

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If Missouri State Parks does not take on ownership and management of the Rock Island Line Corridor, it will be lost.

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N/A

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The economic impact of bike tourism for the entire state, not just trail towns. We spent a week riding the trail this year. Spent 2 nights in STL and spent money on hotels, food, drinks and souvenirs.

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No

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Missouri has some of the best state parks in the nation, and the Rock Island Trail will be a jewel to add to the collection. Many rural communities along the trail look forward to economic development opportunities from the RIT. Additional outdoor recreation will make Missourians healthier. It just makes sense Missouri State Parks to go with the MORIT. The people want it! I am looking forward to riding on my bike when I retire back to Missouri!

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Quality of life; national significance

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The Rock Island Line Corridor is an excellent opportunity for the people and the state of Missouri. We should not miss the opportunity to develop this valuable resource. Opportunities such as this come along very rarely.

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The addition of the proposed section of the Rock Island Trail, would make Missouri the premier location for cyclists riding traffic free trails. As such, it will drive tourism and produce revenue for the state and surrounding communities. The biggest factor to consider is the lost opportunity, should the parks system decide to pass on accepting the trail at this time. Once lost, it will not be available again. I completely understand the revenue constraints faced by MO State Parks, but this is too important to not take a chance on. We should

join together to find new sources of revenue to get this done. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

----

Linking the eastern end of the Rock Island Trail to the Katy Trail. Aside from Meramec State Park, Franklin County is in need of more public recreation areas. Especially with the fact that Franklin County's population will continue to grow. The donation of the corridor is a GIFT, not a purchase! Please work with the local population to preserve the magnificent bridges over the Osage and Gasconade River! Locals care about these historic structures and their link to the region's history!

----

A no-brain needed decision; YES!!! TAKE IT!!!

----

Economic development. I think the economic impact would offset the cost of maintenance and development. Economic benefit to the state, but even more to the towns (and counties)! This trail would go right through so many towns spawning restaurants, lodging, and many more service providers. Tourism would explode. With the new "loop" with the Katy Trail, people would come from all across the continent and from all over the world. I hope the politicians recognize the economic value and fund this project. Development costs greater to or equal jobs, tax receipts, status. Make an initial commitment to accept and secure. Then partner with towns and counties to open sections. Towns would compete with each other to get their section open - providing funding and other partnering. One section at a time will build momentum in the legislature also - competing politicians wanting to open sections in their jurisdictions.

----

The towns along the corridor are dying - Rosebud, Owensville, Belle, Bland, need the visitors. There's a need to bring farmers and city people together. The Rock Island Trail is perfectly suited to help accomplish this. This trail will pay rewards way past the investments needed. Members of these communities are ready to donate their time and money to make this happen. Yes it's important to respect and work with the adjacent land owners and lets find respectful ways to do so. This gift from Ameren is a once in a life time opportunity, let's not waste it!

----

Much emphasis on cost! No information on benefits - seems odd. Your map - large and nice, but doesn't show the relationship of Katy and RIT with international airports or each end of the state? Spread cost over time; no one has said to spend 85 million in one swoop!

----

I think that with the Katy Trail's National/International Recognition well known, the completion of the Rock Island Corridor will really, really put Missouri on the bicyclist's destination list. It would be great to connect the east end of the trail (Beaufort) with Katy Trail, so bicyclists could make one big loop. How about 4' wide shoulder on Highway 47? Thanks for allowing input - your presentation charts and DNR employees were very helpful!

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Please take this unique opportunity to make his trail! It's legacy far surpasses the concerns.

----

Better recreation opportunities for thousands of people. We currently have to drive and transport our bikes over 40 miles to ride the Katy. The Rock Island is within 11 miles of our home. The Rock Island will provide a safer ride than riding on Hwy 42 East of Vienna with no shoulders for safety.

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Many, many people in our community support the development of the RI Trail. we believe the economic impact will be noticeable for our town, but just as important we support it from a health perspective!

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Be aware that volunteers in the area would be willing to step up to help with habitat restoration or other projects. I am part of a Master Naturalists chapter that would like to help with habitat restoration!

----

I live outside of Gerald and am an avid bicycler. Many times I have to drive far away for recreation. It would be awesome to have something closer for myself and all of the community members to enjoy and prosper from. These towns could use a positive increased economic and recreational impact. I am so excited for the possibilities. The Katy Trail is awesome, this could be as well.

----

Seems like you have considered all costs, etc. I would like to know the most likely scenario for a full trail implementation. We want and need this. It is a health and well being issue! We are highly supportive!

----

I would like to see the Rock Island Trail built as an avid recreational biker and for the economic opportunities it would bring to all the small towns along the way. I grew up North of Beaufort and I could see the trail revitalizing that area of the state with B&Bs, wineries, deli and shops. I have already biked the 47.5 miles from Pleasant Hill to Windsor, and the scenery was gorgeous along the way.

----

Please do not pass up this opportunity. We drive over 60 miles to ride the Katy. We would be overjoyed to be able to simply drive to Belle and get on the trail. Katy brings in people from all over U.S. and beyond - adding to it would bring even more. And we meet great kind and friendly people on the trail.

----

Linear parks have proven to be highly successful tourism generators. Initial landowner opposition essentially evaporates once the trail is in use.

----

This is a treasure that will only enhance the already existing Katy Trail as I have heard from local residents, they are looking forward to getting the rest done. The currently finished part of the trail is extremely popular. Residents of the State, as well as, nation and world will enjoy the addition.

----

Appears to be a great opportunity for state of Missouri. Citizen/community support already shown along the corridor (Belle,Eldon) suggest local residents see the potential as well.

----

The state continues to overlook investment in rural central Missouri. The economic impact is already large with just an implication/hint that the trail will be developed. Private and public funding already lining up. Businesses in the area have difficulty attracting talent from out of state based on lack of infrastructure development. Missouri needs this trail.

----

The economic impact on small tours could be very beneficial for them. More people would be able to exercise closer to home. Awesome idea!

----

There are many small cities on this corridor. Their success or failure depends on this corridor. It has the possibility to save our small cities. For these people it is a huge benefit!

----

We can be so proud of our state parks, they are clean, offer so many choices and personally is so customer friendly. The Rock Island line would be a wonderful addition. We had not problem passing to continue tax last election. All folks like our parks. Thank you for holding these informative meetings and on line info. I support you 100%!

----

This initiative would greatly help the communities surrounding the trail. Increased jobs, recreation, and opportunities. It would revitalize many of these communities.

----

Why is your display concentrated on cost? Do you typically make money at your state parks? Or are many of the benefits not at related to cost. You can't save your way to prosperity. Alaska was "seward's folly". Need to review positive impacts vs. LT costs.

----

The positive economic impact on the local communities is huge. This corridor could become even more popular than the Katy. Can't wait to see this happen!

----

Good value for the state. I have met many people from around the country and around they world who have been on the Katy Trail. The beauty of Missouri should be shared. A lot of history to be seen and small towns can benefit.

----

I think that the trail would revitalize some of the small towns along the trail. Small businesses would benefit. A lot of them closed when the factories left. I myself have bought a small pc along the trail hoping that it comes to be. Kind of like "build it, they will come" type deal when I heard that it may be happening I went to work. I would volunteer for work day along my section of the corridor. I hope that parks will consider the Rock Island Corridor.

----

No "concerns", just a sincere hope that the trail is approved. I've purchased two projects adjacent to the trail, one is a business front and one is a private residence. Not only do I

believe that the trail will benefit my community, but I believe it will allow me to prosper as a business owner.

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Placards were very informative. I can't think of any additional concerns right now.

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The outdoor recreation economy now makes up 22% of the gross domestic product and is growing. This project is the biggest investment opportunity in rural Missouri for a very long time. I highly recommend that the state accept and develop the Rock Island Trail.

----

I am concerned about the farms that are along the current or proposed trail. If the need/assistance for fencing around property issue can be adequately addressed, I can get behind this. I feel the potential for economic development and even recreational opportunities could bring additional revenue to Rosebud. It can provide additional educational and even agri-tourism options for the community, as long as the funding is available to pay for and maintain the trail. And the law enforcement can preserve and protect the property owners, cattle, barns, homes, etc. and ensure the trespassers won't be a hindrance to our local farmers.

----

I own a guest house in Owensville, and I see our business increasing and more people wanting to come to our area. I also see poverty local and people needing jobs. The trail is a win-win situation! It has been delayed forever while the MO gov't. has been twiddling their thumbs. Of course this trail should be developed!

----

Do minimal trail surface improvements and open it between bridges. Have communities manage the trail within their city limits. It is critical to secure it now to be able to ever open it.

----

I seen abundant information on cost. Cost to build, cost to maintain, but practically zero on benefit of tourism, revenue to all small communities. Zero on the fact that the topography of the Rock Island would be almost never flooding. So no cost to repair from flooding. The Katy floods every year at least once and not on small scale. The majority of the trail is in the MO River basin. If we already had the Rock Island, the Katy would be a very hard sell, because of the complexity, beauty challenge and the location of the Rock Island. There is "no other" like it in the country. MO is already #1 in trails and the Rock Island would put it over the top. The state is not considering the potential for tourism and revenue from the Rock Island, only the cost. They are not considering grants or partnership to help build the trail. Or at least the information I seen does not cast a positive light on the trail. The Rock Island is a gem for the taking. The Katy Trail had to be purchased. The Rock Island is free for the taking. The heart of MO would benefit greatly from the Rock Island. The DNR projects 20 years to build it, well if only the 1/10 of 1 percent that funds State Parks were the only revenue, I would agree. But there is grant money and Rail to Trails organization who could partner to build this trail. Again, a negative spin by DNR not considering other funding potential. If the state rejects the

Rock Island, they are losing it forever. If DNR accept it, it will get funded. Anything worth having is not easy to obtain. The Rock Island, its beauty, its history, its location, its potential is worth fighting for.

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This is a short term investment for a long term economic impact.

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Linking to other state parks (ex. Katy Trail). Katy Trail was purchased, Rock Island is a gift that can NOT be turned down.

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I am very concerned about this corridor being managed by another possibly out of state entity. The possibility of a group that is out of state could be a real problem for land owners.

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1. Comparison figures on cost comparing trail cost to highway costs. 2. with Katy Trail experience, build the Rock Island in less than 25 years. 3. The economic impact levels on state, county, cities, towns on trail. 4. Promote Katy/RIT in national publications. These routes are state jewels.

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A fund opportunity like with the Katy to offset the proposed amounts presented. Individuals and different organizations will be glad to buy a mile or 1/2 mile.

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In our community I live close enough to walk to school, however it is too dangerous via highway 19 and Springfield Rd. to do that. With the development of the trail children have the opportunity to walk to school safely. I am a member of the Missouri Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Our mission is to get kids more active in school and to implement quality HPERD programs in schools in MO. The availability of the trail next to our school gives us options to develop cardiovascular fitness in our students. Our school already has 29 bikes that are used by the students on our campus. The trail would open up quality activity time for the students. Besides being a PE teacher, I am the cross country coach. My teams could do a lot of our running on the trail. I realize the cost is a major factor, and the MO State Parks do a great job with their resources, but this development would move MO towards the top of the U.S. trail system.

----

This is a rare opportunity to preserve an extended area for enjoyment. Parks are important to MO tourism. Their natural setting strengthens the inner being. Please don't lose the opportunity for Missourians to have such a cherished area. There will be funds to develop and maintain. Think of how the parks tax passed so overwhelmingly recently. People need places like this to go to. Thanks for your hard work. Good job of presenting!

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Having to cross state connecting trails will bring a lot more visitors to Missouri. Look at the impact the Katy Trail has had. Nice to have a state park in this area - not acceding an hour plus drive.

----

Owensville Chamber of Commerce hopes that the Rock Island Trail will be constructed. It could have a real positive economic impact on our community.

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The benefits to the small towns along the way - may help to rejuvenate small towns - positive economic impact. The benefit to the people of Missouri and other states to have a wonderful way to keep fit and have fun at the same time.

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The trail would be as economically important as when the train corridor was established! It would be a vital boost to all the cities!

----

Great for the community.

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We own .6 miles of border to the proposed trail. The land is active farmland. We are in favor of the trail. The trail will pay for itself with tourism and related economic activity. Also; we need to preserve our rail line corridors for future possible use.

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Positive Tourism impact of having a complete loop of Rail-to-Trail paths across the state.

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Volunteer trail building. Eagle scout projects? Corporate sponsorship?

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The friendships I have formed and strengthened while enjoying similar trail systems like the Katy are irreplaceable. I always enjoy seeing the business opportunities that have risen from trail traffic as well.

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I submitted a prepared letter and gave it to a Parks representative.

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No additional factors, seems like a good proposal.

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Missouri wants a Rock Island Trail, please accomplish this. Great state resource.

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Great for small communities and families.

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Not accepting this gift will negatively effect this community.

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Me, my dad [REDACTED] would be glad to donate, volunteer or adopt a portion of the trail.

----

I submitted a letter to the MO State Parks Association Officials, at this meeting.

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I believe the recreation and health factors the trail will provide are extremely important!

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It is my opinion the health of those living along the trail would improve due to the accessibility of affordable place to walk, bike, etc. Personally, it would save me hundreds of dollars annually by cutting my commute to a trail head. Typically we drive to the Katy in Jefferson City or the Highland Trail in

Bolivar. Our commute from St. James would be cut drastically.

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This is a huge opportunity for the State of Missouri. Please accept the gift from Ameron. The trail does not need to be built immediately. It can happen over time.

----

The Rock Island Corridor as it exists, offers an incredible opportunity to the State of MO. If not accepted by the state it will be lost forever. I understand that this is a huge project, but believe that over time and with the help of communities along the corridor the project can be completed. My family and friends use the Katy Trail several times a year and the company I work for [REDACTED] has sponsored a company ride for the entire length of the Rock Island . We would use it even more with the additional opportunities the Rock Island Corridor would provide. I have observed the positive economic impact that the Katy Trail has had on the communities it passes through, and believe that the same benefits and probably more would develop from the creation of the full Rock Island Corridor. I have personally donated professional services and money in support of the Rock Island Corridor and will do so in the future. This is too great an opportunity to pass up. The completed Rock Island Trail even without its final connection into St. Louis would put Missouri in the top trail category in the country and world. This project can be completed over time with the support of local communities and individual benefactors.

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Health benefits for exercise and recreation.

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Our community will greatly benefit financially from the trail - provide much needed recreational opportunities for our community.

----

We are a rural community with little access to trails or other recreational opportunities. Our community/communities would benefit from this trail.

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Tourism - I have ridden the Katy Trail/Rock Island Spur several times and have met people from all over the country and world who come ride our trail. I have seen first hand the impact the great Allegheny Passing and George Mickleson Trail - rails to trails - the impact they have had on the towns and economy.

----

City of Belle has a grant which will be lost if the trail does not happen. Belle desperately needs this.

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Would be nice to study potential benefits - economic and otherwise - on local communities. We love the idea of a trail in our community that provides us with ready access to hiking and biking. Great for recreation and health. Are there any stats on the Katy Trails economic benefits - economic and otherwise?

----

I believe that this is a golden opportunity for MO to be a tourist destination for bike enthusiasts. The communities along this corridor would benefit from the additional commerce.

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More emphasis on potential positive impacts on communities along the corridor, both economic and recreational

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We appreciate the work you are doing to thoroughly study this. We feel it is a very important rural economic and health initiative - not just in the tourism dollars it will bring, but even more so in the quality of life and youth, business and talent retention that the effort will have for the entire region served by the Rock Island. Keeping the corridor intact is a top priority. Breaking it up or omitting sections greatly reduces the value of the whole. I believe the best feasible is where State Parks takes on the whole corridor to set standards and manage, but then works with other multiple agencies and grant fund to develop section by section through partnership. It is ok if some sections remain underdeveloped for decades, until funding becomes available to develop. The important thing now is to preserve the entire corridor intact.

----

Extra work/expenses/time to maintain. Cattle operations on both sides of an active park as opposed to two 60-80 lengths of fence to connect to existing fence on both property lines (perpendicular). Safety concerns of gawkers/trespassers in cattle pastures adjoining active trail confronting/being confronted by defensive cattle [(young calf with cow (i.e.)]. State revenue requirements by many worthy causes being scrimped to build this "titanic". As a side note, our Aldernoman was looking forward to riding the Rock Island Trail and she retired last fall, turned 65 last December and under-utilized our beautiful parks elsewhere in the state, for years. She went to see Jesus today. Leukemia took her last Thursday. I'd rather see increased funding for University Extension and healthy living grants. More funding to find substitutes for opioids rather than battling the crisis. MODOT buying tractors and running them 25 years and 10,000 hours like I have to. It all takes money and as taxpayers we're maxed out. As tariff is a tax on the poor and the uninformed.

----

If approved, would like to see development and immediate usage of sections of the trail.

----

It will attract positive tourism and enhance adjacent properties. Hopefully the Amish/Mennonite communities can have access to safer travel.

----

It is my firm belief that the development of the Rock Island Trail will bring huge benefits to the citizens along the trail as well as the entire population of Missouri and potentially the world. We have already learned that bike riders and hikers will go to extraordinary lengths to experience a new trail. The monetary benefit will be significant - as proven by the Katy Trail and the benefit to the health and well being of the users of the trail cannot be overlooked. Our community committee had been meeting for several years and we are getting more

excited all the time. We feel it would be a huge blunder not to find a way to get this done.

----

Missouri seriously legs behind the country in our efforts to promote resource conservation. As the urban centers strive to improve accessibility to bike trails in their regions noticeable improvements have been detected in community engagement and interactions. These activities also promote better health for its citizens. Supporting the efforts to include the Rock Island Corridor in the overall Katy Trail plan will not only breathe new life into the smaller communities that have suffered also to declining manufacturing sector, it will promote a sense of State citizenship among all Missourians.

----

Community involvement. I have never seen local people who are pledging amounts of \$1,000.00, \$10,000.00, \$25,000.00. Its not only money but they pick up debris and are willing to do more. Why? To bring life to their community. To have healthy options. Missouri has one of the most unhealthy and obese population in the nation. I believe only Mississippi ranks lower. The Rock Island trail connected to the Katy Trail will not only be the longest in America, but in the world. What can be done to reduce per mile costs? Does all of it have to match the quality of the Katy Trail? I know state parks does not receive the money generated by the Katy Trail, but that money does help the businesses and citizens of Missouri. I understand the Katy Trail generates 18 million dollars or by my calculation more than 74, 000 per mile - make the cost of \$6,700 per mile insignificant. I am fine with showing the costs, but lets show all the benefits. Some of which are incalculable in dollars.

----

If this becomes a state park, then eventual trail to Washington should also become state park for continuation of services.

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Missouri is a backwoods state. The Rock Island could help the states image.

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Rail bank the corridor while it is available. Build less costly sections first.

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Just start the project no matter how long it takes.

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This project is a vital resource to the small communities along the rock island. We think about the benefits not the costs. Please accept this amazing resource to fuel economic development and health in our communities!

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Safety of Amish/Mennonite travel in rural areas. Horse & buggy access could be valuable safety enhancement.

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Increased tourism, increased impact on local economies, increased tax collections benefitting state, decreased health care costs to citizens. I owe my health to the Katy Trail. Lost 140 pounds, brought all lab values within normal limits, am now able to climb 10 story building using stairs, have stopped all but one medication (controls heart rate). Have spent over



\$2,000 per year in accessories, fuel, food, lodging, completed 150 mile 4 day tour on Katy Trail 10/18.

----

It was unfortunate to not see any of the potential POSITIVE impacts of the trail presented during the public meeting. MO has a lot of opportunities to better the health of lives of its citizens. Having this trail would be a wonderful step in the right direction to improve active living, promote economic development, and take additional pride in our parks and recreational opportunities. While the cost presented may shock some, there was no information provided to show the positive gains and what offsets there could be. I implore you to consider the needs of the communities and how this trail can assist in meeting those needs.

----

It will be great for our community. I hope it will also benefit the Amish/Mennonite people.

----

The most important factor to consider is community development and support of what could be an international attraction for MO. The Katy Trail has proven a recreational trail can bring development and resources to rural and isolated communities. Public financial support can be many times matched by private donation because of the unique and beautiful features of this trail. This trail has the potential to be hugely more popular because of its features of bridges and tunnels. Through social media today, it is so much easier to get support out for a project that is supported by the State Parks. My husband David and I have biked the entire Katy Trail several times over the past 20 years. We have seen people who opposed the trail originally completely change their minds when they realized the benefits the trail brought to their community. We saw grandparents and entire families vacationing together on the trail. And doing it at a relatively low cost compared to Disney World. These people contribute to the community and allow development of bike related goods, shops, eats, places to stay. This is good for our communities now and the very best thing we can do for the future generations here in MO. Lets give our kids a reason to stay, work and play in MO.

----

Just build the trail, everyone will use it.

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You all have a big decision. Thanks for the good information! We "hope" it's a go!

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The cost to develop and maintain is substantial, but to opportunities for recreation and economic development are more significant. The donation of this corridor is a valuable resource that should not be ignored.

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Opportunities such as this don't often come along.

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This area of Missouri is in need of bike trails. Such a fantastic addition for families.

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The good that the trail would bring not only to the towns it runs through, but the safety and quality of life it would bring to people who enjoy running, walking, biking. The revenue it would bring to the towns: it would greatly benefit us all. We need the trail!

----

None - this is a no-brainer! A win-win for rural Missouri.

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Build it!

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Build the trail.

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There are many rail trails across the U.S. that we have traveled to and spent much money. We have traveled on Katy Trail several times a year and almost always spend night and eat meals at businesses. When I am on Katy Trail, I meet people from all over the world bringing P.R. and revenue to MO. Other states (including KS) charge a small fee for their rail trail use. Why not MO? Missourians are famously over-weight and unhealthy, especially in these rural areas. The trail will invite those folks to get some much needed exercise. Thank you to Ameron for this. Why are their not tables set up showing the benefits of economic development and tourism? One-sided presentations.

----

I am disappointed that I did not have opportunity to complete comments online. I completed ranking and optional info and did not see any place for comments. Of course, when I tried to go back to find error it would not allow me as said I had completed survey. This is a wonderful opportunity for many small communities. I am hopeful this will become a project to develop Rock Island Line.

----

The small rural communities that will be positively affected by the 144 mile corridor are willing to build partnerships with MSP to bring these recreational trails through their towns. They realize the importance of tourism and economic development that these trails hold if accepted by MSP. With that said, please consider accepting the "gift" from Ameron and let's continue to bring trail tourism to Missouri and these rural communities who will prosper from the development of this Rock Island Trail.

----

If the Missouri State Parks plans to develop the trail, I would like to see the most scenic section done first, which would be from Eugene to Summerfield.

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Some areas where development has occurred over the years has resulted in structures in very close proximity for the proposed trail. Tunnel in Freeburg for example. How far would be considered reasonable to adjust the route? Will townships be required/encouraged to levy taxes? Would state grant funds be available to promote businesses or economic development?

----

This trail is not needed. Way too costly to taxpayers.

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-law enforcement to patrol the trail -upkeep -issues with access to our private drive -cost that it will take to keep up when money could be spent better elsewhere

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The trail will give Missouri citizens an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the state. The Katy and RI would be a great "show case" for Missouri. It would bring in others from states around the country. Every time I bike the Katy, I always notice cars from other states. RI would be a great tourism draw.

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Should go back to original landowner. We don't need to waste money on this.

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Once in a lifetime chance for a great trail. Real opportunity for local communication and towns.

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Think we really need to get all our roads and bridges in the state fixed before we even need to consider another trail. Trespassing in sure will be a factor also 4wheelers and hunting along that trail too.

----

I don't see how DNR can afford to undertake such a project. You will run into hidden costs to develop, making it more expensive still. Estimated cost to upkeep track is almost \$7,000/mile. How can you afford this even if you can get donations to offset initial costs? The DNR surely has better ways to spend their money.

----

I hope the Rock Island Trail happens.

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I think it would be foolish for the DNR to pass up this opportunity to develop a recreational trail through this part of the state. I think it would bring economic development at commensurate with that which occurred along the Katy Trail, which I have visited many times. I think the recreational opportunity and the potential economic benefits would far outweigh the developmental costs of the trail.

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Take it! You will not get it if you wait.

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I think you are on the right track with how you are informing the public, talking with legal, state and regional partners about the Rock Island Corridor. I advocate for the expansion as planned and following the success of the Katy Trail continue with more of the same! It's something that's unique to Missouri and we as a state can promote and be proud of. Tourism \$\$.

----

I, as well as many other people I know, are eager to use the MORIT if it comes into being. We are frequent trail riders in MO & elsewhere. Obviously, major concerns are the cost of development and maintenance. I do think it will be an important tourist destination and thus will bring increased revenue to the state. Businesses will come into being along the trail. Still, donor dollars will be likely to be an important part of trail development by necessity. I donate to several organizations that support trails and cycling in general, but I

am not wealthy. I would favor some tax dollars going to the trail as I just indicated I think it will bring increased revenue to the state. I think many of the towns on the trail would seek grants to support their portions of the trail. It doesn't have to be built overnight. I think people that favor it can eventually find a way. I'll be willing to put some sweat equity into trail development. I think various bike groups would hold fundraisers. I think the negative impact of the MKT & Katy Trails on landowners has been negligible. There have definitely been positive benefits to the towns on the Katy. They proximity of Columbia helps though, there is no comparable sized city on the MORIT. I hope it can be made to happen. I think it can.

----

I believe this is a large economic opportunity for the 17 communities along the corridor. There a public private partnership opportunities that can help get sections of the corridor built. It doesn't have to be built all at once. It can be done in sections. The Mennonite community will certainly be supportive in this area, since it will enable tem to get off Hwy 52 near Stover and Versailles.

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There are many better uses of state money.

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Looking forward to seeing this project move forward!

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Cost, Cost, Cost - stupid to spend money on this when roads and bridges need it.

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Huge benefit to the health of Missourians. Provide jobs in construction = revenue from wage and sales taxes, tourism plus for the state - attractive to foreigners as well. Stimulus to these small communities potential economic gains. Attractive to retirees for low cost active recreation and to poor people. Community connectivity is enhanced. I would approve work to support a small levy tax to assist to raise public funding support. Thank you, excellent information and format.

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Benefits to health of all users - social, physical activity, stress reduction.

----

Once in a lifetime opportunity make Missouri the premier rails to trail destination in the world. Accept the corridor and develop as funds and sponsors are available, but don't let this one get away.

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Lets focus on keeping up what we have already, instead of letting everything go down hill. Some of our parks could really use some upkeep. Not only is this a bad deal for the landowner, think of all the wild animals that are born along the tracks every year and you want to take that away. How would you like if people come through your back yard all times day and night?

----

I think the Rock Island Trail being converted into a bike trail is a complete waste of the Missouri taxpayers money. There is so much more that could help the local population, like making roads better for local businesses. The last thing that

the land owners of the trail needs is the public gaining access to it. Local drug criminals will just flourish and will use the trail to their advantage. Use the tax money to better the existing state parks that are in need of upkeep anyway.

----

I think they should use the money on the trails that already exist, for improvements and maintenance.

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Realizing the economic obligation, I still believe the trail would give more than it would take from the economy. As I understand, there are many groups willing to contribute to funding concerns - use them. The opportunities for local small towns with the little choices for jobs and financial gain is too great to pass up. I remember when the Katy Trail was in the process - it took way too long to become a reality. We should develop the trail as quickly as we can and while people are interested in helping with funding and however else they can. If needed, could there be a tax in the areas that would benefit to help with operational costs? Ask for a vote! I really hope this can happen while I'm alive. Both my grandpas worked on the Rock Island rail lines. I'd hate to see this be forgotten or abandoned. It seems such a perfect fit for Missouri State Parks. Thank you.

----

This could be a significant economic benefit for towns on route as well as State in general. One has to think in terms of 25-50 years in future - what a great chance for tourism, economic development for this region!

----

safety relating to both the trail itself (over rough terrain and bridges) and activities in the corridor environment like hunting, logging, etc.

----

Why do this? It sounds like a complete waste of tax dollars and heart ache for the land owners. Spend this money on roads that need rebuilding. If I owned land on the trail I wouldn't want someone walking through. Sounds like a huge liability on the land owners.

----

We have biked the Katy for 15 years, love it, built a cabin in Windsor. The economic development we have witnessed is huge. The money that the Rock Island would bring to Missouri far exceeds the cost. The problem is the revenue from the riders is not getting to the State parks. Solve that and watch rural MO grow tourism.

----

A chance to revitalize small "railroad" towns, bringing potential business endeavors and economic growth should not be passed up. The potential for out-of-towners to visit this trail and experience the backwoods of Missouri could be significant, and ultimately impact Missouri tourism revenues. There are more positives than negatives in the establishing of the Rock Island Trail.

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Assessing the least cost alternative that still preserved the whole 144 mile corridor. Work with partners to get as much operational as fast as possible.

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No trail. Too costly. Other State priorities.

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1. I own 6/10 mile of farmland adjacent to the trail. 2. I'm for the trail. 3. I will volunteer to maintain the trail adjacent to our property. 4. I will donate money for the trail. 5. I have offer my property for a trail head.

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Landowner's rights, building fences, no cost to local patrol and fire fighters.

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Don't do it. It's stealing from the landowner.

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Making sure citizens have easy access to trail and communities prosper. Please make this happen!

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I believe this trail should be developed to provide economic and historical opportunities to the local towns. It would attract a lot of tourists. People who hike/bike usually do not litter or destroy property. You could also use those people to form groups of volunteers for building and maintenance concerns.


----

A trail would be a resource to be used and enjoyed by all Missourians or Missouri visitors - affordable by all unlike other recent parks- i.e. Echo Bluff, which requires wealth to use and fully enjoy. MO State Parks should provide recreational opportunities for all residents of the state regardless of wealth. Great opportunity for better health and well being of residents. Bring people to more less well known communities in our beautiful, diverse state.

----

No. This is another feather in Missouri's hat. Parks and trails are essential for physical and mental health. I support this 100%.

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State Parks and the Government of Missouri needs to make the best choice for all the citizens of Missouri. The Katy Trail generates more than \$72,000.00 per mile. The Katy and Rock Island combined will be not only the longest trail in the USA, but in this world. What a tourist advertisement for the state of Missouri. If you want economic development for rural communities; no better vehicle than the Rock Island. Exists for Gerald, Rosebud, Owensville, Bland and Belle. The people of these communities are (and have) volunteered hours and have made pledges of \$1,000, \$10,000, and \$25,000. Tell us how we can help and we will help. This is not only a once in a life time opportunity, but a once in ever opportunity. Better that State have control than someone else. A healthy opportunity. A way to bring Missourians together - both rural and cities.

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The expanded RIT is a draw for tourists

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Only that this is an incredible opportunity, and the cost of letting it go by is immense.

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This would make Missouri an international destination for bikers. We should take advantage of this opportunity! Thanks

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Timing, should be high priority to complete as soon as possible. I come to Missouri almost every year to ride the KATY.

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The park is needed. Get it done as promised and stop spending that money on the state capitol repairs which were not needed

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I believe they way overestimate the costs, and the timing of the costs. They can spread this investment out, and economic impact will more than pay for the investment. They are not considering the amount of activity, and economic activity that is generated by the shops, bed and breakfasts, camping sites, secondary tourist sites - just look at the cities along the Katy and other trails - the brew pubs, restaurants, hotels, - there is economic renaissance all along the trail - that is ONLY made possible by the trails. Missouri is grossly underestimating this.

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No

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The state of Missouri would be penny wise and pound foolish not to take advantage of this remarkable opportunity to be come the national leader in bike trails. The chance for increased bicycle tourism and recreational possibilities for Missourians is astounding.

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It is such a NATURAL addition to MO State Parks...since it ties in to the KATY, and offers so MANY options

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Missouri has a fantastic opportunity to get on board with the donation of the 144 mile corridor and its development as an additional trail spanning he state. What an opportunity for Missouri to show its support fo the numerous towns which will benefit from the trail.

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Get it all done sooner than later, please.

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Quality of life and how leading employers choose future business based on that

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Who's going to pay for it. No tax money should be used for this at all

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The more we grow our communities, the more tax base we have to better MO and serve our residents.

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What a wonderful opportunity for our great state. So much to learn. So much to lose. We must step forward, not backwards. It's there, it just needs the help of Missouri.

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It will be a great opportunity for all involved. Hopefully boosting the economy in small towns.

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User fee to pay for upkeep.

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I live right near the rail road. I think it would be an absolutely amazing thing for all. Including business owners.

----

Don't have to develop the entire line immediately. Katy took years, develop sections that cost less first.

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The fact that the corridor would positively impact and rejuvenate communities all along the corridor. Not only economically, but aesthetically. It would also give MO an incredible crown jewell "loop" of recreational and scenic trails unrivaled anywhere else in America. It would be a HUGE draw for tourism, and eventually a wonderful economic boom in MO tax revenue.

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Tourism

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Nothing additional. I have seen the positive impact the Rock Island has already had in Lee's Summit, Pleasant Hill, Chilhowee, and Windsor. More areas should have that opportunity.

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The Katy Trail has turned out to be a very positive economic impact for the towns/communities along it. The same thing can happen for the towns/communities along the Rock Island Line Corridor.

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Build trail in small sections.

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While development of the Rock Island corridor need not be immediately, State Parks should accept the corridor to hold for future development, which could occur in conjunction with local communities and organizations.

----

This is a golden opportunity for economic development of small, struggling towns in Missouri. I seriously question the impact on adjacent land owners--other than in a positive way if the towns they live near prosper because of this trail!

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It's a great opportunity to bring money into the area, while helping people be more active. I ride the Rock Island and Katy Trail and see people from every age range.

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Consider the economic benefits demonstrated by the Katy Trail and other recreational trails.

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Impact on preserving and enhancing the character of rural Missouri.

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Not now.

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It will provide economic growth to small towns

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Trash being dumped and drug activity on the trail

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Preserving the history of the Rock Island Line in Missouri

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It's a once in a lifetime opportunity! I came to Missouri for the Katy Trail and I would be back for the Rock Island.

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Can't wait to see it completed.

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There are too many positive things to come with this trail. The economic growth alone in these small towns is amazing. But this gives a true destination attraction which spans the entire state. We need to make sure we CONNECT all of these trails on all sides. Especially in Greenwood Missouri where Jackson County decided to go north out of Lee's Summit and not south to connect the trail with Amtrak. With the Amtrak it provides transportation with bicycles across the state. It allows people to go farther and see more things and impact more economic growth.

----

This should happen! There are so many positives for the state of Missouri. When I'm on the Katy Trail, I meet people from all over the country and even the world who travel here just to ride it. Thank you for continuing to make Missouri a destination for active travelers.

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Positive Health benefits, Tourist dollars Positive benefit to the state

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Opportunities such as this are extremely rare and of very high value. The return to the state's citizens and even the whole country are just so high in comparison to the cost, we need to jump on this with as much enthusiasm as we can.

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The rock island trail in conjunction with the KATY will be a great tourist draw

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Out of state tourist attraction .

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It is critical that the entire corridor be preserved and converted to a trail. The increased connectivity, community development/growth benefits, and appeal for recreation/tourism of a complete corridor vs segments are worth the additional investment. I believe it isn't unreasonable to think you would actually offset more of your costs with a full route than just piecemeal trails. Please don't mess up this wonderful opportunity by focusing on fears about costs; please, please show you possess the vision and daring to do something truly great for the state parks system and Missouri generally. There is strong enough public support to overcome any obstacles; please have faith in the people of Missouri's love of the outdoors and don't mess up this golden opportunity with half-measures. Thank you.

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Just what an amazing gift it would be to this state and all of the small towns along the way.

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This seems a no brainer to me. Look at the amazing impact that Katy Trail had on the adjacent communities, recreational opportunities and attracting tourism dollars to the state. This hesitation to accept the donation feels like a political stunt.

----

Facilitate use of the entire corridor to connect all towns & cities on the route, not segments (a bad idea). Economic impact for them would be very positive.

----

Accept the park and plan to make it as good as the Katy Trail later. Having the popular rise in gravel riding lately, the state should market the awesome mileage of safe gravel riding through historic areas by accepting the Rock island.

----

My wife and I travel across the country to ride long distance rails to trails and we keep waiting for this project to be completed to visit your state. We likely will not visit MO until that happens. Do not ignore this opportunity for economic development. We spend significant money when long our rides and purposely support the local communities. It will also create an incredible asset for the state for resident's use on a daily basis and attract entrepreneurs you don't even know exist.

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Long term impact as far as building Missouri's reputation as an outstanding state to live and play in.

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It would be good to see the state's economic development folks get into the plan. Other states have expanded their tourism income by supporting trail development and Missouri seems to only look at cost, not potential income and increased land values.

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Improved citizen health (physical and mental) resulting in lower insurance costs and medical expenditures, including direct impact on state expenditure improvement from state employees using the trail and improving health.

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Cost Cost Cost and the negative impact to adjacent land owners with increased wild animal activity

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Preservation of corridor for transportation and recreation

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It's an opportunity we won't get back.

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Positive image of Missouri held by people outside the state.

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Why is this not already funded and under way ? I strongly support the Rock Island Line Corridor. The value is in maintaining the full distance of the trail from Windsor to Beaufort.

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Preserving the trail for years to come has great value. Even though the bridges are the most expensive parts, they provide access to areas that would otherwise be unreachable.

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The State of Missouri stands to gain far more in revenue from out of state trail users, than the cost of construction and maintenance of the additional 144 miles. The problem seems to be that the state park system does not envision any of that money getting to their budget. The meetings would have been much better if representatives from Missouri tourism and economic development were included.

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Tourism and income coming into the state, and being put on the world map with a one of kind recreational hiking and biking path.

----

I strongly support the state accepting the corridor and developing it over time through partnerships as funding becomes available. Preserving the entire corridor whole and intact is the top immediate priority. State Parks is clearly the agency best able to accept and manage the corridor. Parks needn't fully develop the trail now, but should now do the minimum needed to accept the corridor and then build over time as funding from local partnerships, private partnerships, and grants becomes available. It is OK and desirable in the short term to develop and maintain the trail to a lower, and far less expensive, standard than the Katy Trail. We can work towards Katy Trail quality if and when funding becomes available. State Parks proposals for the Rock Island Trail and your responses State Parks has presented a very ambitious but also very expensive plan to develop the Rock Island corridor to Katy Trail standards. This is laudable as a long-term goal but simply infeasible in the present given budget constraints. I share the concern of many local bike advocacy groups and strongly encouraging State Parks to adopt a feasible and economically viable plan for accepting and developing the trail, rather than putting forward an expensive "Cadillac" plan and then refusing to accept the corridor because the Cadillac plan doesn't look feasible.

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Would love to see more trails in the state!

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Partnering with communities to coordinate work on intersecting road repairs so they can receive safety improvements concurrent with trail work. Implementing dig once because adding conduit for fiber optic cable could help bring faster internet to rural communities and the fees to use it could be dedicated maintenance funds.

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Completing the Rock Island Line Corridor should be one of the priorities for increasing MO tourism and economic investments for future gains.

----

This railroad route contains many interesting locations, great benefits to towns and many historical sites. Breaking up the route would be a poor choice.

----

If this trail isn't accepted now, is there any possibility another trail could ever be developed at anywhere near this cost that would provide similar benefits?

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Please give people the option of new forms of recreation and exercise!

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Consider how much impact the Katy has had and then double it.

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Consider setting up an Amazon Smile donor account to help augment funding for many MO State Parks, including acquiring and developing the RILC.

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Seems to be taking a very long time to get this up and going.

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The history that can be preserved and reused

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The RILC is a wonderful tourism opportunity for the State Parks and would bring some life to the small cities along the way as the Katy trail has done. If full development can't be funded just yet, it should all be acquired and developed as funds and donations become available. Also, I would love to see a spur from the RILC at Henley to the Jefferson City Katy Trail head. Even if it is a map of backroads riders can take. A great incentive for KC and STL riders would be a way to do a round trip rather than an out and back ride.

----

Yes! Please accept this trail.

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The time constraints of accepting the gift as well as the possibility that if the gift is initially rejected it may not be possible to acquire the land in the future should be taken into account.

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Tourist and travel exposure to people. This will get people to discover parts of Missouri that otherwise they would have no idea existed or have reason to go to.

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Capitalizing on the opportunity at hand.

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Economic impact and recognition of recreational opportunities in our state is huge. Folks come from all over the world to ride the Katy.

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Friends of mine in Iowa go to Missouri to ride the KATY Trail each year. More trails in this area will bring more bike tourists to Missouri

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Easement for land owners to get from road to the fields.

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Overall projected health benefits, tourism increases and projected added State of Missouri income through bed taxes and tourism taxes.

----

The Rock Island corridor development will be a great addition to Missouri's park system. One can look to the Katy Trail as an example of what such a trail can do for the local economies and to provide recreational opportunities for citizens of Missouri and from all over to enjoy all that Missouri has to offer. Even if the money is not currently available to develop the corridor, we should not pass up this unique opportunity to acquire this land and look to future philanthropic and private entities to develop the trail. My family, friends and I enjoy the Katy Trail and look forward to enjoying the Rock Island Trail as well.

----

The Rock Island Line Corridor would be a fantastic addition to Missouri's state parks. As a resident, I would use it for hiking and cycling. I also have out of state relatives for whom facilities like this are a factor in deciding to come and visit the state.

----

will be nothing like it on earth bike and hike park wise with the tunnels bridges and scenery...

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I just feel like it will be a great benefit to a part of the state with not a lot of opportunities. The Katy trail has been a boon for all of the communities it goes through and I think the Rock Island will be as well

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This is a wonderful opportunity! I rode on the completed portion this summer.

----

Being far sighted and looking at the benefits in the years to come of having this world class trail system in our state.

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Accept the corridor! This will allow the towns along the proposed trail that have developed the right of way into local trail to connect with the rest of the system. This can be done in stages, and would not require all the money upfront. To let this get away would be no different than bulldozing a natural site and making it into a shopping mall. We have have shot at making Missouri THE PREMIER Hike/Bike Trail state in country, if not the world! Please don't let this get away!

----

This opportunity only comes around once and will never happen again. Except a problem considerate long as the trail doesn't like the way budget over the long term

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Marketing the trail to tourists.

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As an avid bike rider I would love to see this trail expanded. I think it promotes fitness and healthy living as well as provides an economic boost to all the communities along the trails.

----

Positive effect on Missouri tourism. This type of recreational facility will attract visitors from across the nation and around the world.

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It has helped our town immensely economically.

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Blacktop the trails

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The impact the current 47 miles has already has on the economy in towns such as Leeton, Chilhowee, and especially Windsor MO.

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This corridor should absolutely be preserved, even if it is "banked" for future trail development, or developed at a basic level while funding develops.

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It would make a good economic impact on the whole state

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Property rights of land owners

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It is an opportunity for small towns that cannot be passed up. Being a trail business owner in Windsor, I would like to see this continue to grow and continue to see small communities grow and improve because of the trail.

----

I think the overall impact to state branding, promotion of healthy lifestyle culture, and revitalization of aging rural communities would be positive impacts to consider.

----

The above categories are very broad and generalized. The "additional" or "extenuating" factors I could or might come up with would generally fall under one of the above.

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Horses should NOT be banned!

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Along with cost of maintenance and development: Informing taxpayers how the trail expansions are funded.

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None, other than any help and assistance that can be given to the communities that find themselves trail side. It's been transformational for small towns along the trails!

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More business advertising on trails for these smaller upcoming businesses

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Windsor is a dead town [REDACTED] and doesn't deserve any federal funding when the city fails to maintain basic services to its residents. Examples to include, internet, clean water, police, fire and EMT services.

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The Economic Development potential for our state. Not just in terms of tourism development, but as a TALENT ATTRACTION STRATEGY. How will we keep and attract a rural workforce in MO?

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Preservation of natural habitat to wildlife.

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State investment will be rewarded with additional economic impact

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n/a

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The Rock Island Corridor is a great opportunity for new economic development in the towns adjacent to the trail. State Parks should accept and manage it--but should look primarily to outside funding and resources to develop the trail. No one is expecting State Parks to lead the way in covering the expense of trail building, when their budget is already stretched to the limit.

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Adding additional bike infrastructure that leads to and from the trail.

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Contiguous trail access across missouri

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The line can be developed with outside funding, but accepting it now preserves access for future Missourians. The Katy has been a huge success, and expanding it to the Rock Island would only strengthen MO's position as a destination for cycling tourism.

----

The Rock Island Corridor will leverage the existing Katy Trail to make Missouri an amazing rail-trail destination. I find it weird that it's taking this long to get to "YES!"

----

The entire corridor should be preserved. Without a continuous path, the value of the project will be greatly diminished and won't attract people from other areas. Imagine a highway built in sections that don't connect. Doesn't make any sense.

----

What other states are installing as top trail destinations.

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Accept the gift and develop as the funds are available.

----

Support of this trail is exciting and should be provided by the State Parks system but should look to outside funding through both local and private grants and partnerships to fully fund the project. It is also important to preserve the entirety of the trail, even if this does not occur immediately, but instead over time. It is also important to note that the trail does not have to meet exceptionally high standards, just that it is properly preserved. This is such a great opportunity to create a connection of trails over 500 miles long throughout the state with the addition of the Rock Island Line on other already existing trails. This opportunity cannot be overlooked.

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Another factor: Historic significance. This is a once in a life-time opportunity to preserve this corridor and the history of the Rock Island. There is only one Rock Island line and the opportunity to preserve for future generations to appreciate should not be lost. There is real opportunity for small town revitalization and transformation for Meta, Freeburg, Belle, Bland, Owensville....given their proximity to the proposed trail. So much potential....

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No

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This is a once ever opportunity for Missouri to have the best and most extensive Rail to Trail system in U.S. and maybe the world. MO Parks is the entity that need to head this effort because Parks has the experience and know how to lead the way with the KATY Trail. Suggestions:(1) Secure the Rock Island for the State of MO; (2) Trespassing is not a overwhelming problem. The condition of the property will be no different than it is currently. The posting of No Trespassing sign, will insulate state from liability. A trespasser can not prevail on a claim for personal injury caused by the land they are trespassing on.(3) The fencing issue only requires a 'legal fence' ( 4 strands of barb wire and metal posts). A lot of neighbors will not want fence. There is considerable distance of shared side with Highways. Those that want fence probably already have a fence and they can wait. Other areas that people have livestock and need new fences will make

Application, be placed on a list and gotten to in due course. If livestock do get out on the rail easement it is not a danger to either the cattle or those that are using the trail. Also there can be efforts to change the current law.(4) MO parks need to solicit contributions for the Rock Island trail, such as buy a mile or 1/4 mile. If MO Parks can not solicit contribution then it need to be another group or groups with Parks guide lines.The Rock Island needs to be developed in sections and maybe even by single miles.(5) MO Parks need to be transparent that this project will take money, some of which will come from Parks budget and most from outside contributions and it will take time."Rome was not built in a day"(6) There will be problems and set backs on this endeavor, but the end result justifies going forward with accepting the Rock Island corridor knowing that all of the funding is not in hand or even pledged at this time, but that the End result is worth going forward without knowing everything now.

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When the Rock Island is completed is will create a loop (coupled with the KATY) thru Missouri that will attack riders from all over. The ability to park in one spot, ride a 400 mile loop and return to you parking spot is huge. That is 8 to 10 days of spending money in the many small towns along the way. Its the perfect alignment of recreation, tourism and economic development. Shame on the decision makers in Missouri if this opportunity slips by.

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No

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I live along Grant's Trail - a rails to trails park. These type of parks are very popular and draw lots of visitors. Please consider keeping the entire corridor intact. It's perfectly ok to build it to a lower standard than the Katy Trail. Keeping the entire trail length is a higher priority. This project will be a true gem for Missouri.

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I'm a small business owner who has seen the positive impact the trail has had on my business and the community of Windsor. The sky is the limit for positive thinking people that live along the trail.

----

In a state widely considered a 'flyover state', the Katy Trail has become a destination for cyclists and people interested in exploring nature, almost like Missouri's own Appalachian trail. The financial benefit to communities on the Katy trail has been massive, and the Rock Island Line Corridor has the potential to do the same. Improving outdoor recreational opportunities also encourages the public to be more active, resulting in improved public health, and lower rates of obesity and heart disease. As someone who has biked the Katy Trail, I can safely say I would not have visited any of the small rural towns on the trail otherwise, but was glad to spend both money and time in each of the towns.

----

Communities should "adopt" segments of the trail to help with maintenance and development costs.

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I believe full implementation of the trail will be most beneficial to the economical growth of the town's bordering the trail. The construction of the trail can be done initially at a lower standard than the KATY then improvements made over time is initial funding is a concern. But most important is the whole trail. This will bring more visitors throughout the state and as a result higher economical impact.

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Preservation of the right of way for future public transportation use. Maybe someday we will see the value In Mass transit! A high speed uni rail could be suspended above trails for multi use by us and those who would like to zip on rail.

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The RIT corridor will bring a sense of hope to many of the rural areas- that they have lost due to many factories leaving the areas. And a common cause to help unite residents. Please give us a chance by having the RIT corridor to build on !

----

I have taken numerous day trips and 4 multi-overnight trips on the Katy Trail, visiting towns, cafes, shops, and B&Bs, that I would have never seen if not for the Katy. I will do the same on the Rock Island Trail. The long term economic impact of the trail is significant and far outweighs the cost of development and maintenance. I host bike travelers from other states and countries, who are excited to learn about and visit the Katy Trail. The Katy trail is an international & national attraction. This notoriety will grow once the Rock Island trail is complete

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Not all landowners are opposed. I am an adjacent land owner and I welcome the trail development.

----

The impact and money it will bring into the small towns along the route from people all over the world. My wife and I have rode the Katy more than once and the people that was riding was from Canada and other places it's amazing to talk to them all.

----

Having a new recreational trail for expanded fitness that expands across the state. This will also bring millions in expanded revenue

----

I strongly support the trail and feel State Parks is the best organization to take over and manage the entire corridor for the long term. It is imperative that, above all, the entire corridor be preserved whole and intact for the future. Now is our one chance to preserve the entire corridor intact--we won't get a second chance. State Parks should look primarily to local and private partnerships and grant funding to build the trail. It's OK to build the trail to a lower standard than the Katy. Better to preserve the corridor and build to a lower standard, than lose it altogether. Given State Parks' current budget pressures, their primary decision point should be whether they can afford the minimum investment needed in order to preserve the corridor now and allow the trail to be developed over time by outside funding sources. If State Parks can sustain that minimum required investment, then they should

move as quickly as possible to preserve the corridor for posterity.

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Thanks for considering these comments. The opportunity to receive the Rock Island Line Corridor is an absolutely outstanding thing for Missouri, and there are no second chances with this if we do not move ahead with it today. Please please please, accept the Rock Island Line Corridor intact, even if it means investing the bare minimum into the project just to get it going. There are a variety of public/private partnerships that can fund the work to get it where we need to be over the coming years.

----

This tract of land is important to keep intact for the future benefit of Missourians. Even if it can't be fully developed right now, it should be taken on by the state to preserve it. This could eventually join the Katy trail and create one of the best trail systems in the country.

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Not only would a Rock Island Trail be attractive in itself, but the creation of a huge loop with the Katy Trail would be unusual, maybe unique. The RI part of that loop would not have to be built to quite the same construction standards as the Katy Trail, if significant sums would be saved that way. Maybe maintenance after storms would be less frequent, that sort of thing.

----

Please use all efforts to acquire the Rock Island Line corridor and you can gradually put resources into development-better to do that than to lose the ability to acquire the corridor.

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I believe the trail will pay for itself in the long run. Missouri needs this Trail!

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Rock Island Line Corridor will provide connectivity with other trails. Rock Island Line Corridor will provide a healthy tourist attraction.

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This is an opportunity that we shouldn't pass up. We won't get a second chance.

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Think of bucket lists for rich out-of-staters.

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Preserving the entire corridor for the economic benefits it would provide as well as the health benefits provided to the many trail users.

----

I would like modnr to accept the entire trail and develop the trail as funds are available. Cities along the trail can develop their own sections. Tunnels and bridges could be funded by private donations and corporate sponsors

----

There are rail corridors being developed in many states in the US and therefore we are in competition with those states for tourism. We have a unique opportunity to develop a "loop" trail by connections to the Katy on both east and west which would make this trail system highly competitive with other trails. The better our trail system, the more tourism, the more

infusion of dollars into our Missouri economy from outside the state as well as from in-state riders. I personally have a group of 40 riders who are wanting to ride this connected loop trail when it is available and they come from all over the US and Europe. A means to connect on the east side of the state to the Katy is highly desirable. Highlighting this beautiful part of the state will lead to further tourism in other parts of the state, in my opinion. The above rankings are somewhat falacious because each one is tied to the others and all in the end are very important and interconnected.

----

The positive impact on the quality of life should be considered. We seek to attract industries paying higher salaries, and no company moves without at least considering availability of recreational opportunities. Cycling has been shown to be one of the best forms of aerobic exercise for all ages, and any project improving access to safe cycling routes deserves support.

----

Bicycle trails are so very popular. I also look to other states to visit based on availability of interesting trails. I am always with 2 or more people. In the last year I have been to South Dakota, North Carolina, Virginia and France for bike rides and Canada and Wyoming for skiing. I also ride on the Katy Trail

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This is a historic opportunity. I am a very strong supporter of accepting the land for trail use. The benefits for the citizens far outweighs any costs or negatives. The entire length must be preserved as a whole. The costs for trail building can be spread out, but the costs of losing this can never be recovered.

----

Wow, the open house information sessions were very informative and the staff knew the answers. Even though the costs seems high for the completed trail, the opportunity to acquire this right of way should be taken advantage of. If the State does not, it will be very regrettable. By joining the Katy Trail and the Rock Island Trail, it forms a loop trail across the state, which is very important. Also each of the communities this trail passes through will benefit greatly in positive ways to many to mention this section allows. Also this trail can be completed over the next 20 years, or as funding provides. I would also expect the communities to participate with some of the funding. The Katy Trail has demonstrated the success of a long distance trail. The entire state, and its people will benefit from this trail for many future generations. These opportunities don't come along very often, please take advantage of this opportunity. There are many organizations and communities that the State can partner with to help make this trail a reality. This trail can become another jewel on the crown for the State of Missouri. Thank you for all of the due diligence that has gone into evaluating this project. The State has everything to gain from this project with all of risks identified. My hats off to the entire team!

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1. It is critically important to preserve the entire corridor, not just a part or parts of it. 2. For long term sustainability, it is critically important that State Parks take over and manage the entire corridor, just as State Parks manages Missouri's crown

jewel, the Katy Trail. 3. As noted in 1, above, preserving the corridor is the critical part. Thus, unless and until funding improves, development to minimum standards makes the most sense, as opposed to Katy Trail equivalency. For the same reasons, private partnerships, local and grant funding should be considered as the primary funding vehicles for the time being. 4. I have friends from all over the country, and indeed some from outside the U. S., who come to Missouri each year to enjoy and marvel at the Katy. We cannot and should not let the long term opportunity to obtain and develop a comparable resource so as to preserve it for the use and benefit of the public in perpetuity.

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Not really

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I strongly support the trail and feel State Parks is the best organization to take over and manage the entire corridor for the long term. It is imperative that, above all, the entire corridor be preserved whole and intact for the future. State Parks should look primarily to local and private partnerships and grant funding to build the trail. It's OK to build the trail to a lower standard than the Katy. Tourism, recreation, better outdoor experiences and off-street trails are great ways to enjoy Missouri. We have minimal investments in these types of corridors and by taking advantage of this project it will enhance Missouri for all to enjoy.

----

Strike while the iron is hot. Grab this valuable resource and work over the next 5-10 years on how to upgrade and maintain a trail.

----

Based on the history of rail corridor abandonment elsewhere in the country (and even here in Springfield), corridors that are allowed to revert to adjacent landowners become lost as public recreational opportunities...permanently. Despite the costs associated with accepting the corridor, Missouri State Parks should recognize this fact and protect this asset for the future-- even if that means building a current trail to a lower standard than the Katy Trail, or doing nothing more at present than minimally maintaining the corridor.

----

It is important to keep the entire corridor intact. It should be developed as funding is made available especially from local and private sources. This will be a major tourism attraction for our state.

----

community impact for small towns allong this trail NEED this income!

----

I am in favor of developing the Rock Island line in the near future. I believe it improves the health and well-being of local communities.

----

The RIL Trail when combined with The KATY will become an international tourist draw and turn the trail towns into tourist destinations and desirable retirement communities.

----

This is a once-ever opportunity. Consider the significance of the Katy and innumerable positive impacts it has on the state in general and the adjacent communities specifically. Then consider how much less of an impact it would have were it discontinuous. It's imperative that the ENTIRE corridor be accepted and preserved at this juncture even if that means reduced facilities and building to minimum standards at the outset--we can always make improvements over time, not just through state appropriations but also via various public and private partnerships. These trails are, like all parks, treasures. They are treasures which have the power to draw a completely different demographic of tourists to our state. Please do not forego the unique opportunity to stamp MO as a premier destination these people, and to offer the communities along the route the health, recreational and economic opportunities. My family and friends and I look forward to being able to utilize this trail in concert with the Katy.

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This is an investment that will pay for itself and show the value of state government.

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They do not make land. Get it now or it will be gone. Matters not if it takes 50 years to convert/complete. Let small sections be done by non-profits or local government if they want to do it. Land is sitting now, nothing be done with it /on it and costing nothing. It cost state nothing to let it sit so if you don't have a budget for it let it sit till you do .

----

Helps Katy trail more all towns has trail and Mo. People come all over spend time in town all levels coming stay

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No taxpayer or MODOT funding should be spent to develop the trail. Also Ameren should not receive any tax benefit or credits for "donating" this liability on their books. The State of Missouri has higher priorities (transportation, education, high education, work force development, etc) to invest in. Also DNR has an almost \$200 deferred maintenance backlog that needs to be adressed including public drinking water and wastewater improvements that need made before. Our park visitors should be assured our parks have safe drinking water and that our wastewater systems aren't polluting our streams. Also the costs of the Henley, Freeburg bridge and tunnels are not included in the estimates. That could be an incredible cost over the \$100 million estimate.

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I rode 1700 miles last year on the existing portion of the RIT between Pleasant Hill and Windsor. A brilliant asset for the state. MO needs to expand the corridor east.

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The direct economic impact is clear but it should also be noted that having an extensive trail network helps to attract people to move to Missouri. So, make Missouri the go-to place for outdoor activities. This trail along with others will make Missouri more attractive to outdoor enthusiasts and make people want to move here.

----

The corridor if developed into a trail doesn't have to be completed overnight. Took many years for the Katy to be completed. Public/ Private partnerships should be considered. 30+ miles are already committed to be developed into trails by the communities along the trail. I wouldn't be surprised if the counties pitch in to connect communities by developing the parts in between.

----

The cycling community in St. Louis is huge and always growing as health has become the new big kick. The closer this trail gets to St. Louis, the better. Labadie, Villa ridge, Union and Beaufort could see more business opportunity and foot(wheel) traffic for local events. Cyclist love a destination to eat and grab a drink, and the small towns along the Rock island trail could benefit from that! That is a big advantage the Rock island trail will have over the Katy trail.

----

Tourist.

----

We own property in one of the towns along the rail bed and support its redevelopment into a complete, unbroken trail. Doing this will help create business opportunities to help revitalize our small town as well as many others on the line.

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Consider that this is a once in forever opportunity and how popular projects like this are throughout the country

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Just get it done

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Quality of Life improvements for Missourians.

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It would be great to extend to St. Louis

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The MSP did a great job of explaining the costs and impact on the park system. I didn't see any data regarding the overall economic impact to the state. I understand that may not be information that is available from the park department (most likely tourism or economic development departments) but that clearly would impact whether it is feasible to add the Rock Island to our system. I also didn't come away with an understanding of the long term vision for Missouri State Parks. I think the future vision will have an impact on the decision regarding accepting or declining the Rock Island.

----

Acquisition and preservation of the corridor must be the top priority. Funds for development and maintenance can be found at a later date, but the corridor must be protected now by State Parks.

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This is a one time opportunity. The property should be saved for future development even if it takes decades. Funding sources can come from unexpected benefactors, user fees, local towns in addition to state funding. We should look long term and not panic from sticker shock.

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This could be an economic win for Missouri. Dont miss out

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Economic growth that trails of this nature bring are needed in this state!

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The state of Missouri has cut taxes. Our schools are run on a shoe string and teachers are one of the lowest paid in the country. We need to put priorities where they belong; educating our kids. The "trails" will not benefit the vast majority while maintaining our public school system will.

----

Development of this trail would provide a needed economic boost to the local towns and to our state. The trail would be a unique adventure allowing riders to ride a loop around the mid regions of the state as well as cross the entire state on bicycle. I highly encourage the powers that be to accept this land gift from Ameren.

----

I would like to see the state consider the economic impact with the increase in tourism to each of the town and to the state. I meet many international tourists and out of state tourists on Katy Trail. We travel all over the country to visit other rail trails.

----

It is an asset that we as a State have only one opportunity to receive and it will make our trail system the best in the country.

----

The Katy Trail is well known attraction that attracts visitor world-wide! Just imagine a full loop of Missouri. All the communities will benefit from the tourist and the jobs. I wouldn't be opposed to a access-fee as long as the trails are maintained well, unlike certain toll roads.

----

Yes we need this trail Windsor is a great example on the benefits this trail can bring if people will just step up and work for it I love riding the trails it gets people out side and brings people together the trail and Amtrak are a great resource for the state of Missouri and the people. So please keep moving forward with this trail so that other towns along the way can step up and follow the example Windsor has set for the Rock Island trail and the Katy Trail

----

The economic impact on the state. I ride the Rock Island spur several times a week and see numerous people from other states providing a very positive economic impact on our state.

----

You have a chance to create something that would be quite unique. A trail that provides a circle, so not just an out and back. This is going to be well received, bring a lot of people to Missouri. Look what the KATY has done for the health of those near the trail, and for the tourist industry in many small towns along the trail.

----

Collaboration of Towns, businesses and individuals to make this more dependent on us all instead of just the state.

----

The state cannot afford to maintain the parks that it has currently and state employees have not had a significant pay raise in 18 years and rank 49th in pay. We should take care of what we have before taking on additional responsibility.

----

This trail would provide outstanding benefits for the health and well being of a significant number of underserved Missourians and would result in increased economic opportunity for a part of the state that desperately needs this help.

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Using the success of the KATY Trail as an example of the economic impact for adjoining communities, the Rock Island Trail makes good, solid sense.

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Increased tourism if the Missouri Rock Island / Katy Trail loop is complete. This will become a destination!

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the cost estimates are way low of by 40 to 50% using 2014 through 2016 data them roundong up to 2018 dollars not even close to actual cost

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In making the decision to accept this beautiful gift, please remember it doesn't have to be transformed in a day. How lucky is Missouri to have this opportunity to showcase this beautiful trail to share with those with a love of outdoors.

----

I feel that any addition to the recreational infrastructure of any area has a tremendous benefit to the citizenry. Increased option for outdoor pursuits in a pleasing and safe environment must be , I would think, very high on the requirements and duty of a city or township to provide. Obviously this has to be accomplished in a way that causes minimal, distress, displacement and loss to both wildlife and landowners alike. Having lived in other 1st world countries and, been involved in similar projects, I can categorically say that this is absolutely achievable, if parties are willing and eager to come together to improve the area for all concerned.

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These bike trails have a small number of users. The amount of taxes needed to build and maintain these trails are not worth any income these trails generate. In addition most Missourians will not or cannot take advantage of the trails. Missouri already has more State Parks than we can afford.

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The positive impact which can be shared state-wide from visitors coming from out of state to enjoy the trail system.

----

I was involved in the early MKT development and few of the adjacent landowner's fears have proven relevant. I now live near the Frisco Highline Trail & use it often. The opportunity for Missouri to develop more of these rails to trails should not be passed over!

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I grew up in Argyle. I'm absolutely thrilled at the prospect of the trail coming through my childhood stomping grounds, as well as the economic revitalization it will bring. This was a town that benefited greatly from the railroad, but then fell into

a slow and gradual decline after the trains were shuttered. This is a town where youth aren't staying, and populations are declining. Houses are sitting empty, and businesses aren't doing as well as they could. The Rock Island Trail will bring back economic vitality to this little town, as well as the others along the trail, and greatly improve property values. With that said, I would like Mo State Parks to shutter plans to open the additional parks that were slated to open by Gov Nixon, and focus resources on Rock Island Trail as well as upkeep of existing parks. My friends and I make nearly 10 trips to our great state parks every year. I've seen firsthand the issues that under-funding or poor allocation of funds has on the existing parks. It's sad to see once great parks fall into disrepair, but to see a nearly empty park like Echo Bluff receive so much money at the other parks' expense. Finish Rock Island, and then focus funding on improvements of all the other existing parks. Show Missouri tax payers the best return on investment for our state that we can get!

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The draw of tourists from other states to spend money in Missouri.

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Danger of the trail going through peoples property. Recreational shooting, hunting seasons. Risk of trespassers coming off the trail

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Take care of the current parks and historic sites first instead of spending more money on this kind of project. I'm not convinced it will have much, if any, economic impact

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Please do this, think it will be awesome!

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Rural areas in Mo have been neglected. The big cities get the highways and stadiums. This is an opportunity for rural MO and we do not get that opportunity very often. Also, the JC Trial Users group, which I am a member of, and currently has 99 members, feel this would be a great health benefit to all residents and encourages people to get out and walk.

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Missouri should support and encourage recreation in public lands and parks that contributes to physical health. Tourism opportunities for this unique trail system linked with KATY are also important.

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why can't the state accept this line and develop it as the funds are available?

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My husband and I feel that an additional factor is the importance of the trail to rural areas. Urban areas have always had a high priority in obtaining financial benefits from roads, stadiums, economic incentives, etc. The state has not supported economic opportunities in rural areas nearly as much!!! So here is a chance to do that. The trail will pay for itself in the long run by increasing jobs and the value of real estate near the trail. It will be a great asset to rural places as well as a recreational facility.

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These small towns are desperate for an economic opportunity, plus quality of life recreational outlet

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Seems like the cost are extremely underestimated. How many millions is the state park system behind on repairs. Even the Katy Trail is deteriorating. Is this really a smart investment? Is there really a need for a "loop" ? Seems that the 100 to 150 the trail will really cost could be better spent in other places.

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I believe acquisition of this rail bed is a once in a life time opportunity. As evidenced by the Katy Trail it is an invaluable resource for Missouri. The opportunity for some of these small towns to benefit from people enjoying the trail is tourist dollars!!! We have a chance to create the same kind of amazing experience and tie into the Katy to make this one of the best trail systems in the nation. If we don't take advantage of getting the property (rail bed) now, it wont happen again. Think of the economic boost and tourist dollars for Missouri!!!!

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Most of the information provided by State Parks focuses on the negatives. There is no mention of the economic development impact, health and wellness benefits, quality of life, safe routes to schools, and recreational opportunity in an under served part of the state. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity that provides a short term investment for a long term economic development opportunity for 23 communities and the state of Missouri. State Parks has taken a very narrow view of what is in the best interests of MSP and not what is in the best interest of the citizens of the state of Missouri. Communities have been working for years on ideas on how to develop this trail and are more than willing to sit down and discuss with MSP if given the opportunity. The first attempt by MSP to acquire this corridor was in 1993. This will be the last opportunity for the state to preserve a 144 mile linear corridor that has not only recreational trail potential, but could be used for future transportation and utility needs. The railroad built in 1902 was short sighted in thinking that railroads were the only form of transportation. Let's not make the same mistake for future generations. The projected costs of trail building is for the Cadillac of trails. All of us would like to build our dream house, but most of us start with something we can afford and then make improvements to it as we are able to afford them. This can be done with the Rock Island. Many of the communities are willing to discuss alternatives to trail heads as the trail runs through the middle of these towns and often very close to already existing facilities in community parks. Please, please, please, start talking to the stakeholders to develop a viable plan for trail building. This trail has widespread support in spite of comments made by SP officials to the contrary. We need you to listen and think outside the box to save this Missouri treasure. Accepting only sections of the trail would be a huge disappointment. Part of the interest in this trail is the ability to create a 500 mile loop trail through the heart of Missouri. The unique features of the Rock Island are what will draw people from around the world here. It is a huge mistake to look at this opportunity strickly from the cost perspective alone. Please don't let this once in a life time

opportunity slip away from the state. MO State Parks is in the best position to become the interim trail manager. They can then work with communities and trail groups to develop the trail. MSP also has the ability to work with landowners to solve individual issues. Another interim trail manager would not have this ability. It is in the best interest of all involved that MO State Parks accepts the corridor and then works with stakeholders to develop this trail over time. Rome wasn't built in a day and neither will this trail Thank you.

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How can we spend millions on a bike trail when our roads and bridges are in need of repair.

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This project will attract national attention and draw recreational cyclers from around North America to visit and spend time and money in Missouri. This will benefit the local economies and help revitalize communities along the trail, while increasing property values. This is a once in a life time opportunity for the state of Missouri to show leadership, and to help attract new business development.

----

Consider the fact that the landowners.... Farming and doing daily activities that we do depend on are getting the shaft again. Already with the clearing of the tracks we have seen a rise of dirt bikes, utv's going through our private property as our private road is a way off the trail before a large bridge that no one will cross. So yes we are paying for this already and it's not even a trail. Suppose if the city people that are for this are ok with someone driving by there window at 1am on a Saturday night waking up your kids with loud bikes and probably drugs when we pay plenty to live away from this crap. This is the worst thing possible - huge waste of money!!

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The fact that the land is a donation.

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Landowner property rights, liabilities of trespassers on private property.. Timely Fence maintenance and repairs and the cost of that to taxpayers

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As a longtime park user, bicyclist, and board member of the Missouri Parks Association, I urge Missouri State Parks leadership to pursue every possible avenue to find the funding to secure the Rock Island Line Corridor. The opportunity to own this property will only be available one time and it would be a tragedy to miss it. We know from the experience of the Katy Trail State Park that converting a rail line to a trail is expensive and sometimes contentious. However, the Katy has also demonstrated its enormous value to Missouri. MSP's own study in 2012 estimated a direct annual economic impact of \$18.5. I imaging that the Rock Island trail would generate similar gains-- perhaps even more, given the synergy possible from linkages with the Katy, since it would become a loop trail with the Rock Island addition. An investment in the Rock Island Line Corridor will pay off for Missouri over the long term, financially and in its health and social benefits to our citizens. We must do what it takes to secure the funding to purchase this property, even if we are not able to officially open the trail at this time. Thank you, [REDACTED]

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It's a waste of money. We do not need another bike trail through this state. Maybe you should put the money into your employees pockets.

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I believe you have considered every aspect, whether it be financial, economic impact to small towns or the amazing opportunity it would be for MO to have the best trail system in the country. I strongly encourage you to accept it. This is a great opportunity we have as a state.

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This will bring great economic impact in recreational opportunities to the citizens of Missouri. Don't miss opportunity to develop this trail

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belong to the MPA and am so proud of our state parks. Just give me a chance to brag about them!! The personel and upkeep of our parks is top notch!! That last sales tax continuation was not hard to pass. I know there is always maintance and we will do it. Keep moving forward!!

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The economic benefit of Cycling Tourism!

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Present summaries or direct interested persons to details of public/private partnership opportunities for trail development

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How about considering the land owners, who, according to the Rock Island RR was suppose to get their land back of the rail line failed.

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the positives far out way the negatives. I am ready to help financially and with time.

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The Rock Island Trail between Eldon and Versailles has the potential to benefit the Mennonite and Amish communities that currently drive horses and buggies on Hwy 52. If the trail is developed to allow them to travel on it to Versailles, their safety and the safety of drivers on Hwy 52 will be a significant benefit to the communities. I sincerely support the Mo State Parks (DNR) signing an interim Trail Use Agreement.

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Yes this rail line would better the people of missouri as a train line to help move goods and keep more trucks off our dangerous public roads and why should we spend money on something for bikes when our road system is crumbling and i know of no local residences that want this trail.

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The corridor is a free donation of land has the potential to create the worlds' longest rails-to-trails project— a world-class tourist destination for cyclists from all over! This is a unique opportunity for those 17+ rural Missouri communities along the trail to have a scenic and useful amenity that will both improve local health and increase community pride and historical preservation but will also serve to attract tourists, new local businesses, and potentially other businesses that see the trail as an attractive “quality of life” benefit to offer their employees. This trail will happen with or without Missouri DNR, but as a proud Missourian I just think it would be such a

shame for the State to miss the opportunity to own this world-class project. Please, accept the trail! Cost should not be a barrier- local communities have already won grants to pay for construction, volunteers will leap into action, and who knows what private donors will step up once the land is accepted. This project is a real chance for Missouri to shine. Please take the first step!

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It seems like MORIT is a fantastic opportunity for the state of Missouri, for the communities along the trail, and for anyone in or visiting Missouri who likes to use trails. I'm confused why the framing of this survey implies the impact would be negative, with the focus on cost, etc. Also, the way those options are presented, it divides "community and economic impact" from "recreational opportunities"—which implies that communities don't use trails recreationally (false), and also doesn't allow for economic opportunity derived from recreation (i.e., ecotourism). Plus, the land is being gifted to the state! The state should take that gift and turn it into an economic, environmental, and recreational benefit to everyone involved! A failure to do so is a betrayal by the state of the interests of communities along the trail. MORIT represents much-needed economic and physical infrastructure in rural communities along its length. Missouri, please don't miss this opportunity.

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If cost to complete the entire trail is prohibitive, start at Beaufort and go west to the Gasconade River bridge. This is one of the cheapest sections and is closest to a large metropolitan area, St Louis

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I believe the Rock Island Trail is an enormous opportunity for the State of Missouri. I strongly support Missouri State Parks in accepting the Rock Island corridor and building the Rock Island Trail. The Rock Island Trail will be an invaluable investment for Missouri. The trail will benefit our state's economy, health, safety, and transportation options. -- Economic development: The Katy Trail generates an 18:1 return-on-investment to the state's economy. The Rock Island Trail will go 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: 30 miles of the corridor 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. --Safe Routes to School: In some towns, the trail will create 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. - -Regional connections: Several other Missouri cities are interested in connecting their trail networks to the Rock Island Trail. 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.

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I am a transportation cyclist and touring cyclist. Many cyclist do not wish to ride on highways and much prefer trails. Cycling on highways I can understand why. This is a very unique opportunity to add to the Katy trail and increase the benefit to many more communities. It should not be passed up.

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I strongly support the trail and believe that Mo. State Parks is best suited to take on the role of developing and maintaining it. Most urgent is to preserve the whole corridor, even if the entire trail cannot be developed right away. I think it's clear that partnerships will be necessary to develop it fully, but ultimately I expect it to become the nation's premier trail destination, once it's connected to the Katy Trail. Thank you for your consideration.

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This is an incredible opportunity for our state to continue being a rails-to-trails hotspot! I highly favor railbanking the Rock Island corridor for future development.

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I think Missouri State Parks being in control versus an outside group is very important.

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I think this trail is a fantastic opportunity for all of Missourians! Can't wait to see this finished!

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We live in a community that will benefit from the trail and we live in a community that is ready to be a partner in the development costs.

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The Rock Island Trail is the perfect complement to the Katy Trail. The rails-to-trails initiative is growing in popularity and has proven to be highly beneficial to the communities along those corridors. State Parks and DNR should take all steps to bring the Rock Island Trail into the system for all Missourians to enjoy!

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Wellness and the public health should also be seen as a byproduct of this park. Given this opportunity people will gain fitness and health.

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I think you are invading private owners properties. I don't want a bunch of strangers everyday going through my backyard. Additionally, I think that thing is going to cost way too much.

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The owners rights next to the bike trail. We should be spending the money on other important items rather than another bike or hiking trail in Missouri.

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The cost is a huge factor. Can't that money be used to upgrade or maintain existing parks?

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Are current state parks being adequately maintained? Is inflation figured into maintenance costs?

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Negative impact on wildlife

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Wildlife habitat disturbed

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Preservation of the corridor is an excellent opportunity for attraction to Missouri and development of community corridors. The corridor should be purchased now and maintenance of critical infrastructure of bridges, tunnels, and other features should be budgeted. Trail could open in segments concurrent with interest and additional funding by communities. Trail could open in towns first with connections between towns built at a later time.

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Please also consider a) acquiring the line itself (before maintenance and development) is a \*gift\*, b) grants, local support, etc. can be used to offset some development costs (a recent example being the Katy Trail gap through Sedalia), and c) this may very well be the last chance in Missouri to develop a rail-trail of this magnitude, as most other long-distance lines in the state are either operational or have been lost as complete lines.

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Yes, enough other places are available for people to use, take the money to maintain them

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Consider the cost is extremely important

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We need better statewide marketing of Missouri's vast, diverse and growing trail network! Maybe a partnership with the Missouri Division of Tourism, etc?

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Current park upkeep and employee pay.

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The overall potential economic impact of this trail and the Katy combined for local communities as well as the state.

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They should ask themselves why it is ok to take land from people for recreational use, if it were to decrease the road traffic is one thing but just so people can have a new place to ride bikes?

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YES! This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to continue development of a world-class trail loop equal to none. Accepting this donation from Ameren is a WIN for our state. Work collectively with NGOs and communities to fund trail development. WE WANT AND NEED THIS TRAIL - many years ago the railroad turned its back on the small communities that embraced it at the turn of the century. Please let us take this unbelievably valuable corridor resource and use it once again to drive economic development in our small rural communities.

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MO has more important priorities to spend tax payers money on which is education and transportation

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I think the overall cost of this trail will be a hindrance on the cost of upkeep on state parks that already need funding. Also the people who own the land in which the trail goes through will have to put up with trespassing. Which is also a problem with the Katy trail.

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The value in protecting the natural elements of the corridor from future abuse, development, etc. The impressive impact trails like this have had in other regions, with the added benefit of the topography lending itself to use by a wide range of people, not just avid cyclist and runners.

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By not accepting the corridor and creating the Rock Island Trail, we will be foregoing benefits that far outweigh the costs. Cost savings in health care, benefit to property values, and the business benefits that our state seek to gain from this make this project a no-brainer. Life is not maintenance free, please consider this an investment.

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\$1,000,000 per mile is too expensive.

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Please accept the donation!

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Trails like this are an important draw for young families and will contribute to bringing young talented workers to Missouri and communities along trail routes. Missouri is way behind other states in terms of recreational trail availability. This would help, even if it takes time to develop.

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They don't maintain the ones they have now. How can they afford to maintain more? Plus all the money they are talking it's going to take to build the trail.

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What information provided by MO state parks? Transparency must be in the process and to date has been disappointing in my opinion. -Where's funding coming from? Potentially 100 million. Did the State of MO/MDNR win the Mega Millions jackpot? -How and where is money being spent? -Timeline of the process? A development plan should be created for this process that's open for public comment and stakeholder engagement, especially when MDNR is considering spending 100 million of taxpayer dollars. Those affected most by the conversion to a trail (i.e. landowners) are not being considered adequately and voices carry no greater meaning than someone who will use the trail for their own leisure. Recreational habits and pleasures are not mutual amongst individuals. Creating a trail that everyone pays for yet does not use is an abuse of the system by those with special interest. A full and transparent economic analysis should be conducted prior to MDNR pursuing this trail. Has that been conducted and shared with the public at informational meetings? Also, those using MO trails should be required to purchase an annual, monthly, weekly, or day pass. As an avid fisherman and outdoorsman I am required to purchase a license. The same should be applied for this trail.

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If we build it they should have to ride bikes on it. Not on small letter routes of state roads.

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Do not build Rock Island Railroad because it runs on our farm and reduces the things we can do

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Build public private relationships to help get the job done

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When it comes to out-of-state tourism, I believe the Rock Island Trail will benefit from a multiplication factor by being connected to the KATY trail. Many cyclists will choose to vacation in Missouri rather than other places because of the two trail opportunities.

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Cost of developing this and maintaining it will far exceed tax revenue generated by it.

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There are plenty of parks at this time. I believe the money could be better spent on enhancing current parks

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No

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maintaining the existing trails is more important than spending millions of dollars on a new trail.

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I think they need worry about the maintenance and upkeep of their existing trails. This is going to cost millions of dollars that will have a negative impact on all the landowners along the Rock Island Trail. I am 110% against this trail.

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I think they should think about if there is a real need for this trail. With the amount of money they would be throwing at this project, they could do much needed maintenance and improvements of properties they currently own. Instead of basically stealing land from the land owners that the proposed trail trespasses through. With maintenance and improvements to current parks, more people would likely use them. Make more biking trails on property currently owned if this is truly what this whole project is about. It is truly not right to take land from those whom are not willing for the gain of such a small few.

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The effect that the trail will have on property owners

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The long term benefits to future generations of Missourians and our visitors.

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The impact on rural Missouri will be a big negative for adjacent landowners who farm and/or hunt their land. There are already 4 wheelers utilizing the cleared tracks. Who pays to monitor and enforce that? Where is all this money coming from?

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Need to spend the money on the parks we currently have, instead of adding new!!

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This trail will cut through people's land and front yards. I sure wouldn't want that. There are other state parks that need to be kept up with for drinking water and restrooms. Why ignore those issues?

----

The expected development cost is \$100 million dollars. DNR has a current \$200 million in deferred maintenance (water/waster water system failing, need new asphalt, roofs on cabins, etc) on their current state parks and they cannot pay for these because parks and soils sales tax (their funding source)

does not generate enough revenue. Also the impact on landowners is not fair.

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The fact that there are other state parks that need improvements like new roofs on cabins, asphalt, water/waste water systems failing. Also the cost of the project is estimated \$100 million and DNR has \$200 million in the deferred maintenance I just mentioned on other state parks. They can't pay for these improvements on current state parks because Plant Soils Sales Tax does not generate enough revenue. It's not a conscious decision for the state and DNR if there are current state parks that need some updates. Also this property back in the day was taken from landowners and should be granted back to the landowners instead of building a recreation park.

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the true cost while stated 87 mill [REDACTED] is two of the seven wonders of the trail the Bridges over the rivers...

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First off, landowners right to have the land reverted back to them , as stated in many of their deeds, as this corridor will never in any way shape or form need to ever be reverted back to a railbed. Second, cost of fences, and maintenance. Every time it rains every fence that goes over a ditch, small creek etc will need to be checked and maintained.

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It appears the cost is severely underestimated. Is this really the best use of backlog of needed repairs at state parks and the Katy Trail? Are there bot greater priorities throughout the state that are a better use of funds?

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Missouri State Parks should not pass on the opportunity to accept the 144 miles of the Rock Island Trail not only because of it becoming a tourist destination, an economic engine in the heart of the state, a historic treasure possible beyond compare, a connector not only to the KATY Trail State Park but also to the trails in the Springfield/Bolivar area but likely the two most important reasons are this new trail would cross some of the most breathtaking scenery and man-made engineering marvels in the state to make it a one and only in the world. I know State Parks has limited funds and I also know that some adjacent land owners will take unnecessary advantage of state fencing laws to place them in a superior position to where they are now but the projected costs spread out over time and done in partnership with communities, interested individuals and alliances of exercise enthusiasts will carry the day. There is a great degree of confidence on my part that State Parks acceptance coupled with the project being completed over a planned twenty year span or some other reasonable term will see the project "completed ahead of schedule!" As cycling gains popularity, so will the excitement that this trail will create. No realist would deny this. Spread over twenty years would make this project very doable. I can envision a time where cities will do the portions within their city boundaries, counties partner outside city limits, individuals buy materials for chunks of right-of-way, trucks donate their time, service clubs purchase the truck's fuel for the day and individuals band together to build trailhead facilities. All of the towns

along the corridor desire to be part of a project that improves their image and being a supporter of the State Park system has to be a plus for both entities. Each time I think about this, I pinch myself and say it's too good to be true! Ameren wants to lay a golden egg for State Parks, its win-win-win-win for State Parks, Missouri tourism, the public and each town and county that the trail passes through. I have never been more confident in saying, "If we build it, they will come."

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The most important factor is that it's not Ameren's ground to give away

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I think each individual landowner next to the trail should be personally interviewed & asked to submit a ballot in favor or against it. Their opinions should carry more weight than recreation groups lobbying for it.

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I know people who own great farms along the trail and going forth with the trail could effect hunting ground and the land they have owned for years and put a lot of hard work into.

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Repairing old parks before getting new ones

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Consider rehabilitating already established state parks rather than spending money on new parks.

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Why money on this when the money could go towards maintenance of existing state park facilities.

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DNR can not afford to take care of what they already have and any extra state funding should go to other priority needs like roads, bridges, education, and other public needs.

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If they can't up keep the existing State Parks how do they plan to fund and up keep this one.

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Don't do it.

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Please do not allow this to proceed. Missouri needs to focus on other issues and take care of what they already have in place. This is not fair to the landowners!!

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The focus needs to be on maintaining our current parks and recreational areas, not spending our money to develop new ones.

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