

Trail Guidelines

Reading Blue Mountain & Northern Railroad is opposed to any Rails-with-Trails project that would encroach upon its right-of-way. For safety reasons, Reading Blue Mountain & Northern Railroad opposes any project that would place a trail in close proximity to the rail lines and will not consider selling, leasing, donating, or granting easements along, beside, or over active railroad tracks or railroad corridors for pedestrian walking, hiking, jogging, bike paths, parks, or other recreational usage. This includes active rail lines, and rail lines that may be temporarily unused, where the track is still in place.

Reading Blue Mountain & Northern Railroad is not opposed to working with Rails-to-Trails groups on projects on rail lines that are abandoned or that Reading Blue Mountain & Northern Railroad has filed for abandonment at the Surface Transportation Board as long as the trail does not intersect with another rail line. If the proposed trail intersects with an active rail line, then the trail must either overpass, underpass, or go around the active rail line. Only if this requirement is met will a trail be considered.

Reading Blue Mountain & Northern Railroad will consider selling the right-of-way of an abandoned rail corridor, where the track has been removed, for pedestrian walking, hiking, jogging, bike paths, parks, or other recreational usage for a fair market value which takes into consideration the value of the corridor.

Trail advocates interested in developing a trail project on an abandoned right-of-way should submit a Letter of Interest to:

Real Estate Department
Reading Blue Mountain & Northern Railroad
PO Box 218
Port Clinton, PA 19526

The Letter of Interest should address the following items for consideration:

1. Termini of the proposed trail (mileposts, geographic coordinates, easily noted locations such as grade crossings)
2. Map of the proposed trail.
3. Name of trail entity (potential buyer) who would own, operate and maintain trail.
4. Anticipated sources and status of funding.
5. Target group of trail users (pedestrians, bikes, horses, etc.)
6. Name and contact information for applicant.