

ETMD Making Things Happen

ETMD President Bob Hamblen, Saco

Question: how will we know when the Eastern Trail is complete?

Answer: the fall-off in e-mail traffic will register on New England area seismographs.

The cyber lines have been sizzling of late, with construction under way on the 6.2 mile Biddeford, Arundel and Kennebunk section. ETMD Executive Director Carole Brush, the Maine DOT, contractor Brown Industrial Group, trail corridor owner Unitil – there's plenty going on at every level, and in these days of instant communication, no one has to wait long to hear what's up.



Courtesy John Patriquin/Portland Press Herald, Monday 19 October 2009. Start of Turnpike Bridge.

On another front, there's no lack of bits and bytes darting back and forth regarding the 4.4 mile OOB-Saco segment of the ET. South Portland-based Deluca Hoffman Associates, Inc., was selected from an extremely qualified field of candidates to complete the preliminary design phase of this portion of the trail, running between Milliken Mills Road and Thornton Academy. Project manager Steve Bushey delivered the goods in mid-November, now eagerly being scrutinized by the ETMD, MDOT, and Unitil staff.

And, with completion of the final design of the OOB-Saco section over the upcoming winter, bidding on the construction phase should be under way in spring, with work taking place through summer and fall.

How about that? Ten more miles of Eastern Trail by this time next year. Trail users and supporters, rejoice!

The ETMD will continue to advocate for support from its member communities, all of which are hereby listed for a rousing round of applause:

From south to north: Kittery, South Berwick, Wells, Kennebunk, Arundel, Biddeford, Saco, Old Orchard Beach, and Scarborough.

These nine have hung tough since 2001, paying annual dues that are the lifeblood of the ETMD – like, you're not reading this if these towns and cities are not making this happen.

A toast to the managers, councilors, and selectmen that have recognized the tremendous value they're buying in the Eastern Trail for all of Maine and its visitors. They are making our Trail possible.

What's next? Southward, ho! We are seeking Congressional funding for three separate projects along the ET corridor.

Excuse me, gotta get an e-mail out. —

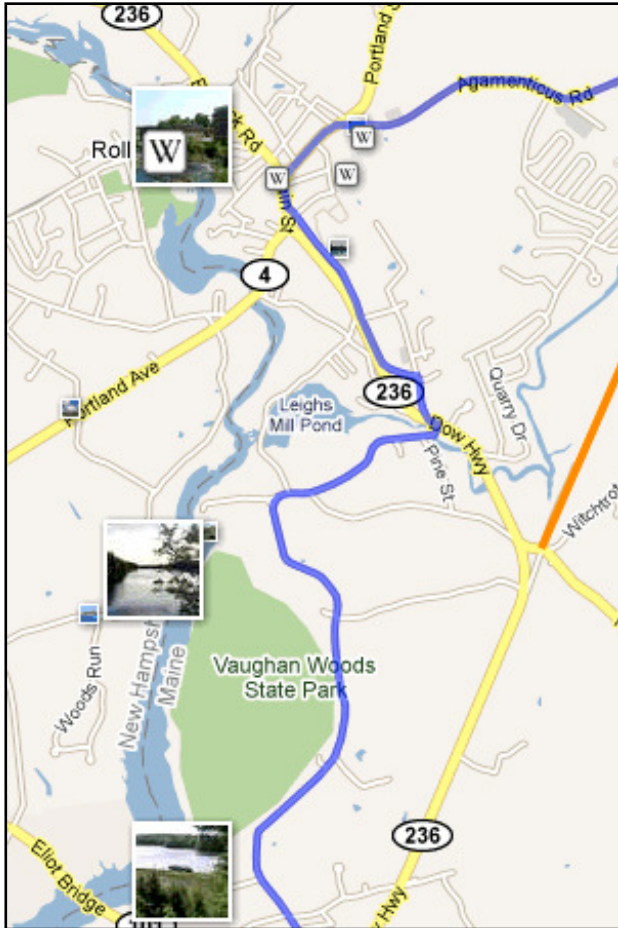
The ETMD Developing Web Site m\Map.

Terrence Parker,
ETMD Trustee, South Berwick

The ETMD has awarded Blackfly Interactive the contract to create a user friendly map website of the ET. The web site, www.ETmap.org will be used to document the ET bicycle route in southern Maine. The Google style map will also highlight the civic, scenic, and service

amenities through the use of information bubbles.

The website will be accessible from any home computer and hand-held cell phones with internet capabilities. For instance, a person with an iPhone could pull up the ET map to find their location and then locate a coffee shop, a market, or find a local bike shop.



Sample view of ETMD's Handlebar-Mountable Eastern Trail GPS Map

The ET map will be downloadable to a GPS navigational device, so a savvy bicyclist planning a ride can put the map on their handle-bar-mounted navigational device.

With the use of iPhone like devices exploding as navigational tools, the ET map will introduce the virtues of bicycling in Maine to a very large audience, including local residents.

Enforcement of Eastern Trail Motorized Vehicle Restrictions

*Jessica Wagner, ETMD Vice-President
Asst. Town Planner, Old Orchard Beach*

Since the July 2008 opening of the newest portion of the Eastern Trail in Old Orchard Beach and Scarborough, both municipal Police Departments have worked hard to monitor the trail and enforce the prohibition of motorized vehicles. In summer of 2009, the Scarborough and Old Orchard Beach Police Departments received a grant from the 'Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Maine Warden Service ATV Grant Program' to offset to cost of this patrolling. The two municipalities spent a total of 70 hours patrolling the trail and received \$2,736.00 from this program to pay for this patrol work. It is fantastic to see the neighboring municipalities have cooperated in the patrolling and enforcement of this multi-jurisdictional trail.

As the trail expands into rural areas of the Kennebunk, Arundel and Wells, it is expected that ATV trespassing will continue to be an issue. As the ETA and ETMD work hard to expand this off-road trail, municipalities and trail advocates must continue to educate citizens and local ATV clubs about rules of the trail and work with neighboring municipalities in patrolling the trail. Not only does a police presence on the Eastern Trail assist in keeping motorized vehicles off of the trail, it makes the trail a safer place for all trail users.



Motorized Travel Not Allowed on Eastern Trail - Law Enforcement is Working