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IDAHO PUBLIC
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**Ref: Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Case No. UPR-R-10-01**

Comments submitted in support of the abandonment of the Stoddard Rail Line, October 12-13, 2010

October 13, 2010, Nampa City Council Chambers

We would welcome the opportunity to transform this underutilized transportation corridor into a productive part of our community network of pathways and trails. I appreciate and recognize the efficiency of moving goods and services through the rail road system. However, when industry changes take place and there is no longer a use for a line it presents a great opportunity to create something that will continue to benefit the economic growth of a city through a different means. All of the persons who have submitted testimony here have described, in a personal way, how this change would yield economic, health, and quality of life benefits. As has been pointed out in other testimony, this corridor is a critical piece in linking the south side of our city to the north side, providing families safe access to downtown, and also would provide a vital link for students in two neighborhoods to an elementary school that is adjacent to the trail.

Thank you for your consideration.

LaRita Schandorff,
Nampa Bicycle & Pedestrian Citizens Advisory
1108 S Stanford
Nampa ID 83686

The number of miles of dedicated trails in this area is embarrassingly low! I regularly use all of the trails in Nampa and what we have is wonderful but just not enough. Having an abundance of bicycle /pedestrian trails enhances the quality of life wherever they are. I have friends moving here from the Portland, Oregon area and they are avid bicyclists so having more trails attracts more quality people to our area.

Bob Hathaway
35 N. Elijah Dr.
Nampa, Idaho

Would this continue the existing trail from Iowa (between S. Powerline and Southside...), north to 2nd street downtown? that would be so integral to flow, and continuity. and how cool would it be to get some bike lanes from the trail off sunny slope to the locust trail entrance, and further trails or some continuity from the Greenhurst Albertsons greenbelt to the Iowa section (to Roosevelt). one big trail loop!

Lindsie and I would use it all the time! Coffee then a ride on the greenbelt to grandma and grandpas over by Greenhurst Elementary. And no near death experiences on Amity or S. Powerline...:-)

Paul Greear
16 South Cobblestone Ct
Nampa ID 83651

I haven't used the trail in years, per se, because it's only 1.5 miles now. It's easier to just stay on surface streets and connect with Second. If the trail connected with Second, I'd use it almost every day to get to downtown Nampa for everything from shopping, meetings, stay fit etc. As a concerned citizen, I support it even more because I know what connected trails have done for other communities.

Tyler Welshimer
5320 E Lewis Lane
Nampa ID 83686

I'm for abandonment. Nampa is steadily increasing its Greenbelt mileage and this continues that tradition. The more we have the greater the quality of life for all. It encourages folks to get out, and go further when the opportunities are there. We use many of the existing stretches now and we live almost to Ada Co. So the infrastructure has pull to bring folks into Nampa.

Michael Ciscell
6625 Center Lane
Nampa ID 83687

Making the rail bed a bike and walking path will help people maintain fitness, possibly get safely to work by biking and/or walking and improve health of the users. I am a retired physician and the last three years of my practice I biked to and from work at least 4 days of the week year around. I felt safe doing this because I could ride about 3/4 of the distance on the greenbelt along Wilson's creek. It seems to me it makes intuitive sense to make every effort to promote walking and biking as it promotes health, hopefully will reduce the skyrocketing obesity in our society, decrease the air pollution from excessive use of automobiles for commuting and short trips, make it safer and easier for children to walk and bike to school, and increase the desirability of Nampa as a place to live. I believe it is in the best interest of the citizens of Nampa to have all the bike and walking trails we can make. I think the more we have the more usage we will see. It is amazing to me to see the increased usage of the greenbelt along Wilson Creek and the number of people who drive from a distance to walk and run on the greenbelt.

James R. Dzur M.D.
208 Walnut Creek Way
Nampa, ID 83686.

I do use this trail currently to keep fit. We ride trails Roosevelt to Iowa, trail off Greenhurst to Sunny Ridge, and have to ride to Locust to catch rail trail. Would love to stop at downtown for a break and get coffee or cold drink. .Currently no trails continue and that makes it tuff for those riders that are not road savvy.

Cynthia Reynolds
Northwest Sales & Distribution, Inc.
3828 E. Flamingo Ave.
Nampa, ID 83687

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I am hopeful that the abandonment of the line is allowed and that the trail for pedestrians and bikers is allowed to make use of this stretch. Currently access is via a collection of busy roads, many without shoulders and sidewalks for those wanting non-motorized access to downtown. The trail will be a safe alternative for pedestrians and bicycles to attend downtown events and go to school, Idaho Arts Charter is close to downtown near the Lakeview Park. I and my family would make frequent use of this trail and frankly very excited to the new trail becoming a reality.

David Williams and Family
3605 E Man O War Ln
Nampa, ID 83686

I favor as many vehicle free bike trails as we can possibly salvage, knowing that we and our children are far safer when using such trails. Their presence serves a dual purpose in that it also eases the car driver's task by ridding roadways of sometimes wobbly (young and old) cyclists or walkers...no one needs the worry, guilt or pain which results from unintended collisions.

Al McGlinsky
12713 Memory Lane
Nampa, ID 83686

I would like to see the Nampa Rail trail extended. The addition of new Rails to Trails land is an addition to our community and to the lives of the people who use it. We use the trail for exercise and safe family bike rides. It's where my daughter first learned to ride. Please consider enriching the lives of Nampa residents and using this land for new TRAILS.

David & Jennifer Clements
4601 E Brooklyn Dr
Nampa, ID 83686

This note is to express my strong support of the abandonment of the Union Pacific rail line and conversion of the property to greenbelt (Nampa Rail Trail). This will extend the existing greenbelt trail to near downtown Nampa, thus making the trail much more useful for pedestrian and cycling commuting. I will use the extended trail for commuting to and from work by bicycle, thus promoting physical fitness and reducing motor vehicle usage. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,
David Quimby
709 Ruth Lane
Nampa 83686

We would welcome the opportunity to transform this underutilized transportation corridor into a productive part of our community network of pathways and trails. I appreciate and recognize the efficiency of moving goods and services through the rail road system. However, when industry changes take place and there is no longer a use for a line, as seems to be the case here, it presents a great opportunity to create something that will continue to benefit the economic growth of a city but through a different means. All of the persons who have submitted testimony here have described, in a personal way, how this change would benefit our community.

LaRita Schandorff,
Nampa Bicycle & Pedestrian Citizens Advisory
1108 S Stanford
Nampa ID 83686

I support the Rail Abandonment issue I find it a value to our community in matters of health and transportation.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Cookman
41 N. Fairview St.
Nampa, Idaho 83651