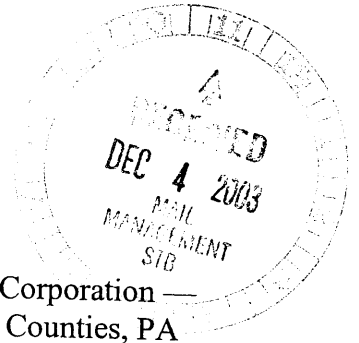


**Public Meeting Comment Form**

AB 167 Sub-No. 1095X, Consolidated Rail Corporation —
Abandonment Exemption — Lancaster and Chester Counties, PA



Dear Mr. Brady,

We attended both meetings concerning the future of the Enola Branch rail line on November 13, 2003. A large majority of speakers were in favor of using the abandoned line as a rails for trails project. Many of them had hard facts and personal experiences to share. Although we didn't speak, we are in favor of using this unique resource as a trail, as well.

Those opposed to the trail had two main issues: safety and the intrusion of privacy. The safety areas most mentioned were the 222 tunnel and the # tunnel on 324 in Martic Township. Both of these areas do pose a problem for traffic, however, we feel professional trail planners and township officials could resolve these problems without disrupting the line.

There are other alternatives to tearing down the bridges and ruining the historical structures and the beauty of the rail line. Could a stoplight be used at the 222 tunnel to allow one way traffic to pass? Could a one way bypass lane be constructed to adjoin Church Street which would allow one way traffic through the tunnel going north? At 324 in Martic, Pennsy Road parallels the rail line. Would it be possible to make a crossing over the rail line at some point to avoid that tunnel completely? It seems that there are other possible solutions to safety concerns.

The public needs to have a responsible group like FAST

or some other trail sponsor to form, patrol and maintain this area. As of now, it is frequently used by noisy 4 wheelers and bikes (at all hours) as well as other vehicles. Trash, including mosquito-attracting tires, is being dumped all along the line. Hunters use the line to enter private property and shoot game on private property from the line.

If this line is turned over to the townships, the possibility of segmenting the line is a real threat to keeping a beautiful linear park for future generations to enjoy. At least 4 Township officials have opposed this trail with no indication of what the land will be used for. What is their agenda here?

We would like to see this track of land become a trail for the public use with proper planning and policing to make it a valuable open space for Lancaster County. One which would showcase the historical monuments, natural beauty and country life of our county. The prevention of a 23 mile long dump, ~~and~~ noise pollution, as well as the invasion of private property needs to be addressed now and for the future.

Kayne & Judy Sponseller