



Public Meeting #1

Lewis County Rail Trail Master Plan

August 19, 2026

Agenda

- Welcome
- Schedule
- Findings to Date
 - Crossings and Structures Site Visits
 - Right-of-Way and Deed Research
 - Environmental Review
- Public Participation Plan
 - Adjacent Property Owner Meetings
 - Survey Summary
- Next Steps
- Open House

Schedule

DESCRIPTION	MONTH																																																																			
	May				June				July				Aug				Sept				Oct				Nov				Dec				Jan				Feb				Mar				Apr																							
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Existing Conditions/Trails Assessment																																																																				
Public Participation													S				P																																																			
Destination Inventory and Analysis																																																																				
Trail Design and Route Recommendations																																																																				
Cost Estimate and Implementation Program																																																																				
Final Report																																																																				
Branding and Market Strategy																																																																				

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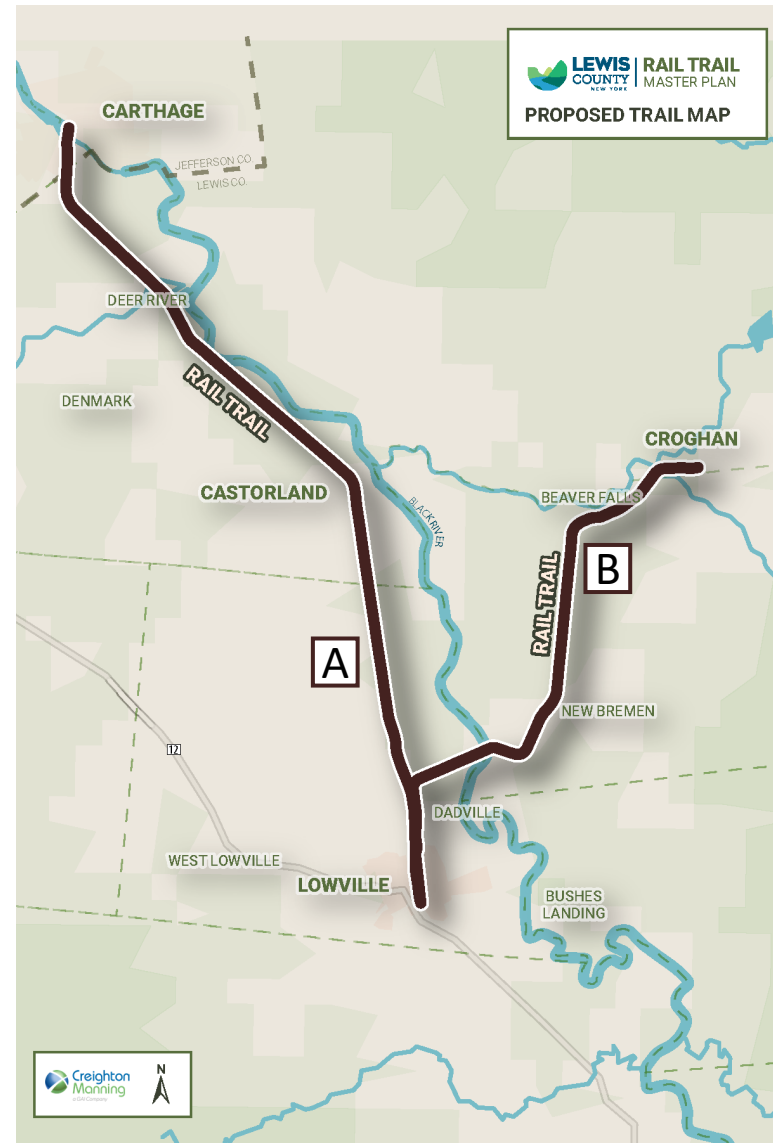
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We are here

Project Limits

- Naming approach:
 - Trail A – Lowville to Carthage
 - Trail B – Lowville to Croghan
 - Exact termination points matter



Existing Conditions – Road Crossings

- Field visit May 18th -19th
- Reviewed all road crossings
- Recorded photos looking right, left, and straight across roadways
- Noted presence of existing rail crossing beacons and visible underground utilities



Existing Conditions – Road Crossings

- Trail A

- 14 crossings
 - 12 public roadways
 - 2 private roadways

- Trail B

- 13 road crossings
 - 12 public roadways
 - 1 private roadway



Existing Conditions - Structures

- Structures Field visit July 8th - 9th
- Reviewed many of the existing culverts and all bridges
- Photos of each bridge and documented dimensions
- Noted visual condition of existing abutments, bearing, steel girders, and ties



Existing Conditions - Structures

Bridge – Multi-Girder



Bridge – Thru Girder



Bridge – Truss



Culvert – Large



Culvert – Small



Cattle Pass



Existing Conditions - Structures

- Trail A

- The following have been identified by railroad valuation maps or field work:

- 8 Bridges
 - 23 Cattle Passes
 - 55 Culverts
 - Large Culverts – 9
 - Small Culverts - 46

- Trail B

- The following have been identified by railroad valuation maps or field work:

- 5 Bridges
 - 17 Cattle Passes
 - 24 Culverts
 - Large Culverts – 3
 - Small Culverts - 21

Existing Conditions

- Trail B 7,500' southwest of Deveines Road, Capidon Creek - Trail in use



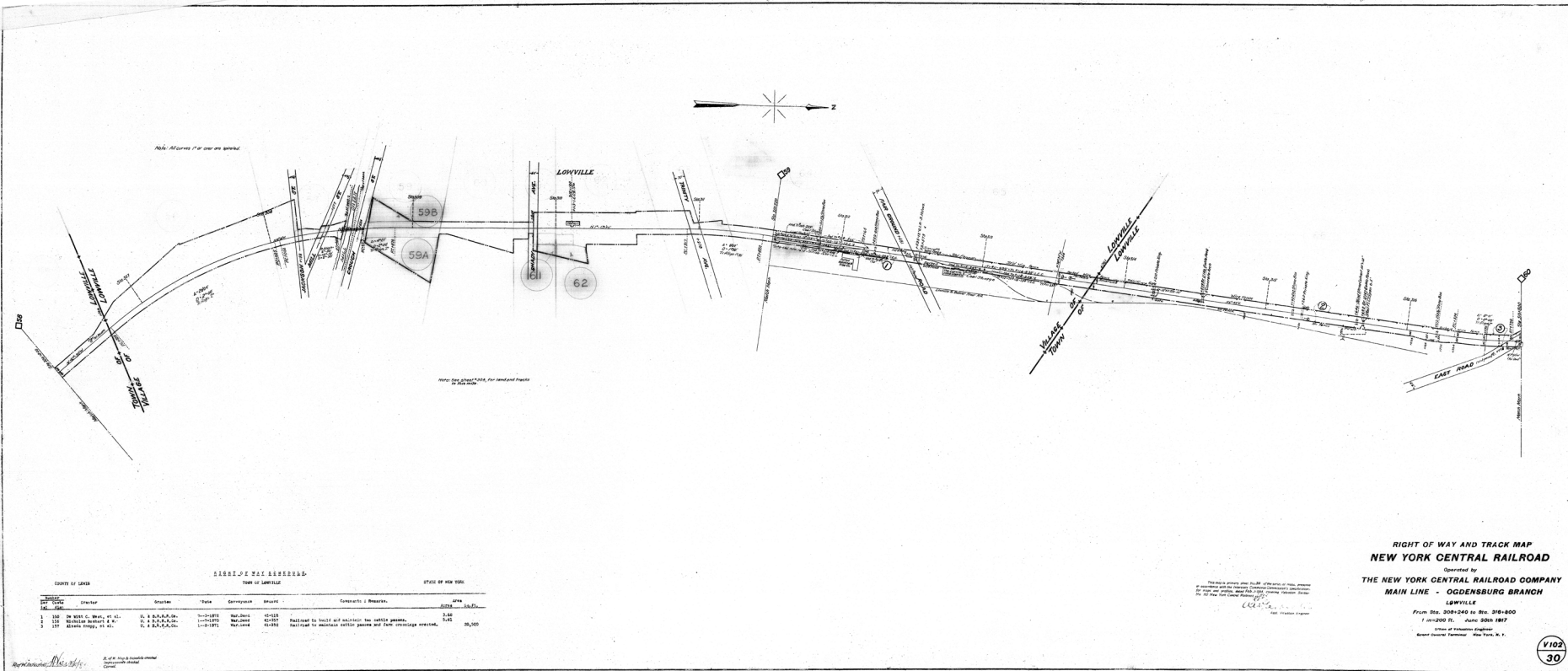
Existing Conditions

- Croghan



Right-of-way and Deed Research

- Mohawk Adirondack Northern (NYC Line) – Valuation Maps
- Lowville and Beaver River Branch Valuation Maps



Existing Conditions

- Developed horizontal and vertical alignments for both trails to help identify impacts
- Environmental Reviews are being progressed
 - **Wetlands**
 - **Endangered species**
 - **Historic properties**

IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
MY PROJECTS TARYN STEWART

PROJECT HOME REGULATORY REVIEW

Resources

- ENDANGERED SPECIES 3
- BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES 2
- MIGRATORY BIRDS 20
- FACILITIES
- WETLANDS
- PRINT RESOURCE LIST

Endangered species

Listed species and their critical habitats are managed by the [Ecological Services Program](#) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are not shown on this list. Please contact [NOAA Fisheries](#) for species under their jurisdiction.

Additional information on endangered species data is provided [below](#).

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

THUMBNAILS LIST

Mammals

Endangered
Indiana bat
Myotis sodalis
Wherever found

Endangered
Northern Long-Eared Bat
Myotis septentrionalis
Wherever found

IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
MY PROJECTS TARYN STEWART

Lewis County Rail Trail

Jefferson and Lewis counties, New York

PROJECT HOME REGULATORY REVIEW LOCAL OFFICE NY ESFO

Lewis County Rail Trail

Converting approximately 25 miles of former railroad corridor, recently acquired from Genesee Valley Transportation, into a multi-use rail trail system connecting the Villages of Croghan and Lowville in Lewis County and the Village of Carthage in Jefferson County, including the rehabilitation and reuse of existing rail bridges.

LOCATION Jefferson and Lewis counties, New York
CREATED June 11, 2026
LAST UPDATED June 16, 2026
PROJECT CODE 2026-0103347

2 MEMBERS 3 DOCUMENTS

Resources

This project potentially impacts 23 resources managed or regulated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

- 3 endangered species
- 20 migratory birds

SEE RESOURCES

What's next?

DETERMINATION KEY UPDATE AVAILABLE
A determination key which you evaluated has been updated.

[RESUME REVIEW](#)

SPECIES LIST

An official species list was generated 29 days ago. Species lists are considered valid for 90 days.

[REQUEST UPDATED LIST](#)

Local office

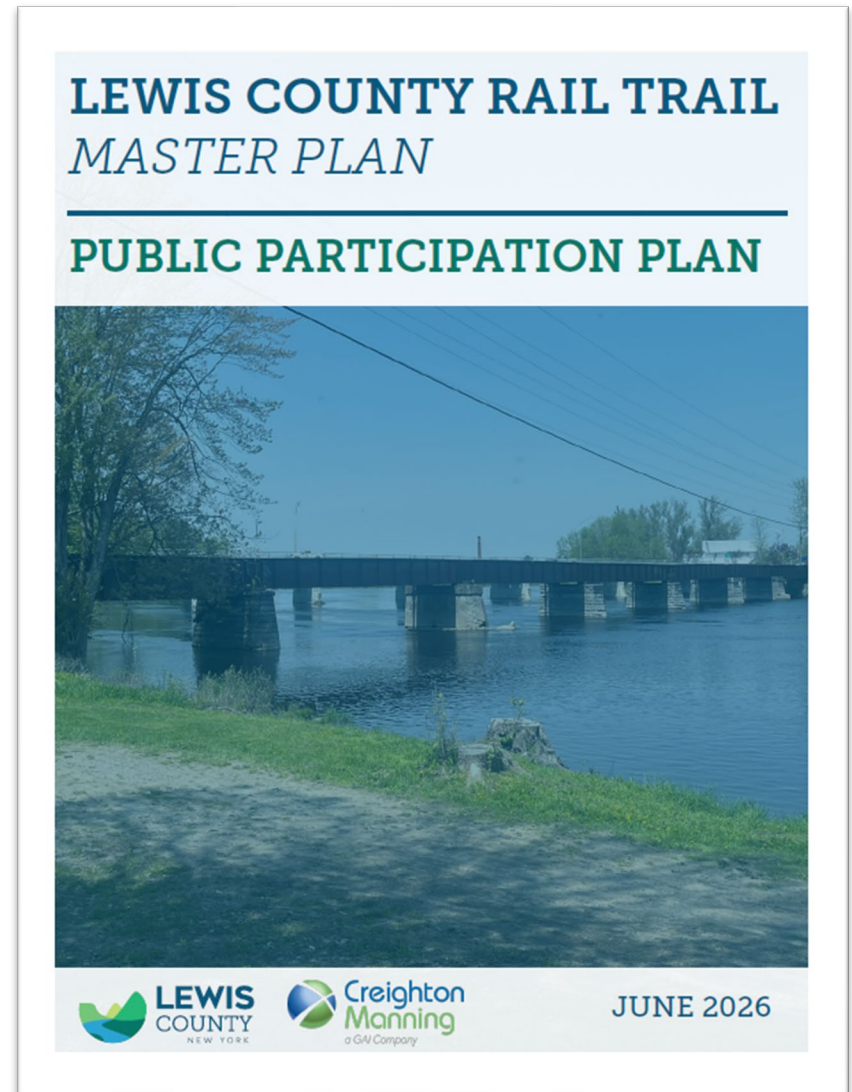
New York Ecological Services Field Office

(607) 753-9334
(607) 753-9699
nyes@fws.gov

3817 Luker Road
Cortland, NY 13045-9385

Public Participation Plan

- Adjacent Property Owner Meetings
- Pop Up Events
 - Lewis County Fair
 - Food Truck Friday
- Materials
 - Business cards
 - Direct mailing
 - Website
 - Survey
- Municipal Meetings
- Stakeholder Meeting
- Open House #1



Adjacent Property Owner Meetings

- 10 days
- 60 property owners
- Common themes/concerns
 - **Trespassing/privacy**
 - Access/gates
 - Fencing/plantings
 - **Hunting**
 - Suggested seasonal restrictions
 - **Motorized vs non-motorized use**
 - Prefer non-motorized
 - **Liability**
 - Who is liable if user gets hurt on their property
 - **Maintenance/Enforcement**
 - Who will maintain trail surface, clean up debris, enforce rules and patrol trail

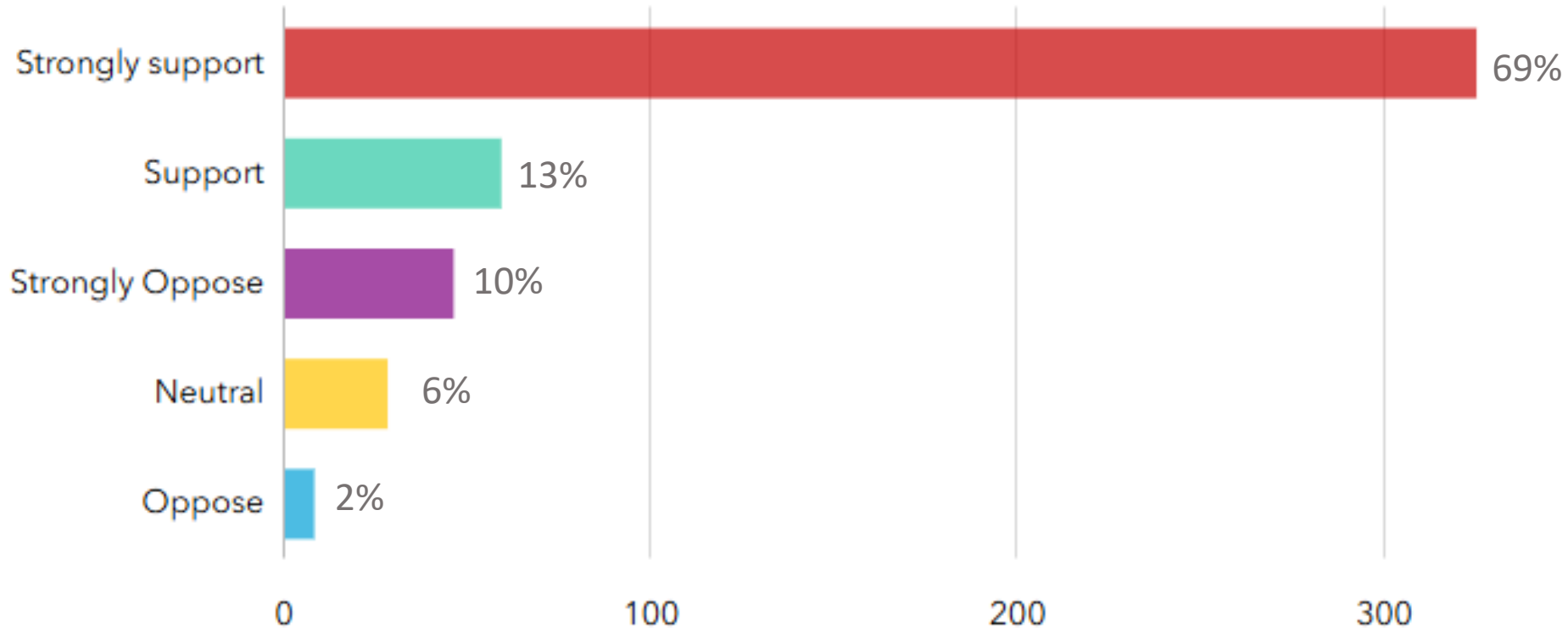
Survey Summary

- Posted online on 7/21/2026
- As of 8/18/2026, **471 respondents**
- Promoted via emails, online, at the Lewis County Fair, and word of mouth
- **Survey will close on 9/1/2026**



Survey Summary

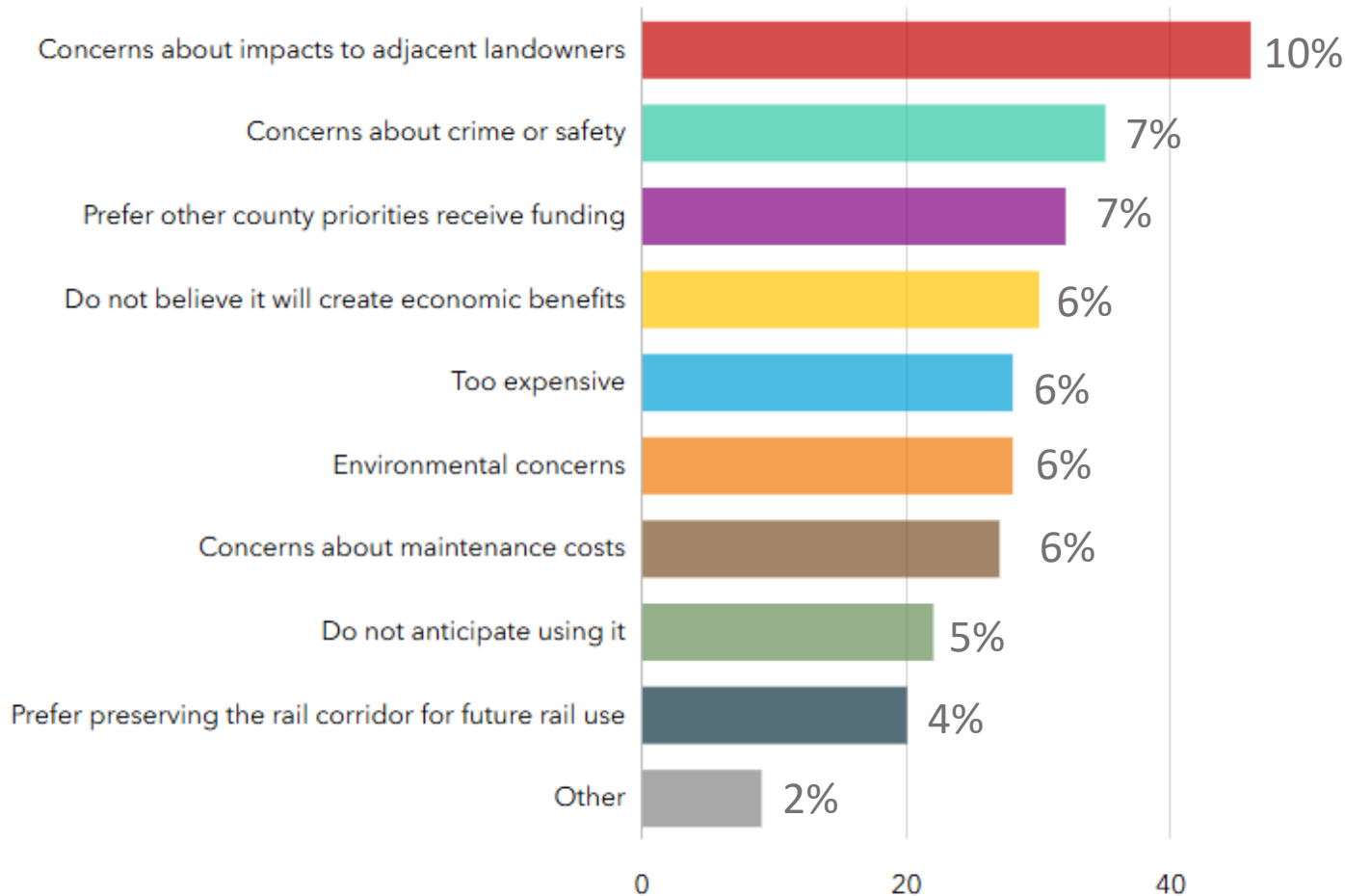
Overall, do you support development of a rail trail in this corridor?



As of 8/18/2026

Survey Summary

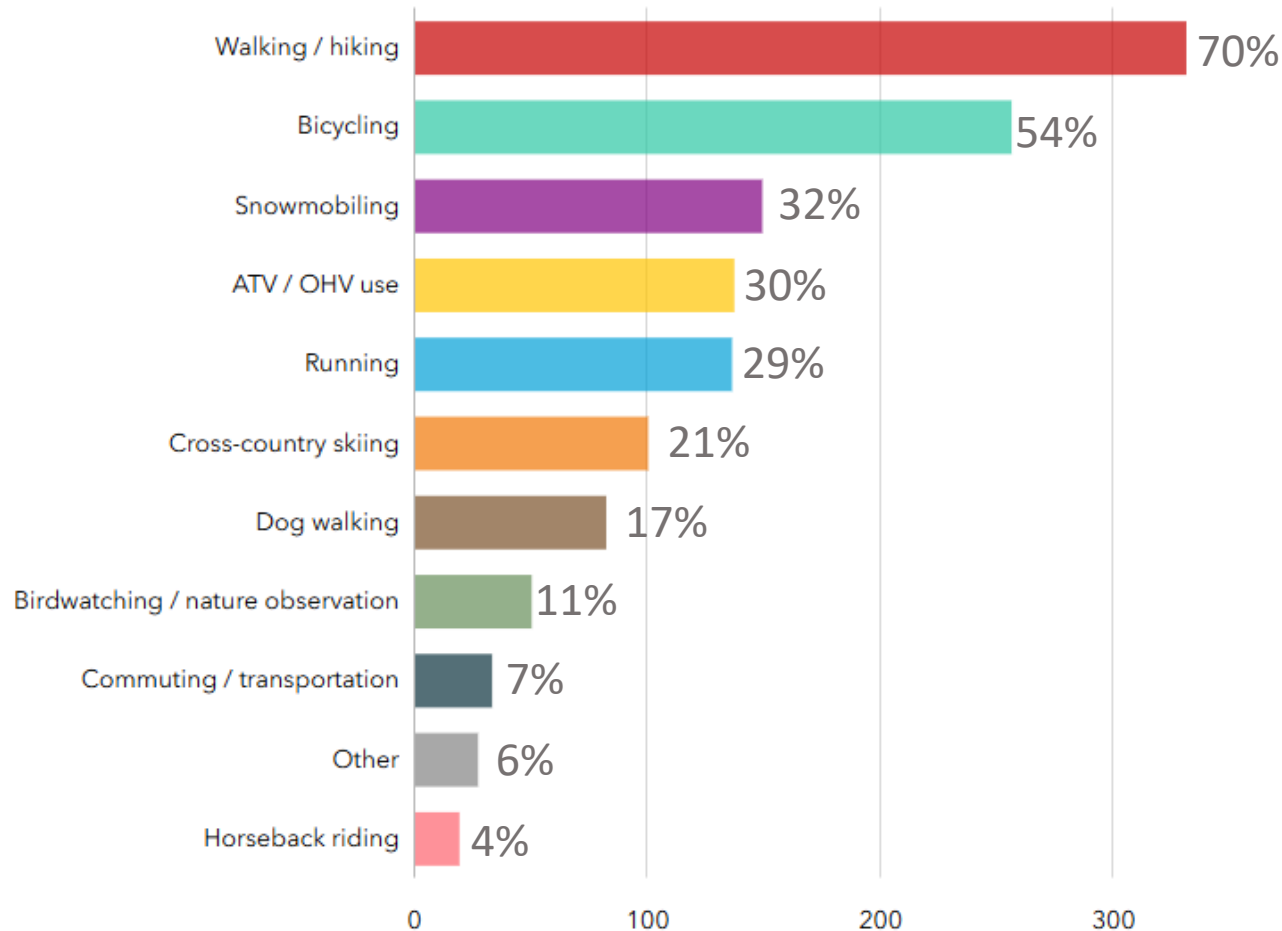
If you oppose the rail trail project, what are your primary reasons?
(select all)



As of 8/18/2026

Survey Summary

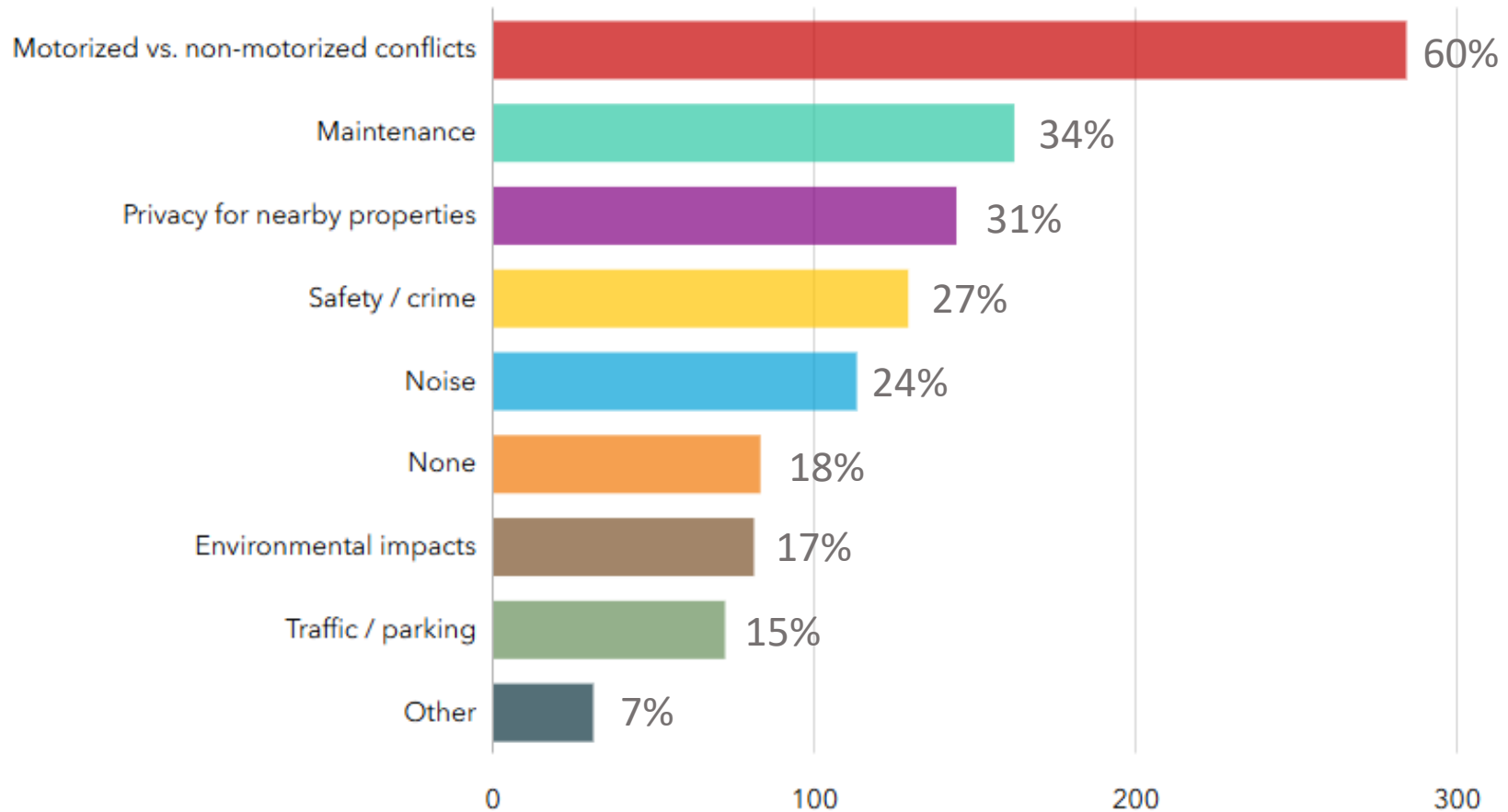
What activities would you like the rail trail to support?
(select all)



As of 8/18/2026

Survey Summary

What concerns, if any, do you have about the trail?
(select all)



As of 8/18/2026

Next Steps

- Destination Inventory and Analysis
 - **Existing and potential destinations**
- Trail Design Considerations and Route Recommendations
 - **Master plan**
 - Potential impacts
 - 30% design
- Cost Estimates and Implementation Plan
 - **Estimate**
 - Design services, construction, materials, etc.
 - **Implementation**
 - Funding, sponsorships, etc.
- Final Report
 - **Executive summary of:**
 - Public feedback
 - Feasibility
 - Recommendations

Thank you

