



Fryeburg To Portland By Train?

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The purchase of the final five miles of rail line was made this spring. Today in Standish, proponents of rail service gathered to celebrate that fact. Now the challenge is finding the state and federal funding to restore the line.

State Senator Bill Diamond says it's worth the effort.

"We understand," says Diamond, "that it's really tight in Maine. We understand that it's awfully hard to get money out of DOT because they're barely getting by now fixing the bridges and roads. But this is a key part of our economy in this area."

State officials say it will take an estimated nineteen million dollars to restore the rail line for freight and forty million for both freight and passenger service.

Supporters of restoring the Mountain Division Line say it will provide commuters to the Greater Portland area an alternative, cut down on pollution, and give a big boost to local businesses who would be able to ship products like gravel, cement, lumber and fuel by rail.

And that will take an estimated twenty-five thousand trucks off the road in Maine every year.