

From: [KmcDougall91](#)
To: [* City Clerk](#)
Subject: Scenic RailRiders for Council Meeting Monday
Date: Sunday, April 12, 2026 10:05:35 PM

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Good evening members of the Concord City Council,

My name is Kate McDougall and I am writing to you to respectfully ask that you reconsider the removal of the railroad tracks along the corridor currently used by Scenic Railriders.

I understand and appreciate the vision behind creating a public rail trail. Expanding outdoor access is a worthy goal. However, I ask that you also consider who may be unintentionally excluded if the tracks are removed.

I live with POTS syndrome, a condition that limits my ability to walk or bike long distances. For people like me—and for many others with chronic illness, mobility challenges, injuries, or age-related limitations—a traditional walking or biking trail is simply not accessible in the same way.

Scenic Railriders provides something rare and valuable: an inclusive outdoor experience. It allows one person to pedal while another can simply sit and enjoy the ride. That flexibility opens the door for people of varying abilities to experience the beauty of this corridor together. It is not just recreation—it is access, dignity, and inclusion.

If the tracks are removed, that opportunity disappears. And while there are already many trails available for those who are fully able-bodied, there are far fewer options designed in a way that accommodates people with limited mobility.

In addition to accessibility, the railroad itself represents a piece of New Hampshire's history. Once removed, it cannot easily be restored. Preserving the tracks preserves a tangible connection to our past while still allowing for creative, modern uses in the present.

I respectfully ask the Council to reconsider whether removing the rails is truly the best path forward, given the irreversible loss of both accessibility and historic infrastructure.

As the granddaughter of Robert W. Flanders, who served as New Hampshire State Treasurer, I was raised with a deep respect for public service and thoughtful stewardship of our state's resources. I write to you today in that spirit, asking you to consider the long-term impact of this decision on all members of our community.

Please do not remove an opportunity that makes the outdoors more inclusive for

people like me.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kate McDougall