

St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency

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Patrick J. Kelly
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PROJECT ACTIVITY REPORT

Project: Newton Falls Rail Line
Project Address: Towns of Clifton, Fine and Pitcairn
Application Receipt:
Board Approval:
Start Date: February 2010

Overview: The 46.25 mile Newton Falls Rail Line is currently owned by respective Industrial Development Agencies in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties. Rehabilitation and reopening of this section of railroad is being sought in order to restore the most efficient, safe, reliable and environmentally acceptable freight transportation mode into the Adirondacks. This would provide the most cost effective transportation to service the paper mill at Newton Falls and Benson Mines in Star Lake.

Actions Taken: In May 2011 the Agency issued an RFP to denote any rail bed hazards and/or washouts (GPS location and extent of damage), and count and catalog culverts (material, size, GPS location, condition and if they are plugged). This project was awarded to ADK Compliance.

The Agency finalized an agreement allowing the St. Lawrence County Snowmobile Association access to the rail line for the Association's 2011-12 Winter season. This access will allow the Association to utilize the rail for tourism and recreational purposes, until the rail is returned to service.

A Consolidated Funding Application was submitted through New York State Regional Development Council process and the project was awarded \$9.9M

Additionally, an application for funding was submitted to the Federal DOT 2011 Capital Grants for Rail Line Relocation and Improvement Projects. Awards are expected to be announced early 2012.

This project report will be updated periodically.