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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**FRANK D. FOSTER**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**HB 4754 of 2011**

Response to questions raised by the Senate Committee on Transportation

**Q:** How much would the city pay for the land?

**City of Petoskey:** What the legislature is being asked to consider is legislation that would authorize the sale of the Jarman spur property. There is a separate divestiture process set out by State statute that requires an appraisal for selling excess property like this spur. This appraisal will dictate the price of the property. Before this appraisal process can begin, however, the legislature must authorize the potential sale by MDOT.

**Q:** Who would remove the rail and how much would the scrap metal be worth?

**City of Petoskey:** To the best of my knowledge all of the rail on the property the City is interested in purchasing has been removed. The portion of the rail spur near the main line that MDOT would like to retain still has rail on it that they intend to use for a railcar siding.

**Q:** When was the last time the rail was used for commuter/freight?

**City of Petoskey:** We believe that it has been more than 25 years since the spur has been utilized for rail traffic. MDOT would likely have more specific information on the last date of the spur's use.

**Q:** What is the possibility of future use? Is this in any strategic rail plans?

**City of Petoskey:** I assume that your question is focused on potential future **rail** use. There are no commercial or industrial rail customers along the Jarman spur, and this spur has not been used for a very long time. As I indicated above, the State is interested in retaining a small portion of the spur near the main line so that it can be utilized as a railcar siding, but there does not appear to be any future rail use for the remainder of the spur property.

Further, it should be noted that portions of this rail spur, most notably near Sheridan Street and west of US-31, have already been sold by the State of Michigan to private property owners. In other areas, between Curtis Street and US-31 there are significant private property encroachments. As a result the property than the City is interested in purchasing is not a continuous linear property that could be used for rail services. The City is able to work around this discontinuity near Sheridan Street because it is an abutting property owner.

**Q:** Does the removal of this spur interrupt any other rail usage?

**City of Petoskey:** No.

**Q:** What type of recreation will the trail be intended for?

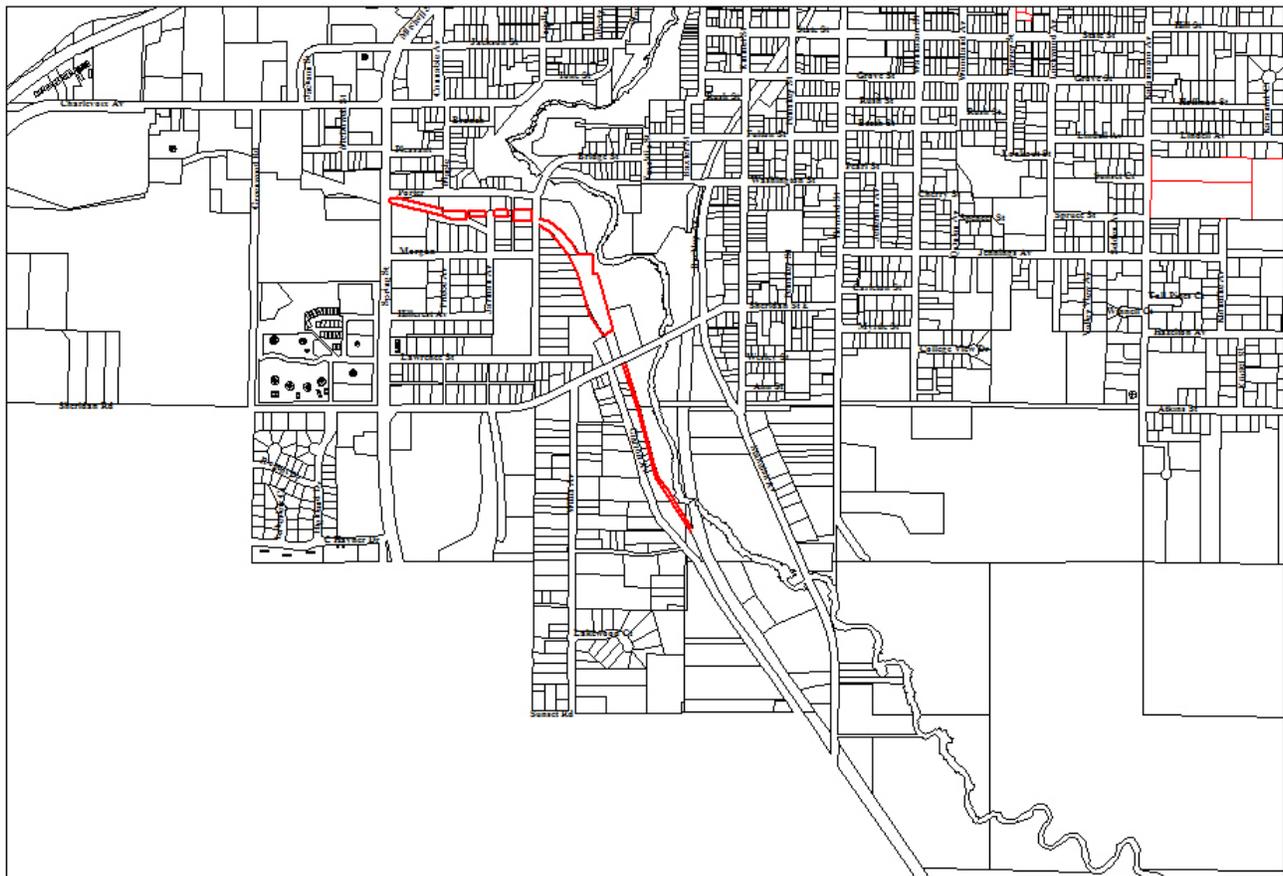
**City of Petoskey:** A significant portion of the Jarman spur between the main rail line and Sheridan Street is already being used for the North County Trail via a lease with the State of Michigan. This portion of the trail is part of a City network of trails thru the Bear River Valley Recreation Area which extends from the City's waterfront to its southern corporation limits. If the City is able to acquire the Jarman rail spur we will look to develop an additional pathway between Sheridan Street and Curtis Street that would improve access to the Bear River Valley from the Curtis Park neighborhood.

**Q:** Is the trail ADA accessible/compliant

**City of Petoskey:** The City/North County Trail that is already traversing a portion of the Jarman Spur property (via a lease agreement with the State of Michigan) is not ADA compliant because it is a gravel path with a boardwalk thru wetland areas and there are steps where the trail crosses over the main rail line. However, the undeveloped portion of the spur between Sheridan and Curtis Streets could likely be made ADA compliant because it is currently a fairly gentle railroad grade.

**Q:** What role does this trail play in the larger recreational plan in Petoskey?

**City of Petoskey:** Acquiring the Jarman Spur property from the State of Michigan would allow Petoskey to continue to expand an already substantial network of trails and walking paths throughout the community. In particular, the Jarman property would improve access between the Curtis Park neighborhood in Petoskey and the Bear River Valley Recreation area.



 Former Jarman Railroad Spur - Pendel Co., State of Michigan or Unknown ownership

