

Stone Consulting, Inc.

Tourist & Passenger Rail Projects



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Ulster County NY U&D Corridor Highest and Best Use Study

Stone Consulting was retained by the County of Ulster New York to perform a corridor analysis for the highest and best use of the former Ulster & Delaware Railroad Corridor west of Kingston NY to the Delaware County line.

Stone Consulting was given 45 days and asked to conduct an analysis of the entire 38.6 mile corridor for the best use of either rail or trail purposes. The analysis included site visits, meetings, review of the existing studies, feasibility analysis, economic impact analysis, health and quality of life impact analysis, and final report recommending the corridor's highest and best use.



The County unanimously accepted our report recommendations. The rail-recommended portions were expanded in favor of rail-with-trail alternatives and providing additional rail operating distance on two areas of the corridor. Portions wholly within the New York City owned Ashokan reservoir property were recommended for rail/trail terminals at both ends and trail between. The County has subsequently renegotiated with the Catskill Mountain Railroad for continuing operations out of Kingston for the 2016 season and beyond.

Key disputes between rail and trail proponents focused on whether or not adequate room could be developed alongside the existing track for a parallel accessible trail. Stone Consulting measured the railroad and concluded that only two actual rock cut areas would actually need to be expanded, and the remainder could be accomplished by the removal of eroded shale, expansion of fills toward hillside, and relocation of track. This recommendation was accepted and resulted in the approved expansion of rail operations an additional two miles.



Contact: Ernest E. Hunt, Director & President, Catskill Mountain Railroad - 845.688.7400

Redevelopment Authority of the County of Berks (PA) (Colebrookdale Railroad Preservation Trust) Implementation Study for the Creation of an Excursion Railroad on the Colebrookdale Railroad

Analysis of use of the existing County-owned branch line for scheduled excursion passenger services, including market and capacity analysis, business plan development, equipment research, regulatory impacts, capital cost needs, and maintenance projections.

Stone Consulting also prepared a site analysis and plan for the potential relocation of the Birdsboro PA ex-PRR freight station to Boyertown PA, to function as a combination community center and excursion railroad passenger depot.



Contact: Kenneth Pick, Executive Director - 610.478.6325

Texas State Railroad Authority, Palestine & Rusk TX

Stone Consulting, Inc. has provided the following services for the Texas State Railroad Authority (TSRA):

2006 - Present

Engineering and consulting services for the rehabilitation of both the track and the equipment, using TXDOT/TEA-21 funding and reimbursement guidelines.

Stone Consulting, Inc. assisted the communities of Rusk and Palestine with a strategic plan to acquire the railroad from the Texas State Department of Parks and Wildlife, create an owning entity, transfer legal authority to the entity and bid the railroad out to a qualified operator. This process was completed by November 2007.

With the transfer of the railroad underway, a competitive operator selection process through Phase I RFQ and Phase II RFP was performed. Five qualified operators were reviewed at the RFQ stage and four submitted full proposals that were scored and interviewed at the RFP stage. The Authority selected American Heritage Railways of Durango CO.

Steam Locomotive 400 (Baldwin 2-8-2, 1917)

Engineering, specification and procurement services for 1472 inspection; boiler repair program including bidding of rear door sheet, superheater element replacement, and Texas Historical Commission agreement on restoration of historic paint scheme.



Steam Locomotive 300

Specifications, procurement and bidding for rehabilitation work for 2-8-0 #300. The original 1472 inspection was completed on time and under budget in 2009; the 5-year inspection capital plan included addition of lubricator systems, injector replacement and selected tube replacement.



Passenger Cars



Exterior paint, rehabilitation and structural work to the entire car fleet; interior updates and rehabilitation to follow during 2010-2011 season.

Historic research and clearance of air conditioning project for ex-ATSF Pullman café-Observation #1511 for on-board power generation and updated air conditioning; as well as additional coach air conditioning projects.

Steam Locomotive 500 (ATSF 4-6-2 #1316)

Engineering investigation of frame cracks, development of weld repair program, boiler analysis.

Track

Capital maintenance programs for 4000 ties bid out in October 2017, following previous years of capital tie replacement programs, and rehabilitation of the UP interchange to Palestine to FRA I condition.



Bridges

Bridge inspection and ratings programs to bring TSRR into full federal compliance.

Contact: Steve Presley - 903.731.3007

Steam Into History, Inc. Business Plan and Market Analysis

Stone Consulting assisted Steam Into History, Inc. with the market analysis and business plan for the reopening of the ex-Northern Central Railroad in York County PA for development of a civil-war era theme featuring excursions to the historic Hanover Jct. depot, using a reproduction 4-4-0 similar to the NPS "UP 119" and the 2008 "Leviathan". This proposal has been publicly presented and met with favorable response from both County and State officials.



As a result of the Study, Steam Into History, Inc. was given a lease of the county-owned corridor and has now concluded their third season of operations behind the replica 4-4-0 and Civil-War era passenger train.

Contact: Debi Beshore,
Manager Marketing and Development -
717.942.2370

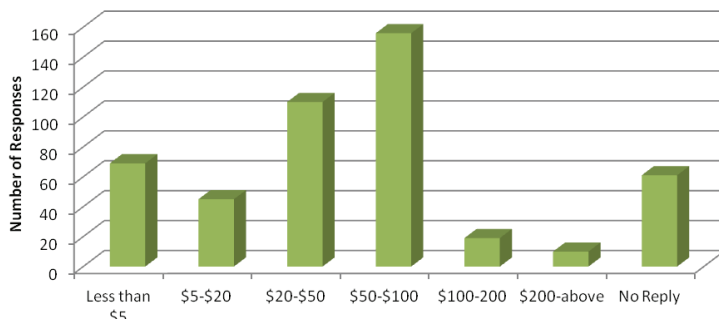


City of Lebanon OH Economic Impact Analysis

The City of Lebanon OH commissioned an economic impact analysis of the city-owned six-mile Lebanon, Mason & Monroe Railroad to justify and examine the annual city spending plan for track and bridge maintenance. Stone Consulting developed on-site surveys to develop statistical data on visitor spending, visitor behavior, and repeat visitation statistics to downtown Lebanon to provide hard data on the actual impact of the tourist railroad within the community.



14. Your approximate spending in the Downtown Lebanon area today will be?



The four-month on-site survey proved significant existing and greater potential linkages between the excursion railroad and the downtown business community. Extensive support from the community, paired with a new operator agreement, secured a long-term contract between the City and the Lebanon, Mason & Monroe Railroad.

Contact: Jason Millard, Economic Development Director - 513.228.3172

Downeast Rail Heritage Preservation Trust Bar Harbor ME

Stone Consulting, Inc. performed the original feasibility study for this startup operation over the ex-Maine Central Calais Branch, from the track analysis to the business plan, and assisted in the lease negotiations between the State of Maine and Downeast. Downeast began passenger excursion operations in fall 2010, on track in the immediate Ellsworth ME area.



Stone Consulting, Inc. also assisted with the procurement and appraisal of two locomotives - ex-B&ML GE 70-tonner #54 and the Davenport switcher, along with consulting on FRA compliance issues for initial startup.

Contact: Thomas J. Testa, President - 866.449.7245



Nevada Commission for the Reconstruction of the Virginia & Truckee Railway Carson City NV Operator Selection & 2008 Economic Impact Analysis



Stone Consulting, Inc. assisted the Commission on developing an operating partnership for the expansion of the V&T Railway between Gold Hill NV and Carson City—a \$21 million construction project expected to be completed for the 2010 operating season.

This included development of a Request for Proposals, competitive operator selection and assistance with technical, engineering and contractual issues during the reconstruction process.

Stone Consulting, Inc. has assisted the Commission on an ongoing basis with additional economic impact analysis studies and equipment procurement. Stone assisted in the negotiations between the Commission and Timber Heritage Association that resulted in the successful sale and transport of five ex-SP commuter coaches between the two organizations. Stone Consulting, Inc. also assisted the Commission in the negotiations and purchase of ex-McCloud River Railroad 2-8-2 #18, now in service over the railroad between Virginia City and Carson City in the 2010 season.



Contacts: Candace Duncan, Carson City Convention & Visitors' Bureau - 775.687.7410
Michael S. Rowe, Esq. - 775.782.8141

Lake Shore Railway Historical Society, North East PA
Strategic Plan / Site Improvements / Equipment Donations



Stone Consulting, Inc. has worked with the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society (LSRHS) since 2007 on developing new strategic goals for the organization in both disposition and procurement of the equipment collection for a more focused visitor interpretive experience. We have also developed a comprehensive site plan and grant application package to develop NS+CSXT railfan viewing platforms and site structural improvements.

Contact: Ray Grabowski, Executive Director - 814.873.0679

Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society,
Fort Wayne IN
Headwaters Junction

Stone Consulting has been retained by the Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society (FWRHS) to assist them in the development of the Headwaters Junction project in Fort Wayne, including assistance in conceptual design of site trackage, project cost estimating, market analysis, preliminary economic impact analysis, and developing operating concepts on existing and rebuilt connecting trackage.



Contact: Kelly Lynch, FWRHS Vice President - 260.493.0765

Morris Community Development Foundation, Morris IL
Liberty Street Crossing Development

Stone Consulting, Inc. was selected to perform a Feasibility and Re-Use Study for the Morris, IL ex-Rock Island Railroad Station and Square Deal Grain Elevator which were purchased by the community.

Engineering and Cost Estimates were done to determine possibilities for the buildings as a museum, commercial business, excursion/commuter station, or City offices.



Stone Consulting's recommendations of a joint Community Center/Chamber of Commerce Office with annual NRHS excursions were accepted by the City.

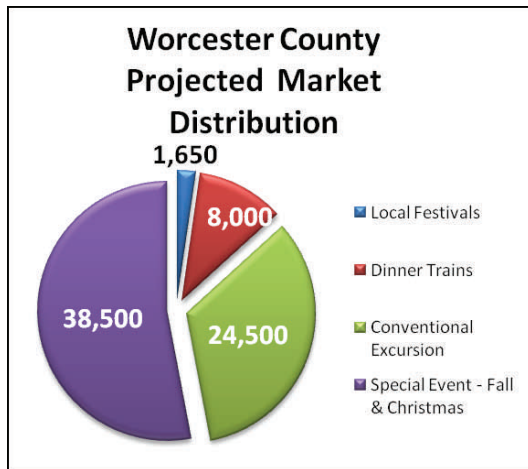
Contact: Jim Baum, Morris Community Development - 815.942.0389

Worcester County Economic Development, Snow Hill MD Maryland and Delaware Railroad, Federalsburg MD Excursion Railroad Feasibility Study

Stone Consulting was selected to perform the feasibility study for the use of the Maryland and Delaware Railroad Snow Hill branch for potential excursion passenger use. This study, in cooperation with the Maryland and Delaware Railroad and the communities of Snow Hill and Berlin, was to examine the potential market, special events potential, capital costs and economic impact of excursion activities on this branch.



This project included:



- * Site visits to all involved communities and stakeholders including Ocean City MD.
- * Hi-rail inspection of the line for track conditions and estimated rehab costs.
- * Freight status and conditions.
- * Potential boarding locations, existing and needed stations.
- * Infrastructure additions for excursion passenger services.
- * Investigation of public and private parcel holders, and partnerships with private and public entities along the line for mutual benefit.
- * Public meeting presentations with community leaders.

Subsequent to the completion of the study, Stone Consulting was retained by the Maryland and Delaware Railroad to facilitate a partnership with an operating excursion railroad partner as a private proposal. Further activity has been pursued for development of grant and loan opportunities to the railroad and the potential excursion operator.

Contact: Meredith Mears, Director
Worcester County Economic Development
410.632.3112



Stone Consulting, Inc. retains specialty tourism subconsultants in national & regional market analysis, economic impact analysis to Federal EDA standards, and 'hands-on' development of marketing programs and materials development.

Stone Consulting's nationwide experience in feasibility studies, project development, marketing and master planning is available for your railroad today!



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