

APPENDIX D

Stewart Tunnel Alternatives Analysis Feedback Form - Survey Responses

Question 10: Please provide any comments in the space below.

Answered: 343 Skipped: 550

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The most attractive thing about the Corrugated Metal Pipe Tunnel Lining option to me is that the trail will be usable year round - I have used the trail and been through the tunnel for multiple winters, specifically running. I am comfortable running on Tunnel Road, so it's nice to have a loop instead of just an out-and-back option for my runs. Also, as human reaction is hard to predict, is it comforting to know that this proposal was implemented in another tunnel and that "the public has been pleased with the repair." Finally, this option seems better than the Cast-In-Place Concrete Tunnel Lining option in almost every way.	6/18/2022 10:05 AM
2	Please keep access to the tunnel. It's such a great historical feature & a big draw to the trail in this area.	6/18/2022 8:24 AM
3	This tunnel is the symbol of the whole trails system. I've much enjoyed riding my bicycle through it and having hiked through it as a graduate student. It's time to reopen it.	6/17/2022 2:40 PM
4	Prefer options 2-5 over any option that reroutes or removes the tunnel.	6/17/2022 2:38 PM
5	Diverting foot and bicycle traffic onto the road is inherently unsafe, and is a major factor considered when people decide whether or not to consider this area of the trail viable for use. I think option 4 does the best job of actually making this trail a reliable and cost effective source of recreation.	6/17/2022 10:19 AM
6	Unless tunnel stabilization can be confined to an aggregate length not to exceed 200-300 feet, develop Alternate 8 - with modifications. To evaluate the feasibility of limited stabilization work, tap into the experience at Stewart Tunnel of the bridge structure supervisor at Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Company. A modified Alternate 8 option will provide the premier and most exciting and unique recreational trail experience and nurturing bat hibernaculum in the Midwest. Visualize: a trail diverging from the present alignment and gently ascending to the hill above the tunnel portals, similar to Alternate 7. Then, above, and between the portals, curvilinear or serpentine approaches, cut into the earth and bedrock, to a new recreational trail tunnel at the crest of the hill. The approaches will create a visually pleasing experience for hikers and bikers. The new tunnel will be a major attraction and tourism draw. Enhance that experience with a dark area in the tunnel, and an observation area above it, to view the beautiful Wisconsin countryside. Provide access to at least one of the Stewart Tunnel portals. This option can be built within existing right-of-way. That and timber trestles off to the side of present trail alignment will avoid filling the approaches to Stewart Tunnel. If additional property can be acquired, additional design options become available. At Stewart Tunnel, add protective timber lagging far enough in to provide viewing of the original unlined bore. Include interpretive signs with two themes; one to memorialize the history of the tunnel, the railroad that built it, and the importance of railroads in that era. The other, to discuss the importance of bats to our ecosystem and the role of Stewart Tunnel as a hibernaculum to nurture them. This option will provide a trail that will not be affected by any future use of Stewart Tunnel. There need be no significant investment in the existing bore that could become throw-away work later. Importantly, Stewart Tunnel will become a prime bat hibernaculum. The large surface area of exposed sedimentary bedrock, unconstrained by tunnel lining or other stabilization treatments, is probably the best surface for hibernating bats. Greater public awareness of the importance of bats to our ecosystem will occur due to the high number of trail users.	6/16/2022 11:49 PM
7	I would prefer something that preserves the tunnel experience: the high ceiling, cool air, natural rock, and man-made stonework. I think Alternative 5 preserves the tunnel experience the best. Alternative 4 could work--if the corrugated metal pipe can be made larger than the one at Poe Paddy, and if part of the tunnel entry be preserved sort of like at Poe Paddy? It's unclear how Alternative 5 prevents future rail use, if there is already cast-in-place linings in the Stewart Tunnel?	6/16/2022 2:47 PM
8	I've read through the alternatives and also read wisconbikefed's official recommendation, which I agree with (alternative 4). While the corrugated roofing may not preserve some of the historic qualities of the tunnel, at least does preserve it as a destination for visitors. I think it's	6/15/2022 4:04 PM

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important to maintain the tunnel as an attraction, otherwise the trail loses the one thing making it a travel destination. (I live in Sun Prairie and drive out to ride this trail because of the tunnel; without it, I probably will not do so. I've ridden it only once since the tunnel was closed and was disappointed at being routed on the road.)

9	I also think the metal pipe corrugated lining would be good	6/15/2022 9:48 AM
10	While among the most expensive options, if funding can be found for a cast-in-place ceiling solution that would allow for long-term preservation of this unique trail right-of-way, I would highly support it. My usage of the BST has reduced as a result of the detour, because the detour is difficult and the stretch from Madison to the north portal and back isn't long enough for my recreational biking trips.	6/15/2022 9:44 AM
11	It's imperative to allow year-long access to the tunnel. Its unique recreational and historical experience needs to be preserved. I've biked both ways and the tunnel is a much superior experience.	6/15/2022 8:14 AM
12	Fix it once and as permanently as possible.	6/13/2022 11:56 PM
13	I am hopeful this great resource providing trail continuity and cultural/environmental experience will be available for access again very soon.	6/13/2022 12:01 PM
14	please don't let a decision drag out for years and years as various studies are conducted and input is considered and reconsidered. this is why we can't build any infrastructure in this country, why it takes decades to even decide to do something, decades more to build and way more money than necessary. just get the trail open again! how has it been three years already?? it's a simple dirt trail, fix the tunnel or demolish it, just let people use the trail again.	6/13/2022 12:59 AM
15	Please preserve the tunnel! It is an incredible piece of history and a very unique attraction to our area of the Badger State trail! I loved walking/ running through it when it was open, and it had been an incredible loss to have it in disrepair for so many years.	6/12/2022 8:08 PM
16	I would like to comment on the question that asks, "how many times within a year do you use the Badger State Trail?" I would think the answers to this question would be skewed since the tunnel is closed. I would use the trail much more "if" the tunnel was open. It is unclear to me what the survey means by "Provides Off-road Transportation and Recreation." I do not support driving UTV's on the trails and would prefer that snowmobiles would not be allowed on the trail. I would like the trail to be open to bicycles, hikers, walkers, and cross-country skiers. The corrugated metal tunnel provides the best use of funds for a long-term solution of preserving the tunnel and maintaining the bat population.	6/12/2022 10:32 AM
17	The trail with the tunnel is such an attraction for Wisconsin, don't give that away. Bicycling up that grade and to experience the coolness inside the tunnel is very unique. Consider the repair an investment for the future not just for the present.	6/12/2022 10:08 AM
18	I wasn't sure if 1 was most important or 10 on the survey, so I assumed 1 was most important and 10 least,	6/12/2022 9:19 AM
19	This must become a priority for the DNR. The tunnel is an economic driver to Belleville.	6/12/2022 8:03 AM
20	Thanks for seeking and considering user input! Looking forward to the ribbon cutting ceremony when the tunnel reopens! ♂ ♀ ♂ ♀	6/11/2022 7:07 PM
21	I live in Chicago. In all honesty I have not been on this trail but on others with tunnels and worked in dismantling rail lines that became multi-use trails. Tunnels by themselves are unique and one on a curve makes it more so. For me personally, being able to see the rock formations of the walls and roof add significantly to the attraction. I would not do anything to impede the bats from having an inviting hibernating environment. I would favor the ceiling netting option with scheduled clearing off of the rocks that might land on the trail. It is not a perfect solution but with every budget being stretched, especially now, this option gives a good balance between a good partial solution to the problem and a cost that might be affordable. Rich Shure	6/11/2022 11:28 AM
22	The Stewart Tunnel is a great asset to tourism, and we would all be thrilled to have it again safely open for users.	6/11/2022 10:58 AM
23	I will contribute \$2000 to get the tunnel completed. I almost got hit by a truck on my bike. Please finish the tunnel.	6/11/2022 5:56 AM
24	Riding in the tunnel is on my bucket riding list. It would be a shame to change the historic look	6/10/2022 11:57 PM

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but if that's what it takes to keep the tunnel open. I think the tunnel will draw people like me to the trail and I'm hoping we can get it back open.

25	Option 4 please	6/10/2022 10:38 PM
26	I think it's worth preserving the tunnel experience, and it's worth doing it right.	6/10/2022 6:17 PM
27	While I really hope that the tunnel can be preserved in it's original state of construction, I would rather have it open than closed as it is now. The experience of being in the tunnel, not seeing light from either end, and getting to see the different types of construction/preservation that has occurred throughout the years by your own flashlight is the best part. I wish there was a way to preserve the tunnel as is for future generations, but we need it back open.	6/10/2022 5:36 PM
28	As a relatively new resident of Belleville (2020), the Stewart Tunnel represents a surprisingly significant draw to the area not only for recreation, but also economically. I utilize the Badge State Trail multiple times per week and find myself travelling north towards Fitchburg on the majority of my outings rather than navigating hilly terrain currently required to travel south. As an avid cyclist, it is also notable that bicycle travel appears to have reduced significantly after the closing of the tunnel. With so many activities that utilize the Stewart Tunnel, not re-opening the tunnel would have a very negative impact to the livability of Belleville and to Belleville's economy. I prefer Alternative 4 as it seems to be the most reasonably priced solution for long-term viability of the tunnel and it's use for years to come.	6/9/2022 6:04 PM
29	Please repair the tunnel appropriately keeping the historic nature. Tunnels are 'cool'. The Elroy-Sparta tunnels are amazing. Do what you can to preserve the tunnel while making it safe.	6/9/2022 12:56 PM
30	Please do provide habitat for the bats.	6/8/2022 8:30 PM
31	Please repair the tunnel. Thank you!	6/8/2022 3:51 PM
32	I've chosen alternative 4 as the solution that best balances my considerations. However, completely lining the tunnel will negatively impact the tunnel experience. I wonder if a hybrid solution is feasible, where most of the tunnel is lined with corrugated pipe but a small central part of the tunnel could be left exposed (or netted) for enjoyment of the original tunnel. This might reduce any maintenance costs associated with the exposed section both because there is less to maintain, and possibly because temperature changes might not be as extreme.	6/4/2022 6:53 PM
33	It would be nice to be able to maintain some of the historical nature of the tunnel. Not sure if would be possible to do alternative 4 and rock net a small portion in the center of the tunnel away from temperature extremes. Also a historical display at the entrance of the tunnel would be a nice way to remember what the interior of the tunnel was like. Thank you.	6/4/2022 6:14 PM
34	I want it to be safe. I want to ensure that the bats are protected. I want to keep a tunnel. While it will be sad to lose the old glimpses of brick on the inside of the tunnel, work could be done to take extensive photography of the current state of the tunnel. Large displays could be placed outside of the tunnel to give a photographic history of what it looked like. I like option 4 best because it serves the bats and people in an equal way to continue to allow all of us a tunnel to enjoy. I have not liked the rerouting on the roads that exist today. It's unsafe to travel on those hilly winding roads. That has actually made me not use the trail in recent years.	6/4/2022 10:31 AM
35	We love our tunnel! We must preserve it!!	6/1/2022 3:35 PM
36	The options presented have many pros and cons, ultimately, I favor year-round access on the recreation trail going through the tunnel. I would use the trail more often if the tunnel was open, the climb up the terrain around the tunnel on the current detour is a bit too difficult for my entire family.	6/1/2022 12:28 PM
37	Please don't remove this piece of history! It is a landmark of Wisconsin!	6/1/2022 12:24 PM
38	Please save the tunnel and it's history.	6/1/2022 8:48 AM
39	This is a most lovely public space to hike. It has been difficult to see it's shift from accessibility.	6/1/2022 1:49 AM
40	I do hope you can find a way to preserve the tunnel. It is such a unique experience of a bike rider or hiker along this route.	5/31/2022 11:28 PM
41	While it would take away from the historic qualities of the original bedrock, there seems to be many good advantages in using the Metal Lining. Protecting hikers and bikers from loose or falling rock, maintaining bat habitats, an affordable solution and less maintenance required with	5/31/2022 11:27 PM

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a longer lifespan. The Stewart Tunnel could also remain open year round without the need for portal doors. It would be very sad to have to cover up the bedrock; but with being 135 years old and to keep hikers like myself safe while going through, I feel that at this point the Lining may be the best option to go with.

42	Alternative 5 most suites the desire of the communities surrounding Stewart Tunnel, because we want to see the tunnel live on, yet still usable safely. Portal Doors should be added to ensure the tunnels lifespan, and would continue the legacy of Stewart Tunnel for all to still enjoy	5/31/2022 9:10 PM
43	Any solution to re-open the tunnel route. Any liner option, etc. Please DO NOT re-route or demolish. It's such a great attraction and destination to have in our area and connect Madison with Belleville and New Glarus.	5/31/2022 8:45 PM
44	Please keep the tunnel.	5/31/2022 8:21 PM
45	Please save the tunnel. You wouldn't believe the number of children I've taken to that tunnel. It is an awesome site for a child to see, also a great chance to share some history with those children.	5/31/2022 7:50 PM
46	Please try and preserve this beautiful landmark	5/31/2022 7:39 PM
47	Stewart Tunnel is a unique attraction, it's history and purpose should be preserved.	5/31/2022 6:56 PM
48	Please save the tunnel! We travel to that area to ride on the trail.	5/31/2022 6:33 PM
49	Combined with option 1. The tunnel could be accessible as a guided tour only during the summer months and preserved as a bat sanctuary during the winter.	5/31/2022 6:22 PM
50	Tunnel 3 has a partial corrugated lining in it. I think doors being closed during the winter months would help also	5/31/2022 6:21 PM
51	Preserve access and use of the tunnel.	5/31/2022 5:57 PM
52	The tunnel is what makes that trail unique	5/31/2022 5:53 PM
53	Please preserve the tunnel experience. It is the highlight of our bike trips with our young daughters. The BST wouldn't be the same without it. Thank you.	5/31/2022 5:28 PM
54	I like Alt 4 - but if there is a chance that the bats would still use the interior of the metal pipe, I would be more inclined to just go with the rock fencing. I don't see what the vertical clearance would be for Alt 4 - but could get uncomfortable if too tight and bats are present.	5/31/2022 5:22 PM
55	I have a fond memory of biking through this tunnel before it was closed for safety reasons. My priority would be any solution that both allowed biking through the tunnel and preserved bat habitat.	5/31/2022 4:57 PM
56	Please PRESERVE THE TUNNEL. Stuff like this is what enables parents like me to convince our kids to go on a really cool bike ride. Without the tunnel, it's just another pleasant bike ride without the special fun factor.	5/31/2022 4:29 PM
57	This tunnel is too important to the trail and to this part of the state to not restore it. Once it's gone it's gone forever and the trail would never be the same.	5/31/2022 4:05 PM
58	The historic Stewart Tunnel provides a rare experience for bicyclists, pedestrians, and snowmobile users in this part of the state, and is a big contributor to draw people to the area and support the local economy. Please explore grant opportunities to find ways to help fund options that keep the tunnel available for public use.	5/31/2022 9:44 AM
59	Access to the tunnel entrances as a stopping place, photo op. and historical significance is important even if the tunnel is permanently closed. Rerouting around (above) tunnel would preserve the tunnel as is especially if a better alternative and funding become available. The amount of graffiti seen over the last ten years on the trail (bridges) and especially the tunnel is disheartening and very concerning. If the tunnel was repaired and the graffiti continued, the graffiti would be a major eyesore and detract some people from visiting the tunnel and using the trail.	5/31/2022 1:44 AM
60	The Stewart Tunnel is a very important historical part of the Belleville area and is a big draw for trail users. Living along the trail we get to talk to many hikers and bikers. People travel this part of the trail for the tunnel. First time visitors ask questions about the tunnel and are excited	5/30/2022 11:05 PM

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after they have gone through the tunnel about their experience. Especially that you can't see out the other end! It is fun to share their adventure. The tunnel also has a personal importance to me as my ancestor worked on the construction of the railroad and Stewart Tunnel as his first job when he came to America. I believe it is important to try and preserve at least some of what the men who worked to build the rail systems created and teach the history of what they did. Regardless of what option is chosen, I hope there will be interpretive sites to pass on the history.

61	loss of tunnel access/ heavy modification of the tunnel through covering the exposed rock walls would cause a continued decline in usage of Badger State Trail as already observed during tunnel current tunnel closure. The Stewart Tunnel is a major highlight of this section of the Badger State Trail, and ideally should be left as unmodified as possible. As a descendant of one of the men who dug the Stewart Tunnel, it holds a strong sentimental value to me.	5/30/2022 10:19 PM
62	I grew up going to the Stewart Tunnel my children were brought up going there on hikes and I would love to see it restored so my grandchildren could enjoy it as well.	5/29/2022 4:04 PM
63	I know that people have decreased use of trail going south of tunnel to monroe. Also decreases use of sugar River since you have to move your car to the Monticello lot. People have commented on bats flying at their heads when tunnel was open. We need a safe alternate route and Tunnel Rd is not it because it is narrow, steep, and curvy. Thank you for not approving ATV use!	5/29/2022 3:03 PM
64	Alternative 4 is a proven means of stabilizing the tunnel for bikers and hikers for at least 50 years and provides a decent habitat for the bats. Given the friable nature of the stone inside the tunnel, reinstatement of rail use in the future would most likely require the very costly alternative 8.	5/29/2022 2:18 PM
65	I like Alternative 5 the best, but Alternative 4 seems like the most realistic option, and it's time to get going on this: as it is the tunnel will have been closed 7 or 8 years before the work even starts.	5/29/2022 11:06 AM
66	Thanks for providing this interface. It's important to us!	5/28/2022 4:33 PM
67	We need to keep the tunnel preserved. Once we let it go it's gone forever. It is such a unique experience to go through while using the trail. Makes one think about what it took those people to build it so many years ago. It should be on every school's history lesson field trip. I'm an avid cyclist so that's my favorite use of the trail. The tunnels in Wisconsin are just awesome.	5/28/2022 1:31 PM
68	While cost is a factor, this tunnel is a critical part of the interest, safety & charm of this Trail. Paving the Badger Trail, at least to New Glarus, would also be a substantial recreational (much higher use) and economic gain for the area (see Minnesota Root River & other paved Trails, for example).	5/28/2022 12:05 PM
69	Thank you for asking for input.	5/28/2022 10:33 AM
70	Very much looking forward to this section of the trail opening again.	5/28/2022 8:56 AM
71	This trail is important as a gateway to Wisconsin and other trail connections; the tunnel is an attraction as well as a critical, safe and accessible alternative to local roads.	5/28/2022 8:48 AM
72	I am intimately aware of the Stewart Tunnel's history—I researched and wrote an article on the Badger Trail and the tunnel a few years ago for Silent Sports. I've led middle school bike tours for 20+ years on State Park Trails and lead adult bike routes for JDRF charity rides. These groups alike LOVE the Stewart Tunnel and Badger Trail. I can't state strongly enough the excitement and love for WI recreation the tunnel generates. The detour route's hill is not safe for middle school kids and some adults with limited riding experience. Let's get the Stewart Tunnel back online to provide the area a tourist draw and a safe cycling experience for our varied groups. The Stewart Tunnel experience is a treasure and should be preserved!	5/28/2022 8:34 AM
73	Too many bridges are being destroyed by snowmobile cleated tracks and should have a user fee. Transportation gas tax on their use is a bogus and doesn't cover excess damage. Complete trail should be paved!	5/28/2022 8:19 AM
74	Hello, I am a mechanical engineer with some civil engineering experience and an avid bike rider. Stewart Tunnel is a gem that provides wonderful recreational and tourist opportunities. If cost is getting in the way of choosing what appears to be the best way of preserving the tunnel (either alternatives 4 or 5), then I suggest that use private fund raising can help. I have asked one of the bicycle clubs I am in if they would get involved, and informally it is a yes. I think	5/27/2022 11:43 AM

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that many recreational clubs in the area could get involved and it would be a great way to also inform the public about what is at stake. Thank you.

75	The tunnel really is a big draw, especially with the curve and not seeing the ends when in the middle. I think people would be willing to donate extra to have a safe reopening.	5/26/2022 10:51 PM
76	Perhaps Alternative 7 could be used until the money is raised for Alternative 4	5/26/2022 8:34 PM
77	I think it is such a gem of a destination for cycling and all users of the trail. We should do everything we can to preserve the structure so everyone can experience it safely.	5/26/2022 12:10 PM
78	I would like to offer my support to keep the bike route off the roads for the sake of safety and the recreational experience. CTH CC/Exeter Crossing Road is a busy highway. Tunnel Road has drop offs on one side and banks on the other side. To add the bike lanes on each side as proposed will be a substantial amount of earthwork and I doubt can be done within the estimated cost. It will also mean easements or acquisitions of lands farther from the road to allow for proper grading. Both CTH CC and Tunnel Road have steep grades most likely as least as long and steep as the proposed route over the tunnel. As stated in the analysis the road routes would be less desirable from a recreational and accessibility standpoint. Families and persons with mobilities may not feel comfortable biking or hiking along a road. Authorization by and coordination with county and town would also be required as stated in the analysis. 16% grades are not uncommon when biking in the driftless region, while the Badger Trail offers a trail with much less grade change. The tunnel is a unique experience when biking the Badger Trail and it would be my recommendation to select an alternate that allows for use of the tunnel. Changing the route to over the tunnel does offer spectacular views of the landscape, however the grade change would pose issues with some users. I do believe the route could be lengthened to reduce the pitch but would still result in the total elevation change. This option could be combined with Alternate 2 as an alternative route when the doors are closed. If bat habitat can be accommodated, my recommendation is for Alternate 2 - Rock Netting with Portal Doors (\$1,020,000) and add Alternate 7 – Reroute Trail Over Tunnel (\$270,000). I am recommending Alternate 2 for reasons that include retaining the historical character of the tunnel, the recreational experience, safety, and for budget approval concerns. I believe the bat habitat is an important issue and would recommend further investigation of possible alternatives for bat habitat. It is my understanding that one or more of the types of bats currently in the tunnel may be designated as an endangered species. If this is the case and there are no bat habitat solutions with alternative 2, I would then recommend Alternate 4 – Corrugated Metal Pipe Tunnel Lining (\$3,480,000)	5/26/2022 10:03 AM
79	I don't see much point to rerouting along existing roads -- the cut and fill plan seems better than that to me.	5/25/2022 6:52 PM
80	Alternative 2 seems to be the best to balance the cost with preserving the use and history of the tunnel. There is nothing like Stewart Tunnel anywhere else - please save this tunnel for future generations to enjoy!	5/25/2022 3:58 PM
81	I would also be good with alternative 2 with doors. I like how the bat habitat is included in plan 4, but not necessarily as aesthetically pleasing as 2.	5/25/2022 12:13 PM
82	This report fails to quantify the risk which is supposedly the entire reason the tunnel was closed and the reason these alternatives are necessary. It seems very unlikely the risk to users is the same for the entire length of the tunnel. Even worse, there is no way to determine if the current risk of using the tunnel is less than, greater than or equal to using the on-road detour. When describing alternative 9, the report makes no distinction between the noted risk of rock fall from the walls and rock fall within the existing tunnel. I have observed that such rock fall from walls is common elsewhere on the Badger Path between Monticello and Monroe. Even more extreme rock fall has been observed on other DNR properties where people walk such as Ableman's Gorge. The report undervalues or understates the uniqueness of the tunnel experience. When discussing alternative 8, the report implies the creation of an enhanced user experience by the creation of a vista. It fails to point out that in this part of state, vistas are easy to come by, there already exists spectacular vistas near mile marker 27 on the Badger State Trail and that this option eliminates the amazingly unique user experience of the tunnel. If I were still grading papers, the DNR analysis would receive a grade of D-.	5/25/2022 9:13 AM
83	I have young children. I watch as this world takes away trees and greenery on a daily basis. My children love going on walks and to parks. This is an historic place that should be fixed so that the younger generations can appreciate it.	5/24/2022 4:34 PM

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84	This is an important cultural landmark. Whatever choice is made, I hope that it will preserve the historical nature of the structure, and encourage people to visit it well into the future.	5/24/2022 1:28 PM
85	<p>Friends of the Badger and Sugar River State Trails P.O. Box 141 Belleville, WI 53508 May 20, 2022 Sara Rigelman, Recreation Liaison Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 101 S. Webster St. P.O. Box 7921 Madison, WI 53707 Dear Sara, Thank you for the invitation to submit a formal statement regarding the Friends' position on possible alternatives for action on the condition and current closure of the Stewart Tunnel. The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Badger and Sugar River State Trails has reviewed the GEI engineering report and DNR analysis detailing the alternatives for addressing the deterioration, safety and other issues regarding the Stewart Tunnel. After discussion of the report and analysis among the Board members, group members and a private contractor familiar with the composition of the Tunnel and landscape surrounding it, we submit that Alternative 4 represents the most reasonable and desirable solution for the Tunnel's restoration. That the group would advocate for some form of restoration of the tunnel has never been in question. We know from Friends Group survey data (2019, 2022) as well as informal conversation that the Stewart Tunnel has value to the communities along the Badger trail for many reasons. In addition to its recreational value, attracting tourists and locals year round who enjoy walking or bicycling through the tunnel, it is also an historical and cultural icon. The Stewart Tunnel played a role in the lives of the families that grew up in the trail's adjacent communities for over 130 years. That role has expanded – and become more personal to people- since the late 1990s, when it became more accessible after the DNR procured the land and began converting it to trail in 2000. We believe Alternative 4 (installation of corrugated metal pipe lining along the sides of the tunnel) balances the needs of existing trail users, as well as the region's communities, with those of the ecosystem in which the Tunnel is situated--particularly the vulnerable bat population that has made the tunnel its winter home. Installing corrugated metal pipe tunnel lining and keeping a 2 foot interstitial space between the fill and tunnel ceiling appears to have worked well as a solution for the Poe Paddy Tunnel in Pennsylvania, which similarly had to balance recreational trail user, ecosystem and bat population needs. The report indicates that this solution "has worked well to protect trail users from falling rock while also maintaining their bat habitat." (GEI Report 21B11, p.9) The public seems to be pleased with the solution and the tunnel has even seen an increase in the bat population. A highlight of this popular Pennsylvania State Park, this destination feature is a significant draw for locals and tourists alike, contributing to the region's economy. Communities along the Badger State trail, particularly those that draw bicyclists, have already started to feel some impacts from the Stewart Tunnel closure--impacts that will increase if it were to be permanently closed. While the cost of this alternative is high (\$3,480,000) it requires little in ongoing maintenance costs in comparison to restoration Alternatives 2 (Ceiling Netting) and 3 (Steel Framing), the former of which would further endanger the bat population. Alternative 5 (Concrete Lining) is more expensive and, as far as we can tell, less optimal for the bats, as it would not contain the protective interstitial space between the fill and the top of the existing tunnel ceiling. Finally, given that Alternative 4 could not begin to be implemented until the DNR 2023-25 budget is approved and funds are secured for the reconstruction, the Board will also advocate for a short-term solution. The most cost-effective and reasonable short-term solution appears to be to create a ramped pedestrian-only, unpaved pathway over the tunnel, which may be feasible within the existing right-of-way, as detailed on page 25 of the DNR's Stewart Tunnel Alternatives Analysis. The Board of the Friends of the Badger Sugar River State Trails is committed to working with the Wisconsin DNR and the State and Federal governments to ensure the viable implementation of a reasonable and sustainable plan for restoring the Stewart Tunnel. We have begun the work of exploring partners and strategies for fundraising, and are considering the possibility of establishing an endowment. While we can take little action with a decision by the DNR pending, we are pleased to be counted as a partner and advocate in this important restoration project. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions. Respectfully submitted, Anne Gravel Sullivan, President Friends of the Badger and Sugar River State Trails P.O. Box 41 Belleville, WI 53508 Sundog15@gmail.com 608-279-3407</p>	5/24/2022 7:40 AM
86	We make a special trip to bike this trail for this tunnel. We miss it.	5/23/2022 8:36 PM
87	A priority for me is preserving as much as possible the entrances to Stewart Tunnel. I remember meeting a film crew coming for a look at the tunnel. The ancient, mossy look of the entrances is unique and was the attraction for them. I also would like to see the tunnel open year around. The winter ice formations are also unique and access should be continued. I posted pictures of them on a website called Atlas Obscura and they've added to the posting since then. Before closure I was one of the heaviest users of the trail, making at least two trips a week through the tunnel.	5/23/2022 3:50 PM

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88	<p>May 19th, 2022 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources C/O Sara Rigelman PR/6 101 S. Webster Street P.O. Box 7921 Madison, WI 53707 Re: Letter of Support - Stewart Tunnel Repair Dear Ms. Rigelman, On behalf of the Village of Belleville Economic Development Committee, I am writing to strongly urge the DNR to pursue Alternative #4 for the Stewart Tunnel. Alternative #4 provides the most cost efficient option to keep the tunnel open and operating for recreational use along the Badger State Trail. According to the Wisconsin Office of Outdoor Recreation's 2020 Report detailing the economic impacts of outdoor recreation in our beautiful state, \$7.8 billion dollars were contributed to the state's GDP by the outdoor recreation sector. This sector's GDP growth outpaced total GDP growth, with our outdoor recreation GDP growing by over 12% from 2012 to 2017, compared to 7% total GDP growth. Over 200,000 users annually patronize the Badger State Trail. Every patron of the trail presents an opportunity for our local business community to draw in additional customers and additional revenue for our community. The Stewart Tunnel is a destination on the Badger State Trail that drives bike and foot traffic into the Village of Belleville and therefore drives dollars into the hands of our local businesses and community groups. Supporting the revitalization and reopening of the Stewart Tunnel is supporting the local economy in Belleville and our surrounding rural townships. Revitalization of the Stewart Tunnel ties in well with Belleville's newly updated comprehensive plan. Our plan commits the Village to "regular upkeep and maintenance to existing trails", "expand trail...access and plan for improvements that better connect residents to these resources", "maintain a high quality park and trail system accessible to all residents", "promote walkable development that...connect to trails", and "maintain good connections and wayfinding systems from high-volume trails to Village businesses". The prolific inclusion of references to trails in our plan demonstrates the importance of the trail and the tunnel to our village's future growth and prosperity. The Village's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan also notes the Badger State Trail and Stewart Tunnel as vital to the future of outdoor recreation in the community. Revitalization of the Stewart Tunnel would complement well many village-led initiatives to better capitalize on the Badger State Trail such as an update of the information kiosk on the trail and our acquisition and redevelopment of the old railway depot on the trail. The village is committed to integrating the trail into and utilizing the trail to drive development in Belleville; we ask the DNR to show the same commitment by proceeding with Alternate #4 for the Stewart Tunnel. Additionally, in today's economy the importance of place making as a tool for workforce recruitment and retention cannot be overstated. The Stewart Tunnel strengthens and sets apart Belleville's recreation offerings for residents and visitors alike, strengthening our community's ability to bring in new families and offer attractive recreation activities to retain our current residents. In our current competitive workforce landscape, these sort of unique touches hold unquantifiable value for communities and businesses in desperate need of new talent in their workforce. And finally, access to outdoor recreation opportunities such as the Stewart Tunnel holistically improve the health and wellness of the Belleville community. Studies have shown greater access to greenspace increases physical activity and decreases chronic health conditions. Time spent in nature is also linked with reductions in crime. Revitalization and reopening of the Stewart Tunnel will incentivize Belleville residents to take advantage of a unique recreation opportunity and aide in fulfilling Belleville's goal to be a wonderful place to live, work and play. The Economic Development Committee of the Village of Belleville sincerely appreciates your time in reviewing this letter and considering our recommendation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Committee Chair, Marie Barry, at marie_jolly6@yahoo.com. Sincerely, Marie Barry Chair, Belleville Economic Development Committee</p>	5/23/2022 12:40 PM
89	<p>Because of the economy, rerouting the trail at this time would be better than spending a lot of money. The entrances would then need to be gated but to make it so people could still look through the gates and see what it looks like inside. Maybe in the future the tunnel could be restored.</p>	5/22/2022 9:20 PM
90	<p>Just any safe way to get around the tunnel would be wonderful. Miss the ride</p>	5/22/2022 4:14 PM
91	<p>With door</p>	5/22/2022 12:59 PM
92	<p>Please save the tunnel. It is the best part of the trail. People come to ride that trail from all over WI.</p>	5/22/2022 11:26 AM
93	<p>I have taken my grandkids thru the tunnel over the years. It is such fun to wear our headlamps and head out on an adventure with a goal. The goal, being making it to and thru the tunnel. We then head for a treat in a neighboring town. Such fun! The history is great too. We miss the tunnel and really don't even go that way on the trail anymore.</p>	5/22/2022 8:25 AM

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94	I reside closest to the Stewart tunnel on Tunnel Road and it's a shame how many people are not able to go through it anymore. There are countless people who must turn around and go a different route. It's such a beautiful tunnel to let go bad. Please fix this historical tunnel. I have many fond memories of it, I haven't been able to go inside it for so long.	5/21/2022 10:36 PM
95	The historic value of the tunnel should be retained. Great experience walking or bicycling!!	5/21/2022 8:14 PM
96	If funds were available for other alternatives, I would prefer anything that allows travel thru the tunnel. I took tunnel road once and it is not user friendly to families or older adults. Wasn't aware that Military Ridge had a poorly marked detour making another obstacle to off road biking.	5/21/2022 10:54 AM
97	Can't imagine this historic spot removed from recreational use. Great memories for biking and hiking community.	5/20/2022 7:39 PM
98	I am an avid user of the badger state and sugar river trails. The closure of the Stewart tunnel is greatly impacted my enjoyment and use of the trails. I think it is imperative that we repair the tunnel so that it can be used by future generations, and that the repair is long term in nature. From the list of alternatives, I think the corrugated metal reline is the best option, it is a long term solution and while expensive is not as cost prohibitive as the concrete lined tunnel. I also think it is important that we protect the native bat population and this option allows for this. Rerouting or destroying the tunnel would have a huge impact on the enjoyment of the trail---as someone who runs, it is a pain to have to take the detour rather than taking the tunnel. I appreciate the DNR and its push to solicit comments from the public.	5/20/2022 9:51 AM
99	Please repair the Stewart Tunnel to improve safety and keep historically accurate. Thank you.	5/18/2022 11:07 AM
100	Fix the damn tunnel already.	5/18/2022 7:57 AM
101	would prefer to incur maintenance cost and preserve aesthetics of tunnel while maintaining recreational opportunities. When tunnel is closed (Nov-Apr) to promote hibernaculum...off road access above tunnel maintains recreational option (primarily by foot). Existing road detour with minimal signage can support cyclist alternatives 'off season'.	5/17/2022 9:59 PM
102	These are the official comments from the Ice Age Trail Alliance regarding the Draft Stewart Tunnel Alternatives Analysis: There's only one place along the 1,200-mile Ice Age National Scenic Trail where a hiker can escape the elements and walk in to total darkness: the Stewart Tunnel, which is part of the Monticello Segment of the Trail. Although not geologically significant, the Tunnel creates a unique hiker experience, which the Ice Age Trail Alliance would like preserved for Trail users. Therefore, the Alliance supports Tunnel Repair Alternative 4. This option provides hikers with year-round access to the Trail (with the added benefit of protecting the native bat habitat.) If the Tunnel is not to be repaired for public use, the Ice Age Trail Alliance supports re-routing the Trail above the Tunnel (either option 7 or 8). Albeit a different Tunnel experience, hiking above it would provide a continuous off-road path plus astounding views. From this vantage point, Trail users have the unique opportunity to see both glaciated and unglaciated landscape. Thank you for your consideration. Contact the Ice Age Trail Alliance for any additional information.	5/17/2022 3:24 PM
103	As I read your information about the tunnel, I'm amazed that Monticello was not even mentioned. The tunnel has provided an enjoyable experience for the many bicycle tourists who use Monticello as a starting point. These tourists have a positive economic impact as many later frequent the restaurants and bars of Monticello. There are also groups of riders who come from Madison, have breakfast, and then return to Madison. Your report also did not mention the many planned bike tour groups coming across the state that make the effort to include the Badger Trail. It has already been two years with a closed tunnel. Stop stalling and open the trail again. Although I selected alternative 5, I wish there was a way to preserve a view of the bricks, covered with soot of trains, for future generations. Finally, may I suggest that the budget include a trail connecting the Badger and Sugar near Exeter Road. Many tourists, including from IL, start in New Glarus and go to the tunnel.	5/17/2022 3:16 PM
104	Keep in mind the economics here. People like me want to ride through the tunnel... without the tunnel, it's just an ordinary state trail. With the tunnel it's worth going out of my way to ride. Get it repaired and opened ASAP! It's worth spending the weekend in the area, paying for hotels, food, etc. for something as historically cool as the Stewart tunnel.	5/17/2022 3:13 PM
105	Before moving to Madison this tunnel and trail brought me up from the Chicago area to come ride and see it. It's a great destination point to ride to from Madison and attracts many riders. I hope it reopens.	5/17/2022 12:47 PM

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106	A group (10 plug) of us used to go 2-3 times a week, for five years, starting at Belleville, stopping along the route. Without the tunnel we have stopped. Riding on the road is not safe (tried it) and the grade doesn't work for family/kids. The tunnel was a huge attraction, provided a respite from the heat in summer. Miss stopping for breakfast and lunch on our rides. Please fix it.	5/17/2022 9:11 AM
107	For the Tunnel Rd or highway CC reroutes, strongly consider a separated bike path for maximum safety to encourage families with children to use the connection. Alternative 6 also allows the possibility for future tunnel renovation as repair technologies improve in the future.	5/16/2022 11:24 PM
108	Historical preservation is of utmost importance. If we in our generation do not preserve this magnificent structure, we will be letting down future generations. Why was one of the options not repair through re-tuckpointing / addition of concrete as appropriate? May not last forever, but neither did the original. What we need to consider is a 50 or 75 year solution of repair. Future generations can address future needs when they arise. We won't give them that option if we do not preserve this magnificent structure as close to original as possible.	5/16/2022 7:30 PM
109	We love this tunnel and the experience riding the bike trail. We've been waiting since 2019 to share this unique experience with our two young children. Please maintain tunnel access and save the bats.	5/16/2022 6:37 PM
110	Option 3 has the best outcomes for the most important considerations	5/16/2022 2:38 PM
111	The Badger State Trail is an important asset. One of the most important things about it for me is that it allows me and my family recreation and transportation on our bikes without having to ride on the road. I'd like to voice my opposition to the alternatives that make cyclists have to use the road for even a portion of this route. The tunnel itself is awesome. Although it is hard to quantify, it would be a shame to lose this piece of living history. Therefore, I'd also like to voice my support for one of the alternatives that preserves the tunnel to the extent practicable. Thank you for your work on this project.	5/16/2022 2:37 PM
112	I think the most important consideration is having the continuous Badger Trail open. A key asset of BST is how it links up with so many other trails. So the closure interrupts an entire network. The tunnel itself is nice, but secondary. If there is no reliable and financible way to reopen the tunnel, then a safe, well-marked rerouting option, with wide bike lanes, is fine.	5/15/2022 3:08 PM
113	gotta save the tunnel... wish I lived a bit closer to visit more often!	5/14/2022 3:20 PM
114	Alternative 3 and 4 each provide good solutions. All options require compromises. my understanding is that 4 is great for bats, durable and allows 4 season access, while 3 is ok for bats, requires more maintenance and provides better historical structure preservation. I lean 3, but would be very happy with 4 as well. I do not really like any of the other options.	5/13/2022 2:08 PM
115	In September 2022, I completed a bike trip on the GAP Trail and the C&O Towpath from Pittsburgh, PA to Washington, DC. There were several tunnels on the GAP trail. The longest tunnel is closed during the winter months. All of the tunnels from my perspective had been repaired and reconstructed to keep the tunnel open to bike traffic..one even had lights. One in particular, the Pinkerton Tunnel was reconstructed with the Corrugated Metal liner as best that I could determine. We need to keep the trail network open in Wisconsin. Keep working to connect the trails together. We need to promote the trails to "through" riders that would like to take a week long trip using Wisconsin bike paths and rail trails. What a great trip it would be to travel from Sheboygan to Illinois via Milwaukee and Madison on bike trails. That is possible now apart from Cottage Grove to Madison..that's another topic. Keep up the great work and thanks for letting me share my input.	5/13/2022 11:27 AM
116	This tunnel operates as part of the critical off-road cycling connection between Dane County and the entire southern part of Wisconsin and northern Illinois. It should be maintained at its current grade, even at the expense of historic structures.	5/12/2022 3:31 PM
117	Repair the tunnel and reopen it.	5/11/2022 7:39 PM
118	I miss the tunnel and look forward to being about to use it again	5/11/2022 12:24 PM
119	Please bring back the tunnel!	5/10/2022 5:00 PM
120	Spending millions to add a concrete or metal pipes in the tunnel has got to be one of the dumbest wastes of money that I've ever heard of. Why not just put a sign to tell people to enter at your own risk and if they get hurt it's their own fault. I refer to Wisconsin State Law	5/10/2022 4:01 PM

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895.52 (look it up: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/895/ii/52>) Just please don't make this tunnel always closed, destroy it, put in a huge detour, or be dumb with money. My wife is a teacher but this is why people vote Republican... Keep It Simple please.

121	The Tunnel is an important historical piece of Green County and provides a destination for many trail users both locally and from out of town. Preserving access to the Tunnel should be a priority of any strategy utilized.	5/10/2022 3:04 PM
122	I strongly support making necessary repairs to make the tunnel available for public recreation again. When I moved to Belleville after retiring the trail was a significant amenity that I considered when locating a place to live. I used it often to ride to Monticello, Albany, or Monroe for a breakfast outing while enjoying the plants and wildlife along the corridor. I have not used the trail since the tunnel was closed. The State of Wisconsin also needs to spend more dollars to do the necessary maintenance that has been neglected for years: tree limbs intruding into trail, broken boards and nail hazards on bridges, preserving the rare prairie remnants, and other unique vegetation in the corridor. With the lack of vegetation management the trail corridor has grown into a tunnel of vegetation dominated by box elders so users can't see or appreciate the surrounding countryside. I've used the Jane Adams trail in Illinois and found their section of trail is much better maintained than the trail in Wisconsin. I've encountered Illinois residents traveling into Wisconsin complaining about our poor trail conditions. Our recreational users and prospective tourists deserve better maintained trails in Wisconsin!!!! It can't be funded solely with user fees, but needs additional general funds to sustain and improve these unique resources!!!	5/10/2022 10:35 AM
123	Keeping easy and safe access to the segments above and below the Stewart tunnel should be the leading objective/goal. The tunnel is cool, but the scenery is the most important.	5/9/2022 2:34 PM
124	Please do not reroute traffic along existing roads! Any of the other options are better.	5/9/2022 11:11 AM
125	The tunnel is a unique experience. It deserves to be refurbished and preserved.	5/8/2022 6:14 PM
126	My husband and I use the Badger and Sugar River trails almost on a daily basis - year round. I enjoy seeing the wildlife and hearing the birds while I run my 4+ miles per day. My favorite is seeing fresh tracks after a light snow. At my age, I don't like running/walking along roads anymore and the crushed limestone is better for my joints. We have missed the use of the Stewart Tunnel section, and feel it draws people from out of town to neighboring communities. Thank-you for investigating options to repair it!	5/8/2022 2:23 PM
127	Give the bats a chance. We love biking and put in a few thousand miles a year, but have never made a tunnel the focus of a ride. Save the money of reconstruction for use in addressing the many, more important, problems the state is facing.	5/8/2022 11:49 AM
128	As much as I enjoyed going through the tunnel, what is most important to me is having a continuous bike trail with as little on-road sections as possible. I'm also a bat fan and providing hibernation space is a good thing. Thanks for asking!	5/7/2022 12:03 PM
129	This is so hard, we love, love going through the tunnel but the cost to repair it seems so high. I think keeping the habitat for bats is good, so preserving that part would be preferred rather than demolishing the whole thing. We enjoy having the opportunity to ride to other locations so would like access around, above or along another safe off road route to be able to connect to other routes or destinations. Maybe if there is a cheaper option some other fun attraction could be installed in place of the tunnel. We rode a trail in MI that had an edible trail...apple trees, pear trees and other edible plants with plaques that said what each was. Just thinking of something fun outside of the box that might not be too costly.	5/7/2022 9:33 AM
130	None at this time.	5/6/2022 4:33 PM
131	An impressive presentation. I appreciate the opportunity for input. Since we can't waive a magic wand and have it be completely restored, Alternative 4 in my mind provides the best combination. There are other tunnels in the state that provide the raw stone experience, I just think shutting the tunnel up for much of the year would be a shame.	5/6/2022 3:10 PM
132	Wow, amazing analysis document and super thorough! To me, option 4 seems like it satisfies most of the requirements and sets us up for awesome recreational access into the future. I'd call "historical significance" a bit of a moot point, since there's really no safe way to keep the roof of the tunnel "as-is" and still have access. Bat habitat is important, and I like that this solution keeps that. I would love to see us use rail as a bigger part of our transportation system, but it really doesn't seem like we have the political will to invest in rail at this point. If	5/6/2022 1:15 PM

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we ever do, there's going to be hundreds of billions of federal dollars behind it and I don't think this tunnel will make or break that project. Right now, it makes sense to prioritize recreation rather than protecting the possibility of making a multi-billion-dollar railroad project a bit cheaper in the future. Thanks for the fantastic report and asking the public!

133	I feel like rerouting on the roads around the tunnel are not very accessible for the average user, busy roads and hills. I do believe in keeping the tunnel a tunnel is and the metal pipe lining seems like the best for long term. My second option would be routing the trail over the tunnel. I do wonder how much impact the tunnel being closed has had on the surrounding communities. I know a lot of people that would go to the Badger State trail just because of the Stewart Tunnel.	5/6/2022 12:38 PM
134	Rerouting or changing the BST would be a disservice to the user experience and tunnel itself. After reading the tunnel proposals and reviewing the options it seems to me like Alternative 4 is the best balance of cost, maintaining the current trail which utilizes the tunnel, safety, and maintains the current bat habitat without risking their health. Routing the trail down various roads goes against why most people ride the trail to begin with, many people are concerned about sharing the road with cars and how the American legal system usually blames the cyclist and lets drivers off with little punishment when they hit a cyclist with their multi-ton vehicle. Because of this an existing road reroute should not be considered at all. Next is we need to preserve the environment and animal habitats as they are, even if they are man made as we've inflicted enough damage and all decision going forward need to take this into consideration so we can work towards rebuilding the planet and animal populations.	5/6/2022 11:39 AM
135	I support any option that will reopen the trail running through the tunnel.	5/6/2022 8:05 AM
136	Alternative 7 is the best option, as cool as the tunnel is/ was, it's time to affordable offer a trail route to stop the on road detour. Cost/ maintenance wins with this option.	5/6/2022 3:57 AM
137	Love the bat habitat - please keep safe for bikers!	5/5/2022 11:39 PM
138	This is an amazing trail and the coolest feature. It should be preserved at all costs.	5/5/2022 7:30 PM
139	Wisconsin has so many assets and this is one of them. Being so close to many population bases the cost is recouped in visitor dollars.	5/5/2022 5:49 PM
140	Bats & Bikes!	5/5/2022 4:34 PM
141	I think the tunnel should be fixed and opened to the public. We enjoy the tunnel and think it's a vital part of the history of the community..	5/5/2022 4:28 PM
142	The Stewart Tunnel and Badger State Trail are an important local attraction for recreational use. I personally use the trail for running or biking daily. The recreational benefits and economic impact of the use of the trail are paramount for the Belleville community and many others along the trail route. I found that Alternative 7 is the least impactful to the historical and ecological value of the tunnel while meeting the function of economic and recreational use.	5/5/2022 4:25 PM
143	Being a lake/river association near the Sugar River Trail our members also frequent the Badger State Trail and have traversed the Stewart Tunnel by hiking, cycling and/or cross country skiing and snow shoeing. Sometimes skis or snow shoes get carried through, but that's Ok. Also, many of our members remember going through the tunnel via small motorized train when there were still rails as part of the former Depot Days event. Losing this historic tunnel would be devastating to both the folks that use it for trail recreation as well as rail history community.	5/5/2022 4:00 PM
144	We prefer any alternative that maintains this historic tunnel in a way to keep it open for future generations to cycle or hike through.	5/5/2022 3:43 PM
145	The tunnel is an attraction and access to it should be preserved in an economic manner. Re-routing on or next to roadways, or creating a climbing route over tunnel hill will deter users.	5/5/2022 1:42 PM
146	The biking, hiking and running community loves the trail and loved being able to use the Stewart Tunnel. Option 4 appears effective across a range of considerations. Thanks for fixing the tunnel.	5/5/2022 1:23 PM
147	Absolutely NO to #5-9! You don't even know how much real estate expenses would add to the overall cost of the project, and though I support rail travel, there would be options other than going through the tunnel. Train designs change. #4 is ugly as sin - cold-war Eastern Europe. If we're going to fix it, fix it right and protect the endangered plants and animals. I love that	5/5/2022 12:42 PM

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tunnel. I want my family to continue to enjoy it too. Once gone, you can't bring it back. Fund raise, grants, etc, etc. Thank you.

148	I miss the tunnel!	5/5/2022 11:01 AM
149	Visiting the tunnel before it closed was a special experience for me. I read all the alternatives, and it helped me to see that Alternative 4 has been previously used in PA and that one stood out to me as having many advantages. The downside is that it does not preserve rail access, which is pretty much always a concern with rails-to-trails conversions. But the advantages listed seem to me to be large for Alternative 4: preserve bat habitat, preserve use for a variety of human users, lower long-term maintenance costs. Plus people would still be able to have this marvelous and unique experience.	5/5/2022 9:04 AM
150	The Stewart tunnel is the main draw of the Badger State Trail and it is sorely missed. Any alternative that maintains the tunnel is preferred, but especially the ones that maintain the view of the bedrock. As a historic structure, and as a charming recreation experience, the tunnel route must be preserved	5/4/2022 11:20 PM
151	I think that the tunnel should be kept as a habitat for the bats, but I want the trail to be open for recreation. The portal doors could be an esthetic addition that could help with erosion.	5/4/2022 10:00 PM
152	I've enjoyed walking through the tunnel for the past 44 years during all seasons. Previously the roof was a safety concern. Since the roof repair in the middle of the tunnel, I don't feel that the rock falling is of very great concern.	5/4/2022 8:27 PM
153	The tunnel is now a major destination from Madison and statewide. We thank the department for maintaining the historic tunnels on the Elroy Sparta state trail; in the future users will thank the department for preserving the Badger Tunnel too!!	5/4/2022 6:40 PM
154	Keep the existing routing thru tunnel. Rerouting on existing roads is not acceptable due to hills and/or traffic.	5/4/2022 8:45 AM
155	Do more advertising of this cool place and set up a way to donate at local businesses	5/4/2022 8:45 AM
156	I use the trail/tunnel as part of the IAT	5/4/2022 7:33 AM
157	I feel like part of the tunnels charm is it's natural look! If we cover the ceiling or the inside with a bunch of steel, what's the point of the natural tunnel?	5/3/2022 10:42 PM
158	This is the most viable option in order to keep the trail recreation while keeping the bat habitat and also keeping options open for future use.	5/3/2022 9:55 PM
159	Don't get rid of the tunnel its a landmark	5/3/2022 8:50 PM
160	Do not reroute the trail. Please.	5/3/2022 8:06 PM
161	I think preservation of tunnel use should be the highest priority, it's what makes the Badger State Trail especially unique and one of my favorite rail trails so far.	5/3/2022 12:41 PM
162	I am fully in support of repair of the tunnel, and trust those at work to choose the most appropriate option of lining to allow for that I hope to bike through the tunnel and feel connected to its history again soon.	5/2/2022 11:42 PM
163	Prices seem way to high must be prevailing wage	5/2/2022 10:07 PM
164	I feel like all of these choices are poor financially, aesthetically, experientially and/or for the bats. Is there really no substance/work that could be applied to stabilize the ceiling?	5/2/2022 9:54 PM
165	LOVE riding through the tunnel. It is truly unique experience. The trail re-routes are too steep, or too exposed to make them attractive alternatives. Please help us keep the tunnel open (and save the bats).	5/2/2022 8:21 PM
166	I believe the Tunnel is a part of history we can not lose. It is a major draw for the Badger Trail. Whatever is the best most costs affective option to keep the tunnel.	5/2/2022 7:44 PM
167	Put up signs. Ride at own risk	5/2/2022 6:45 PM
168	I think we should reroute the trail above the tunnel and cover the entrances to the tunnel with those black metal bat gates so that people can still look into the tunnel but not go into it, and the bats can enter freely and there's no concern about raising the temp/humidity like the portal doors would.	5/2/2022 6:39 PM

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169	My first choice would be Alternative 4. I think it is the most likely to last a long time while preserving space for bats. One of my most important priorities would be creating an experience that has low maintenance costs and that can last a long time. Alternative 4 accomplishes all those things. I also favor Alternative 7 among the reroute options. The view would still make it a fun point of interest on a bike ride, and would keep it accessible to families and car-averse cyclists, which is a major point of the trail today.	5/2/2022 3:47 PM
170	It's important to have year-round through-access, preferably without a substantial detour. The tunnel is also an important feature of the trail and a destination in its own right. Therefore, of the single options presented, I would advocate for 4 or 5. However the same objectives could be achieved with a combination of 2/3 and 7/8, if routing a trail up and over doesn't limit access to the tunnel. To me that would not only be a great compromise, but also having the up-and-over option would make for a more satisfying round trip hike, and it keeps the trail usable in winter	5/2/2022 3:31 PM
171	Any alternative that allows the tunnel to open and remain open is preferred. It is a huge point of interest on this trail- much like the three tunnels on Elroy Sparta and needs to to return to use.	5/2/2022 3:30 PM
172	thank you for working on this. i eagerly await the start of the project and to be able to ride my bike through the tunnel again. note: a couple of low-wat lights inside the tunnel would be a nice addition. not much light - just a little bit.	5/2/2022 3:19 PM
173	I'm a longtime trail user and put close to 700 biking/hiking/running miles on the BST in 2021 alone. Given all of the tradeoffs at play, I'm really partial to the proposal to build a paved portion of trail over the tunnel. It's a reasonably low cost option that keeps off-road travel options in place, protects the bat population, and minimizes alterations to the historic tunnel that are, frankly, kind of ugly. While the significant grade of the overpass route would limit use by some users, my anecdotal experience would suggest that users who wouldn't be able to make it up over the hills aren't heavily using that section of trail anyway.	5/2/2022 2:30 PM
174	Whatever is the safe way to fix the tunnel, at a reasonable cost is best.	5/2/2022 2:15 PM
175	Really, I just want to see the tunnel reopened. I would be satisfied with any of those options. I do not like the idea of corrugated metal, but that option does seem to be a good balance of cost effective, and preserving bat habitat.	5/2/2022 1:28 PM
176	Tunnel is cool feature of this trail and draws people to use the state trail which is good. I think getting rid of tunnel would be a big loss.	5/2/2022 1:14 PM
177	Any alternative that reopens the tunnel is okay in my book. Permanently closing and rerouting is a big loss.	5/2/2022 1:09 PM
178	The tunnel is a draw to the surrounding communities and such an important part of history. Fundraising would help with some of the costs. I would think you would get financial support from all over Wisconsin.	5/2/2022 12:59 PM
179	Alternative 4 if favored low-cost construction and maintenance, strength, and preservation of the tunnel experience for visitors. I don't like that we have to alter the feel inside, but to keep this treasure that is an ok trade off.. This method however will keep the historical stone entrance and retaining walls so visitors will experience the historic feel of the tunnel.	5/2/2022 12:03 PM
180	I live in Illinois and really enjoy riding trails in Wisconsin. I buy WI state park stickers and trail passes to support these recreational opportunities. A trail like this one with its historic tunnel and connections to other trails is a great destination for a multi-day visit. I generally stay in hotels and eat at locally owned restaurants when I travel to areas like this. I hope the tunnel can be repaired soon!	5/2/2022 11:58 AM
181	With its history, construction design and length with bend, the Stewart Tunnel is the crown jewel of of the entire state of Wisconsin Rail to Trail system. It should be the highest priority that this tunnel remain operational for future generations to enjoy! Consider creating a GoFundme to augment the funding for this project. Also, I'm not a fan of the portal doors addition with the rock netting (alternative 2).	5/2/2022 11:06 AM
182	Please preserve the tunnel, do no reroute!	5/2/2022 10:29 AM
183	Cost must be in line with historical use. Saving something just because of nostalgia is not wise spending of tax dollars.	5/2/2022 8:58 AM
184	Keep tunnel open.	5/2/2022 12:16 AM

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185	Alternative 3 is my next preferred choice. The tunnel is a great attraction for our area. I hope we can figure out a good long term solution.	5/1/2022 10:26 PM
186	It's all about the bats and preserving the trail for use. The tunnel is a huge draw for us and gets us on the trail. Whether historic or not, the tunnel itself is what we go to see. A route around, would not be nearly as fun for us. Would love to be able to walk or bike thru it again. The communities in this area benefit from this great natural trail and it would be ideal to preserve this.	5/1/2022 10:25 PM
187	The HeRock Mason company has offered to repair this for free..why not utilize local expertise volunteers!	5/1/2022 10:08 PM
188	Thanks for looking into this, I love this tunnel and the Badger State Trail. We started riding on it when our kids were little and it was such a fun adventure.	5/1/2022 9:41 PM
189	Most important is to have a level trail that maintains the tunnel. Would like to preserve the structure, but low maintenance is important too. I feel like the netting would be too high maintenance and the steel structure would be too intrusive. The new corrugated metal pipe seems like it would preserve the feel of a rail tunnel. Make the pipe as big as possible.	5/1/2022 9:24 PM
190	This is so important to Belleville, History, economic, quality of Life, are just a few that come to mind. History: Ancestors built it, these historic landmarks should never be considered for demolition, our leaders would be terrible remiss in there duties if for whatever reason we let a landmark like this disappear under our watch. I consider myself one of those leaders, working very hard to make sure Belleville's depot did not see it's demise. Belleville's working very hard to complete our depot rebuild. Stewart Tunnel very important. I stood by when the generation before me tore down the original grist mill in Belleville, a mistake we cannot correct now. Don't let this happen to Stewart Tunnel. Even though right the expense seems overwhelming, in 20 years everyone will be proud we did what ever it took to save this national treasure.	5/1/2022 9:24 PM
191	This tunnel NEEDS to be preserved. Are there grants associated with the US infrastructure bill?	5/1/2022 9:09 PM
192	The tunnel is such a special place and gives a sense of historic awareness. It also makes the trail/bike path more interesting and provides a draw to the trail because of the uniqueness of the tunnel.	5/1/2022 9:07 PM
193	My Great Great Grandfather worked for the railroad during the construction of the tunnel. My family has lived next to the railroad grade for 101 years not far from the tunnel. So you can say I am pretty partial to repairing and preserving the tunnel in a safe, efficient and effective manner.	5/1/2022 7:50 PM
194	Would prefer to keep it as much the same as possible while improving safety and drainage so that there's not rivers running through it in the wet months. Whatever you do, please don't turn it into yet another trail for snowmobiles and four wheelers. They are incompatible with walking trails and we need more walking and biking.	5/1/2022 7:18 PM
195	The trail runs all the way through our farm. We live across the road from the Tunnel. The trail and tunnel bring so much joy to so many people. From young to the elderly this trail and tunnel gets everyone a chance to get out and enjoy the environment. The disappointment on the faces of those that come and find it closed is heart breaking. Please invest in our tunnel.	5/1/2022 7:14 PM
196	This is a historical site and should be treated as such. Tunnel should be repaired so it can stay in use	5/1/2022 7:01 PM
197	I think alternative 2 should be in conjunction to improved off-season on-road routes.	5/1/2022 6:42 PM
198	Just not alternative 3!!	5/1/2022 6:18 PM
199	This is a hidden gem and should be preserved and restored	5/1/2022 5:26 PM
200	In addition to alternative four, I believe access doors are still needed to reduce the possibility for vandalism.	5/1/2022 5:02 PM
201	I am not sure of what the tunnel looks like currently but could somebody jet Crete the inside like they do with Silos. Replace some of the fallen rocks. Jet Crete it and put some solar lights in it for use again and let the bicycles ride back thru it. I want my kids to see it but with it being closed it sucks. It is such a hidden treasure that should be appreciated by people using it. It is	5/1/2022 4:00 PM

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a part of history and should/NEEDS to be preserved not demolished or capped off and unseen for its history.

202	I think it would be great to keep the tunnel open. People fly in the back roads and that's a safety hazard for everyone	5/1/2022 2:51 PM
203	Maintain the historic look and feel is top priority. It is highly unique and an area draw to see it. It's such a treasure to go into it and not see the other end until you go far enough. Really unique experience.	5/1/2022 2:33 PM
204	The Stewart tunnel is both historically and ecologically important. It should be rehabbed in such a way as to preserve accessibility while minimizing impacts to both its historical integrity and its functionality as an important bat hibernaculum. Alternative 2 appears to be the best choice for achieving those goals.	5/1/2022 2:32 PM
205	The bats are threatened in Wisconsin so whatever solution MUST protect them if the colony doesn't collapse from white nose. Maintaining the feel of the existing tunnel as you pass through is also important.	5/1/2022 2:27 PM
206	With transportation cost on the rise keeping the trail is important, but making it available for possible future rail needs must also be considered.	5/1/2022 1:44 PM
207	We miss being able to walk and bike to the tunnel. It would love to see it preserved	5/1/2022 1:42 PM
208	I believe it's important to preserve the trail for hiking, biking and winter activities, but not off road equipment. I think option number 4 will last a long time with a lower price tag.	5/1/2022 12:53 PM
209	Thank you for the extensive research and thinking by the WI DNR and GEI to evaluate this major issue impacting the area's recreation and economy. Based on the thorough analysis presented and the comparative table in Appendix A, Alternative 4 rises to the top due to its relatively low-cost construction and maintenance, high durability, potential reversibility for future rail use and preservation of the tunnel experience for visitors year-round. It does alter the historical feeling inside the tunnel, but all alternatives presented will do that to some degree. Offsetting that, Alternative 4 preserves the historical stone entrance portals and retaining walls so visitors will experience entering and exiting the tunnel mostly as they would have before the closure. I listed Safety as the last priority just because all Alternatives provide the same level of safety. I do prefer Alternatives 7 and 8 if all Alternatives that preserve the tunnel experience are otherwise unachievable. I have experience paved switchback trails near Decorah, IA, that tackle steep grades like those around Stewart Tunnel. Pulling a bike trailer up those for example, would be easier than going up Tunnel Road. Alternative 6 is cost-prohibitive and the user-experience is relatively unattractive. I know many bike enthusiasts who are not comfortable riding even on relatively quiet town roads and CTH CC has enough traffic volume at high-speed to be frightening for many. The idea of a pedestrian-only trail over the tunnel is an intriguing option, if done in addition to one of the other plans.	5/1/2022 12:13 PM
210	This tunnel is a part of history and needs to be preserved. We take hikes to this tunnel and take all friends and family that visit. It has been very disappointing that no action has been taken to open this part of history and recreation in our area.	5/1/2022 11:04 AM
211	We use the trail frequently along its other sections but less often along the tunnel section	5/1/2022 7:30 AM
212	The analysis often refers to a UW Platteville student report. Can you please publish that? The analysis talks about the netting installed in 2017, but does not mention the decision-making process or costs that led to it getting installed. It seems that alternative 2 does not need to be done all at once. E.g., just like 30' was done in 2017, the netting can be installed only in parts of the tunnel with active spalling. I also think that only ceiling netting is needed, which would save 2/3 of material cost over full netting on the ceiling and sides. The danger of side spalling is minimal. Trails have much worse safety hazards: trees down, ruts, washouts, slippery bridges, soft sand, uneven crossings, etc. In this tunnel, the DNR should be most concerned with protecting users against active rock falls from the ceiling. The debris left by side spalling can easily be pushed aside by users. As with the Elroy-Sparta tunnels, the Stewart tunnel should have signage telling people to walk their bikes in the tunnel.	5/1/2022 12:41 AM
213	Alternative 4 appears to best meet trail users' needs at a modest cost. All the less costly alternatives have major limitations.	4/30/2022 10:54 PM
214	The tunnel is super fun to ride my bike through, however it is important to keep the bat population intact, therefore I feel rerouting the trail could be an option if option #5 is too cost	4/30/2022 10:48 PM

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	prohibitive.	
215	Please reopen for recreational use!	4/30/2022 9:53 PM
216	This tunnel is one of the unique and defining features of the area, and is important to preserve for recreation, encourage outdoor recreation, and preservation of local history.	4/30/2022 9:31 PM
217	Please reopen soon	4/30/2022 9:15 PM
218	I have many fond memories of years of riding through the Stewart Tunnel with friends and have been saddened by its closure the past few years. We would love to have the tunnel open again! Yes, it's manageable for us to ride around it but it is not preferable as it is nice to be able to stay on the trail and off the roads. Additionally, the hills around the tunnel are challenging for many users so it would help with accessibility to have it open again. Please select one of the options that will make tunnel access possible again and help restore the experience it provides. Thank you!	4/30/2022 7:54 PM
219	This needs to be the right combination of cost & construction feasibility. I bike this trail alot and ever since the tunnel closed I've noticed a significant drop in cyclists which mean less money for local businesses.	4/30/2022 6:47 PM
220	Thank you for your consideration of preserving this structure!	4/30/2022 4:59 PM
221	I would like to see it preserved and safe for people to use. We live close to it and love taking our family and friends there when they visit.	4/30/2022 3:26 PM
222	A treasured experience for children and adults. Unique and special so worth working to provide it in the future. We really miss it	4/30/2022 2:50 PM
223	I would wish to be able to continue to see the original walls and roof. It's part of the lure of tunnels. Thus I would choose Alt 2 with roof netting and doors. In areas more at risk of collapse, I would go with Alt 5. The cast in-place concrete maintains the most width in the tunnel while providing a safe ride. I don't like Alt 3 at all. It narrows the tunnel to 9'-6" and removes all the charm of the tunnel. It would make travel more claustrophobic and would not be a draw for those who love to visit bridges and tunnels. Without lighting, the worry of encountering someone traveling the other direction would be great. Most folks don't like to ride close to walls in tunnels. There are often drainage areas or steep slopes on the edges. You need to keep the tunnel as wide a possible. Thank you for the opportunity to present my opinion.	4/30/2022 2:29 PM
224	Whatever alternative opens the tunnel is the most responsible way gets my support.	4/30/2022 2:26 PM
225	Rock netting seems to be the least intrusive alternative. If it can also provide a safe passage then that is my top choice.	4/30/2022 2:06 PM
226	I think adding Alternative 6 with Alternative 2 would be the best long term option, allowing continued use of an off-road trail when the tunnel is closed for winter or maintenance.	4/30/2022 1:50 PM
227	I live in Verona and often take friends down Badger Trail towards New Glarus on bicycle. The alternative route has been a hurdle when taking them, and going through the tunnel is one of the highlights of the route.	4/30/2022 1:10 PM
228	I moved to the area about the same time the tunnel was closed in 2019. I had heard about it and planned a family hiking/biking trip, only to discover we couldn't take that route due to the closure of the tunnel. I've never personally been able to use the tunnel, but I've heard much about it from friends and neighbors. It's important to the area historically, as well as economically.	4/30/2022 12:48 PM
229	Alternate 4 preserves the tunnel for users and bats and is mid-range in cost. Although Alternate 4 doesn't allow users to see the natural walls, perhaps viewing panels/glass could be installed in select portions (entrances, sidewalls at a carved rock feature, bat observation area). Or perhaps a display board with tangible rocks, railroad ties, photo tunnels etc, could be installed that help users understand what they are experiencing. Alternate 9 would create more land disturbance and environmental impacts. Realistically, I don't see people being OK with converting this path to rail in the future, it is too loved. Previous question doesn't detail which number is most preferable, 1 = most important for me.	4/30/2022 12:44 PM
230	Special aspects of a recreational trail system such as tunnels are what make them stand out compared to other purely functional trail. These special attractions maintain historical	4/30/2022 12:38 PM

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significance and increase the value from a tourism and commercial perspective.

231	Please maintain bicycle and pedestrian access - it is a community treasure and a wonderful biking experience. Also please maintain historic features, rock wall, etc - far better than a generic smooth wall non-historic tunnel! We LOVE riding through this tunnel on our bikes and often made trips there to experience it and show it to friends from out of state. Part of the experience is the cool wet environment, and the rough cut walls. We were SO happy to have this tunnel nearer than the Elroy-Sparta tunnels, and so sad to find it closed on a trip to ride through it! Please fix it and open it ASAP!!!	4/30/2022 12:14 PM
232	Keep as much of interior exposed as possible to retain historic esthetic.	4/30/2022 11:56 AM
233	I would use the trail more if the tunnel was open.	4/30/2022 11:52 AM
234	The whole draw is the tunnel. Bats could be a draw if one could see them coming and going. Don't need to see bats hanging from ceiling. Closer than going to elroy sparta trail. Like curve in tunnel as a draw also. Part of the fun of walking thru the tunnel is seeing things. Great for young riders to even pedal trikes through tunnel. Having larger parking lot on tunnel road would be nice. I would not encourage graffiti but i would not eliminate it unless vulgar. Nobody wants to bike up a 16% grade. Taking out the tunnel does not make it a draw. The trail already has ravins near paoli. We have cameras everywhere else, i guess you could have them as a vandalism deterrent. Do not want atv use on any part of trail. Snowmobiles already wreck bridges creating track down middle requiring maintenance.	4/30/2022 11:43 AM
235	I can't recall if I've been on the badger trail yet. We plan on going to Wisconsin this summer, to the Door County area. We live in Iowa, and have vacationed in Wisconsin many times. I'm retired.	4/30/2022 11:35 AM
236	Cast in place concrete unless cost prohibitive. The tunnel is a valuable part of our history!	4/30/2022 11:31 AM
237	I favor maintaining the existing the tunnel to the greatest extent possible consistent with the realities of cost and practicality. I am concerned that the alternatives did not specifically address the problems associated with poor drainage. The tunnel floor, before it was closed, was uneven and covered with water - making it dangerous for bicycle traffic. The proposed grades of 10% associated with rerouting the tunnel are beyond the ability of many cyclists, especially children. I also think it is important to preserve the habitat for bats, which are important to our ecosystem and under considerable stress. I believe Alternative 4 offers the best tradeoffs, recognizing that none of the alternatives are perfect.	4/30/2022 11:15 AM
238	I skimmed the report, and option 2 seems to have a lot going for it. It's affordable, could be done relatively quickly, and allows one to view the rock. Two suggestions: * Enhance this (and other) options to include security cameras to thwart vandalism. The cameras will probably more than pay for themselves over time. They could also be used to determine when it's time to clean the rock out from the netting. * Consider *NOT* running the netting down the walls. It'll preserve the ability to view the walls unobstructed. Is there some other option to keep users safe from a rock falling down the side? I generally get off the Badger State Trail when the asphalt ends and I get onto the roads. I'd love to see the trail paved in its entirety... I would stay on it! MN has many paved trails and we often travel there for our bike vacations.	4/30/2022 11:15 AM
239	Keep the tunnel, whichever option please. The cool, dark rest is the perfect summer bike ride. The bats need a ceiling to cling to, please really take this into account. We need bats here! Thank you for working on this.	4/30/2022 10:31 AM
240	I think the longest lasting alternative that keeps the original tunnel structure intact and in use with relatively low maintenance costs is the best alternative. I realize that this has the highest cost up front. Could the funds that are available from the WDNR be supplemented by fund raising by interested groups (preferably multiple groups)? Thank you. Looking forward to biking through the tunnel again soon.	4/30/2022 10:14 AM
241	It seems important to minimize cost and yet to re-open the tunnel. While there are significant downsides to alternative #2, it appears to be the most realistic option in the current environment.	4/30/2022 9:59 AM
242	We live 2.5 hrs away and drive there special to visit this and hike it, as we had read about it online. We were so disappointed to find that it was closed down. You don't get the opportunity to visit special areas like this often in our state and I feel it should be preserved.	4/30/2022 9:46 AM
243	I visit here with my young kids to bike and see the tunnels. Durable structure with 50year	4/30/2022 9:44 AM

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lifespan makes sense. I visit this trail because my kids love the interesting tunnels, I would be much less likely to visit without the tunnels. Routing the trail along the road would be unacceptable and would ruin the low stress outdoor experience. If rerouted along a road, I would never visit again.

244	Our trail system is amazing, and there is something uniquely inviting about riding (or walking, etc) through these old tunnels. I didn't rank everything, and skipped safety as that of course is number one. Bats are important and need help, but I don't know if there are viable alternatives in the area and the tunnel is merely convenient. In any event, people will make a special effort to bike or hike if there is a tunnel. I did when it was still open. Do whatever you have to do to keep it open and maintain as much of its natural state as you safely can. Please. You can do this, if you have the will.	4/30/2022 9:17 AM
245	I'm curious why doors would be necessary in any of these scenarios. Also, of collapse isn't a concern couldn't we just leave the tunnel as is with a falling rock warning? No impact on bats and would allow people to enjoy unadulterated tunnel access and get to see the cool ice formations in late winter and early spring. Can DOT find it in their budget to foot the bill on this transportation corridor? We just spent billions adding capacity on the parallel interstate but \$4 million makes things "challenging from a funding perspective" for alternative forms of transportation.	4/30/2022 9:11 AM
246	If the tunnel makes people want to sign up to run 31 miles or more to see it you have something worth saving on your hands.	4/30/2022 9:04 AM
247	I'm happy with any solution that re-opens the tunnel. Bicycling through the tunnel is THE highlight of the badger state trail. It encourages usage of the trail and subsequently turns into spending money at restaurants and shops in New Glarus and Belleville. I'd be happy to donate funds towards construction and maintenance of the tunnel to be able to bicycle through it again	4/30/2022 8:52 AM
248	We would visit annually if tunnel reopened.	4/30/2022 8:44 AM
249	Bike Trails are a great economic boost to rural communities. The tunnel is so unusual it it a real attraction. I hope.it reopens soon	4/30/2022 3:09 AM
250	-Lifespan and durability are pretty important to me - I'm relatively young and want to spend many more years being able to ride this trail, without worrying about funding cuts requiring the trail to be shelved. The options that will last only 50 years to me at least seem to kick the decision down the line to future individuals, who will have less options then. -With respect to retaining the original structure, I kind of feel like as long as the entrances are reasonably authentic, anything else just ensures that people can safely enjoy the tunnel. -Option 8 to me is a little intriguing - It'd cost a ton, only to look like other parts of the trail, losing the variety of scenery that makes riding it so much fun. -I personally would not be happy with any option that results in the loss of the tunnel. I'd rather have it closed off for some of the year than not at all. -I wish option 3 had a better example photo, I can't quite tell what's actually going on with that one.	4/30/2022 12:52 AM
251	Please keep the trail open through the tunnel no matter the cost	4/30/2022 12:28 AM
252	I also like the idea of a pedestrian path (Ice Age Trail) above the tunnel as a low cost alternative until a more permanent solution is developed for the tunnel itself.	4/29/2022 11:45 PM
253	The tunnel should be used to draw visitors/tourists to bike/walk/hike the area. What a unique opportunity! The historic tunnel should be saved for long term tourist income as well as safety since the alternative routes are simply not as safe, especially with children. Please save the tunnel!!	4/29/2022 11:34 PM
254	Stewart Tunnel is a huge asset. The experience of going through the dark is exciting. And preserving bat habitat is urgent given the threats to bat populations.	4/29/2022 11:25 PM
255	There are very few of these tunnels left. Try to preserve them first and if it is not feasible, take the least environmental harm to the environment.	4/29/2022 10:29 PM
256	I live near the trail and frequent it myself. I have been asked about this tunnel over 100 times while i am out hiking on other trails. People really enjoy the experience and history of the tunnel	4/29/2022 9:42 PM
257	Raise the price of trail passes and state park passes till its paid for.	4/29/2022 9:33 PM
258	Belleville is a growing community with a huge opportunity for future economic growth through	4/29/2022 9:29 PM

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	tourism because of the tunnel. It is an amazing historical landmark to have in our town!	
259	This historic landmark needs to be opened to the public. It is an amazing piece of history	4/29/2022 9:23 PM
260	The tunnel is a historic landmark that must be preserved. Simple as that. Let's find a way.	4/29/2022 9:09 PM
261	Please don't let this be another forgotten landmark.	4/29/2022 9:01 PM
262	It's really important to preserve as much of the tunnel as possible for the charm of it's use and habitat preservation while making it safe and not increasing the risk of white nose to the bats. This is the most reasonable solution that allows the tunnel to still exist.	4/29/2022 8:43 PM
263	I have no preferred alternative but I believe the tunnel should remain available to recreational users for the foreseeable future and the possible return of rail use in the unforeseeable future.	4/29/2022 8:34 PM
264	Please don't cheap out on this. Fix it. We're tired of seeing things in Wisconsin crumble because nobody funds them. I also don't give a rip about real estate or railroad concerns.	4/29/2022 8:19 PM
265	Thank you in advance for your consideration on this matter. The reopening and preservation of the "Stewart Tunnel Experience" is something I and dozens of my cycling friends very much look forward to.	4/29/2022 8:13 PM
266	Try to open tunnel soon	4/29/2022 7:43 PM
267	Love the tunnel! Running races are held here and the special tunnel is the main attraction!	4/29/2022 7:38 PM
268	Open it as soon as you can. Belleville has nothing else going for it recreational and this tunnel was "marketed" to us new relocated residents as an "asset" but with it closed that us disingenuous. I haven't been able to enjoy it and it's unfair.	4/29/2022 7:33 PM
269	This tunnel is a fantastic place to visit and should be maintained with the least amount of impact to its current state while providing a safe recreational experience.	4/29/2022 7:19 PM
270	The tunnel is a historical site that people should be able to enjoy. I think repairing it is the best option.	4/29/2022 7:09 PM
271	Rerouting trail above tunnel also good option and likely less costly (plus maintains safety to not need to reroute on busy country roads)	4/29/2022 7:03 PM
272	I think the plan to knock down loose rock from the approach is not necessary. This is a trail, and the unique beauty of this trail comes from not only the tunnel but the rustic, steep rock walls covered with natural vegetation. Really, the roots of the plants on the walls hold much of the loose rock in place. Remove the vegetation and start removing any rock that's a bit loose and what is left will be a ditch, not a scenic spot.	4/29/2022 6:41 PM
273	This is a human made structure - it's not a natural bat cave so no need to preserve that. I like the rock net for keeping the tunnel as a cycling destination to draw people to the area.	4/29/2022 6:38 PM
274	Its so beautiful and so historic and such a gift there has to be a way to save it	4/29/2022 6:26 PM
275	The tunnel is part of the trail experience and provides a very unique hike/bike ride. It would be a disservice to the trail if it were removed	4/29/2022 5:47 PM
276	Any alternative that doesn't involve rerouting to the roads. The road reroutes are an awful- one is unsafe and the other is incredibly hilly, which is not at all consistent with the rest of the trail so it completely takes away from the experience	4/29/2022 5:47 PM
277	We need to save our history.	4/29/2022 5:46 PM
278	It is such a unique and fascinating part of the trail. We've even walked through in the winter an ice place. I know it will cost a bit. But it needs to be preserved.	4/29/2022 5:41 PM
279	We live next to the tunnel on the trail. We are new residents to the area, so we haven't gone into the tunnel. That said, the tunnel and trail are really neat. Every walk we take on the trail, we run into someone asking about the tunnel or whether we have seen it. Needless to say it really is a draw. We hope the tunnel is repaired and that the trail is opened. It would be so sad to see the trail rerouted to the road (not at all safe) or the tunnel converted to a ravine (bad for the environment with the loss of bats and old growth oak forest, expensive, loss of iconic trail element). Thanks for your consideration.	4/29/2022 5:41 PM
280	Fix and open the tunnel	4/29/2022 5:39 PM

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281	Any fix of the tunnel,would be better than biking around the steep road detour.	4/29/2022 5:39 PM
282	This is a historic attraction and a free adventure to many throughout the year. We miss it and going around on bikes is tough work. 😞	4/29/2022 5:38 PM
283	I feel it is important to maintain this wonderful historic tunnel. I have enjoyed using it for many years and would like to again!	4/29/2022 5:38 PM
284	The tunnel is such a unique feature. It would be wonderful to repair and maintain it.	4/29/2022 5:18 PM
285	This is a great location for families to go and visit and ads value to the Belleville community. Let me	4/29/2022 5:11 PM
286	Thank you for the opportunity for community input.	4/29/2022 4:58 PM
287	Stewart Tunnel is truly a destination on the trail. I first visited it for a race a few years back and it was a remarkable experience. I have visited with my family several times since then and have appreciated the history and beauty of the area. I hope the DNR can come to a resolution for this beautiful area that works for everyone.	4/29/2022 4:21 PM
288	Rock netting seems to be the most cost effective compromise. It preserves the bat habitat, allows trail use during peak season, provides safety, maintains view of the tunnel, no impact on future rail use, doesn't require acquiring land from adjacent land owners.	4/29/2022 4:09 PM
289	This was not the promise you made to land owners and communities years ago when you removed the tracks. Walk through the Belleville High School and see the dozens of seniors class photos have been taken at and around the tunnel since the 70s. This tunnel is unique to the area and should be saved. Preserve history don't erase it.	4/29/2022 3:55 PM
290	Keep the tunnel accessible please	4/29/2022 3:30 PM
291	This is a great attraction. Hoping to preserve and restore as much as possible while trying to be cost effective.	4/29/2022 3:18 PM
292	I would like for the trail to be open as soon as possible regardless of the option chosen. I don't see rerouting the trail above or around the tunnel to be real options.	4/29/2022 3:17 PM
293	I really hope you are able to preserve and reopen the Stewart tunnel. It is well known in the area for its unique structure and history and it makes biking the trail harder having to detour around it. I have children who ask frequently when the tunnel will reopen.	4/29/2022 3:03 PM
294	The tunnel should be restored the best way possible because it's historical and people come from all over to visit and go through it. We enjoy it so much	4/29/2022 3:03 PM
295	As a resident of Exeter township, I am very much in favor of keeping the tunnel open to the public. I think the tunnel is a huge draw to the area for users of the trail. Without public access to the tunnel, the local community could lose tourism dollars. I think "Alternative 4 – Corrugated Metal Pipe Tunnel Lining" would be the best long-term solution. This option allows public access to the tunnel year-round while also protecting the bats from human interference. I would also like to see a pedestrian trail created over the tunnel to give trail users a nice view of the area. Thank you for your time.	4/29/2022 2:50 PM
296	Save the tunnel	4/29/2022 2:48 PM
297	In general I prefer the tunnel repair options above all other options, 4 seems to have a nice balance of cost and durability.	4/29/2022 2:44 PM
298	This is a rare structure that needs to be preserved. I have taken numerous out of town guests to this site when it's open. They are always in awe. It would be criminal to let this go. Please do fund raiser or whatever to save this treasure.	4/29/2022 2:40 PM
299	I would love to see the tunnel repaired and reopen for future use!	4/29/2022 2:35 PM
300	Preserve history-stop erasing it	4/29/2022 2:10 PM
301	I'd like to see it rehabilitated to as close to its original form without sacrificing safety or causing maintenance nightmare scenarios, if possible. I have hiked that segment of the IAT already but will go back to experience the tunnel in the future if it's reopened.	4/29/2022 1:26 PM
302	We have a responsibility to our ancestors and future generations to preserve and protect our history. The Stewart tunnel should be repaired for year round access for all to enjoy	4/29/2022 1:19 PM

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303	From May 1 to November 1 we have been biking the trail weekly from Fitchburg up to the tunnel. We would continue on to New Glarus, Albany-Brodhead or down to the Illinois border if the tunnel were to be reopened.	4/29/2022 1:16 PM
304	Please preserve this important structure for the future	4/29/2022 12:43 PM
305	Stewart Tunnel is too important to lose please don't close this resource.	4/29/2022 12:33 PM
306	Open it back up. This is lame that it's closed	4/29/2022 12:17 PM
307	I support the maintenance required to reopen the tunnel to pedestrians and cyclists.	4/29/2022 12:13 PM
308	The tunnel has great historic value and it is a really cool experience to enter and go through. Thank you.	4/29/2022 12:10 PM
309	I would like the tunnel repaired so that it can still be used for biking and hiking. We can bike to the tunnel from our home. We have been eagerly awaiting it's repair. As part of the ice age trail I would also like to stay off the roads when hiking and really want to be able to use the tunnel.	4/29/2022 12:04 PM
310	The tunnel is such a cool feature...many people visit just to experience it! Also it's so much safer, more fun and easier for bike riders to get to places like New Glarus, Monticello, Monroe and Illinois from Dane County.	4/29/2022 11:56 AM
311	Fix it.	4/29/2022 11:54 AM
312	Would love to see it stay as is, thanks!	4/29/2022 11:51 AM
313	Thank you for accepting feedback. I've lived in Belleville since 2015 and visited the Stewart Tunnel regularly when it was first open. After it closed, I used the trail far less frequently. We have very popular ultra-marathon races (from Ten Junk Miles) that run the Badger State Trail, and the Stewart Tunnel is a huge draw for its historical significance, beauty, and the dark/cool respite it gives runners during their race. They have missed the Tunnel experience, and are eager to see it reopen. The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce is working closely with that event organizer who has offered to use his races as a platform to solicit donations to repair the Tunnel. The Friends of the Badger State Trail is also a local organization very interested in preserving the tunnel. The Stewart Tunnel a huge tourist attraction to the Belleville area, and the economic impact it can have on our community is significant. A lot of residents are passionate about this project. Please don't underestimate the power of the small surrounding communities to band together to preserve the tunnel in some form for as long as possible. We will rally to help however we can. :) THANK YOU for investigating all these options, laying them out so clearly, and sharing the options publicly. I look forward to the day the tunnel re-opens for families to enjoy again. Even if the original historical tunnel structure isn't visible, the tunnel itself is a unique find along the trail and draws a lot of visitors.	4/29/2022 11:50 AM
314	Please repair the tunnel!	4/29/2022 11:48 AM
315	It is unclear if a ranking of "1" is most important or least, I assumed "1" is most important.	4/29/2022 11:31 AM
316	A permanent on-road reroute isn't great.	4/29/2022 11:25 AM
317	Thank you for taking the time to research and put together this plan. It is difficult to choose an alternative when there seems to be no great alternative; each one has a negative impact in different ways. Stewart Tunnel is such an incredible landmark on an important trail and I very much would like it to reopen, but I'm also cognizant of the importance of not harming the bat population. It appears that it is hard to strike this balance, but I'm hopeful that a solution can be found. Thank you for letting us give input.	4/29/2022 11:24 AM
318	This part of the trail is used often, please keep this part of history open to use and view.	4/29/2022 11:23 AM
319	General comment: These trails are really important to the public and should be maintained at a high level. Thank you!	4/29/2022 11:22 AM
320	Had good family quality time there.	4/29/2022 11:10 AM
321	The tunnel actually attracts tourists which brings in money. The tunnel is now internationally known thanks to the Twn Junk Miles Racing company. Let's work together,, fundraiser and get it fixed!	4/29/2022 11:03 AM
322	Just want to see the tunnel reopen at any cost. Preferably with historic character and ability for bats to utilize as well.	4/29/2022 10:55 AM

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323	The trail tunnel is a historic site that should be preserved and maintained for trail use	4/29/2022 10:32 AM
324	Tunnel access is very important to me during the warmer months. It is the only rail-trail tunnel in Wisconsin that has a bend to it. I am concerned that keeping the trail open for motorsport recreation during the winter would significantly impact the future enjoyment of the tunnel as the alternatives to keep the tunnel open during the winter drastically reduce the size of the tunnel's opening and cover the bedrock inside the tunnel. I also favor Alternative 2 because of it's low cost compared to other alternatives.	4/29/2022 10:27 AM
325	None of the options seem great. I was fortunate enough to experience the tunnel before it closed - it was such a unique and exciting experience. It was a very hot day, about 92-94 degrees. You could feel the temperature drop significantly even approaching the entrance. There was this fog/mist at the entrance. It was spooky. You could tell you were about to have an experience to remember. I really would love to find a way to preserve the trail, with as much of the historical character and charm, as possible. I wish there was a feasible way to repair it. A lot of the options seem like they would cover up the historical construction methods within the tunnel. Part of the excitement of the trail is the sheer scale and size of it, and the "imperfect" interior.	4/29/2022 10:14 AM
326	We are newer to the area and live near the top of the tunnel. We have not gotten to use the tunnel or nearby segment of trail, because they've been closed since before our time here. Access to the trail and tunnel were a big factor in purchasing our property and we will be extremely upset if the solution re-routed the trail away from our property. In the short time that we've lived here, we've encountered a number of people on the open section of trail that had come specifically to visit the tunnel. My understanding from conversations with these people is that it is truly something special. I hope that enough others agree it is worthy of preserving, too!	4/29/2022 10:13 AM
327	The tunnel is an integral part of the trail. Kids get excited for it, everyone gets a reprieve from the heat and sun, and it's just neat. No one is amazed to experience a mountain that was cut in half for a railroad. People are amazed by tunnels that were used by railroads.	4/29/2022 10:11 AM
328	For as long as I can remember my parents have taken me to this trail and specifically to go through the tunnel for family hikes/adventures. It would be a complete devastation to anyone who has grown up around the area and calls it home to take away one of the few, natural and historic, not to mention breathtakingly beautiful attractions left. Please do what you can to preserve the tunnel so we can continue to enjoy the nature hikes for years to come - and to carry on this wonderful tradition with our children and eventually our grandchildren.	4/29/2022 10:06 AM
329	Please do not re route or take tunnel down. Many families have lots of history visiting the tunnel	4/29/2022 10:04 AM
330	Please find a way to preserve the trail system NOT using the roads. I'm ok with any alternative that does not utilize the roads to re-route foot and bike traffic. We LOVE going through these tunnels but my preference to keep an off road trail ranks above all else.	4/29/2022 10:04 AM
331	The tunnel is the most interesting part of the Badger State Trail! I would like to see it in use again, regardless of how that happens.	4/29/2022 10:03 AM
332	This is such a special, rare piece of history that needs to be preserved. I hope costs are not an issue, if so, I am sure fundraising efforts would be supported. How many 100+ year old train tunnels are there in Wisconsin?! Whatever you can do to save/preserve it, please do so! (that's why I didn't pick a preferred alternative - I trust your judgement.)	4/29/2022 10:00 AM
333	Just don't waste tax payer dollars to something costly that few people use. If using dollars from other sources, still be wise but don't care as much.	4/29/2022 9:58 AM
334	Please do all you can to preserve the use and uniqueness of this tunnel. A reroute would defeat the purpose of the trail/tunnel/attraction	4/29/2022 9:56 AM
335	We love our tunnels and often find ourselves on this trail (and spending time/money in the communities along it) because of the tunnel experience.	4/29/2022 9:55 AM
336	The tunnel is an important component of the trail experience and to local tourism. It should be repaired as closely to original conditions as possible.	4/29/2022 9:54 AM
337	Please maintain and preserve the trail and tunnels	4/29/2022 9:53 AM
338	Extremely important "destination" for long and short distance Ice Age Trail hikers.	4/29/2022 9:46 AM

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339	Please keep the tunnel open!!! We miss it!	4/29/2022 9:42 AM
340	It would be a shame to lose the tunnel... it's my favorite place on my bicycle ride.	4/28/2022 8:04 PM
341	It's a win win alternative #4. Year round access, plus the bats have an attic. No road routes and no access trail over the tunnel.	4/28/2022 5:28 PM
342	The addition of a foot traffic only path as part of the Ice Age Trail above the tunnel for the winter season is attractive with Alternative 2 and should be considered regardless of the plans for the tunnel. Winter running/ walking on roads is dangerous with reduced light hours and unpredictable traffic, having an option to use this trail for foot traffic year round would be awesome.	4/15/2022 11:38 PM
343	Test comments	4/15/2022 2:49 PM