

# Berks County Redevelopment Authority votes for temporary ownership of railroad

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Wednesday March 26, 2014 12:01 AM

The Berks County Redevelopment Authority voted Tuesday afternoon to approve a resolution to allow the temporary transfer of ownership of the Colebrookdale Spur Railroad to the authority from the county.

The county is transferring temporary ownership to the authority to allow it to be responsible for grants and funding for the maintenance and development of the railroad.

The county purchased the 8.6-mile Colebrookdale Spur freight rail line in 2009 to convert it to a passenger rail line and tourist destination.

The county has been leasing the property to the Eastern Berks Gateway Railroad Co., which will eventually own and operate the railroad.

Last month the authority learned it is receiving a grant from the rail transportation assistance program of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for \$952,839.

The funds are being used to repair and rehabilitate the track.

In addition to the temporary transfer of ownership, the current lease between the county and Eastern Berks Gateway Railroad Co. will be terminated and a new lease will be signed between the authority and Eastern Berks.

The county commissioners are slated to vote on the transfer Thursday morning.

Plans are to have the first trains available for passengers this fall.