

February 11, 2025

Members of Maine's Transportation Committee
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Support for LD 29 - Resolve, to Require the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendations of the Lower Road Rail Use Advisory Council


Dear Legislators,

On behalf of the Bowdoinham Comprehensive Planning Committee, I am writing in support of LD 29. Our committee represents the citizens of Bowdoinham who come to our monthly public meetings, public forums and solicit feedback in online surveys about the future of Bowdoinham. Our comprehensive plan, approved back in 2014 specifically supported the Merrymeeting Trail in our chapters about Transportation, Recreation and The Economy. We then updated the plan to bring us to 2034 and increased references to this type of walkable infrastructure in the document and it was again enthusiastically supported and approved at town meeting in 2024.

Our town is so supportive of the trail option because it runs right through the heart of Bowdoinham and is a backbone to the waterfront area the town is actively redeveloping. Our downtown businesses: including a general store, pub, music studio, art galleries, and The Farmers' Market are all adjacent to the trail and would benefit from trail activity. There are already public restrooms, public docks, and parking which would complement the use of the trail. There is also a new park, parking area and hand carry boat launch on public land that directly abuts the trail corridor. The architects for the waterfront redevelopment have included trailhead access to The Merrymeeting Trail in their designs.

This is a critical time to develop the trail to coincide with our waterfront redevelopment. Part of our proposed 2034 vision statement has a goal of "miles of trails available for people powered recreation" which is a direct reference to the Merrymeeting Trail being completed before 2034, a timeline only possible with your support of the trail now. The day the section of trail in downtown Bowdoinham is complete, is the day we will see immediate transportation, recreational, and economic benefits for our town. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Asmussen", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dave Asmussen, Comprehensive Planning Committee Chair