

Maura McHugh
Bowdoinham
LD 29

Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony about the need to create a multi-use recreational trail that would potentially connect the Cook's Corner, Brunswick bike path to Augusta's bike path. I am a resident of Bowdoinham, ME and would like to advocate for a gravel multi-use trail being built along the non used railroad tracks that run from Topsham through to Gardiner. I think it would be money well spent to build a trail similar to the Eastern Trail where folks would be able to ride their bike or horse and hike or x-c ski in a safe traffic free environment where they could appreciate the beauty of the woods and rivers in the Merrymeeting Bay area.

The trail would promote healthy, non-motorized activities for a broad spectrum of our residents and also for other folks who want to spend some time in our area. Ideally, it would link to the Topsham bike trail that would connect our area to Cooks Corner, Brunswick, and in the other direction, to Gardiner's bike path that would link us to Augusta.

Linking to these already existing trails could bring a significant economic boost for Bowdoinham's and Richmond's downtown businesses, bringing folks into those areas to shop or to have breakfast, lunch or dinner or to buy snacks while they enjoy the waterfront parks. Many of these businesses have had to close or have struggled to stay open the past few years.