

Dafydd Holbrook-Pronovost
Strong Towns Hallowell
LD 29

We at Strong Towns Hallowell support the passage of LD29. We believe in consistent, incremental growth and development. Whilst in the long term we would love to see more transportation options including rail and light rail services in the wider capital area and recognize that cycling infrastructure cannot fill all the same roles that public mass transit can. We make the argument that the towns and cities of Central Maine are already unable to financially support their existing roads and infrastructure to the requisite engineering standards. We are working on the gentle densification of housing in Hallowell and hope to support similar changes across our region. With time this will set our Towns and Cities onto a more financially resilient path without destroying their inimitable characters. Further into the future we believe that rail infrastructure will be something that we can support both financially and with sufficient levels of density along the Lower Road Rail. Until then extending the trail south from Gardiner will add to the utility for existing trail users and allow a far larger population to be able to make use of it for a wider variety of purposes and destinations. Being able to keep Trail users from having to enter Water Street through Hallowell will also be a significant boon for the safety of Trail users, this in of itself will attract more users (As a CT/Xray technician I will very much appreciate any reduction in the number of mangled pedestrians and cyclists I have to help attend to). With the advent of E-Bikes including E-Tricycles and other mobility enhancing designs and with careful management of their safe use (best achieved by having more users on the trail at any given time). We believe that a far greater variety of our residents will be able to make use of the trail, whether just for pleasure or for safely making the journey to Gardiner Hannafords for groceries or any other businesses that can be served by the trail. Whilst current events might be some way yet from repeating the Emperor Honorius' letter to the Britons urging them to 'look to their own defenses', we are none the less being made very aware of the potential limits of federal funding for public projects and maintenance going into the future. Expanding and improving the rail trail is the next but far from final increment for developing transport from Coastal to Central Maine. It is a cost effective method of providing more transportation options, improving the health and safety of our residents and if it becomes necessary in the future, more easily supported by our own means.