



March 4, 2025

Chair Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation,

The Portland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee urges the committee to vote in support of LD 511 to implement an interim bicycle and pedestrian trail along the inactive Berlin Subdivision corridor.

An off-road trail along this corridor would create a significant link in our active transportation network, making it possible to travel to and from Portland by bicycle and on foot without the need to contend with vehicles on high-traffic commuting corridors. This would allow more Mainers to feel safe utilizing active transportation, providing economic and environmental benefits to individual households and our communities at large.

The safety benefits of this trail are significant. Maine's roads have seen an [uptick in pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities in recent years](#), and one part of the solution is creating spaces where active transportation users can travel without needing to compete with cars for the same space. Though, this would not absolve communities along the corridor from the obligation to make all their streets safe for all.

This opportunity comes at an important moment. Congestion on 295 is growing. The new Roux Institute campus in Portland will only contribute to this problem. We do not have the space, resources or local political will to expand I-295. E-bike adoption is skyrocketing, which means a commute of several miles by bike is becoming viable for many. Every person using this corridor for a trip removes one more vehicle from our highways, and their emissions from our neighborhoods. A safe and pleasant trail corridor for walking, biking and rolling to this new facility will reap benefits for business, residents, and commuters throughout the region.

Please vote in support of the recommendations of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council.

Sincerely,
The Portland Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee,
<https://www.portlandbikeped.org/>

Gordon Platt, Chair,
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John Clark, Secretary
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The Portland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is an ad hoc group of Portland-area residents working to make the city and region a better place to walk, bicycle, and wheelchair. We advocate and educate on bicycle, transit, and pedestrian issues, including handicap accessibility. We work in collaboration with other organizations including the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, Portland Trails, PACTS, the Portland Department of Public Works and the Portland Planning Department.