



February 28, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to express our organization's enthusiastic support for the 2025 Fore River Sanctuary & Evergreen Woods Trail Revitalization Project currently presented by our strategic partner, the Greater Portland, Maine Chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association (GNEMBA).

Since its founding in 1991, Portland Trails has developed and maintained an over 80-mile urban trail network lacing together the green spaces of the City of Portland, Maine. Over the next 5 years and beyond, we will continue to aggressively grow and enhance our trail network to meet demand for stronger inter-community linkages while better serving users of all abilities and modes of transport.

Beyond building and maintaining trails, Portland Trails dedicates significant staff and programmatic resources to foster broad use by our community's culturally and economically diverse population. Our staff regularly leads trail network education orientations through community organizations and schools to encourage children and adults of diverse backgrounds to appreciate our trail network and understand that it exists to serve them.

Portland Trails' network has historically been used by mountain bikers and other recreational cyclists as evidenced by Strava heat maps and other user data on similar platforms. However, our network largely pedestrian oriented and lacks intentionally designed bike trails. As a result, many trail riders opt to drive well outside of the city to ride in a more purpose-built environment. People who prefer not to, "drive to the ride", as well as those with limited access to cars such as children and lower income families, lack access to opportunities to discover the joy of purpose-built bike trail riding and all the rich social, emotional, and physical health benefits it offers.

The Project will address this need by augmenting our network with beautiful new flow trail routes and infrastructure to provide Portland residents with direct, convenient, and sustained access.

GNEMBA has repeatedly proven its capacity to deliver and maintain high quality mountain bike-oriented flow trails in Portland's surrounding suburban communities. We couldn't be more pleased to be in partnership with GNEMBA to bring that capacity into Portland to enhance Maine's largest urban trail network and provide exciting new cycling infrastructure to one of the state's largest and most diverse populations. We hope and expect to continue this partnership and the expansion and enhancement of cycling oriented trails in Portland for years to come.

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If you have questions during your consideration of GPNEMBA's grant proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jon Kachmar, Executive Director