

Nancy Grant
Portland
LD 404

To Senator Chipman, Representative Williams and members of the Transportation Committee:

My name is Nancy Grant, I'm a resident of Portland and I support LD 404.

Mainers need and want more separate and protected infrastructure for biking, walking and rolling. Too many Mainers are simply too afraid to walk or bike on our roads. Rail Trails provide an extraordinary resource for people to walk and bike safely to work, to school, to errands, between towns, to public transportation centers, etc. They are a safe option for all ages and abilities.

The Mountain Division Corridor has been out of service for trains for decades. Taxpayers have paid to maintain it but they have not been able to use it. Advocates have tried in the past to authorize use as a rail trail but the legislature stalled on voting to make that happen. Finally, in 2022, the legislature developed the Rail Use Advisory Council process so that we would have a structure for making these decisions once and for all.

After months of study, research and reports, in April, the Rail Use Advisory Council voted 9 to 1 for Trail Until Rail. It's time for the legislature to comply with the process they created, implement the recommendation of the RUAC and authorize the use of this trail for a rail trail.

Thank you.