



# Town of Bowdoinham

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Nicole Briand, Town Manager

February 11, 2025

State of Maine  
132<sup>nd</sup> Maine Legislature  
Augusta, ME

## LD 29 – Lower Road Rail Use Advisory Council

Dear Members of the Legislature,

On behalf of the Bowdoinham Select Board, I am writing to express the Board's full support of LD 29 and the implementation of the recommendations of the Lower Road Rail Use Advisory Council's majority report.

The Merrymeeting Trail would provide an incredible opportunity for alternative forms of transportation for this region and our state, as the trail would connect:

- Androscoggin River Pedestrian Bike Path in Topsham that links Brunswick to Topsham;
- the village area in Bowdoinham;
- the village area in Richmond;
- the village area in Gardiner; and
- Kennebec River Rail Trail that links Gardiner, Farmingdale, Hallowell, and Augusta.

By connecting the Androscoggin River Bike Path (2.5 miles long) in Topsham and the Kennebec River Rail Trail in Gardiner (6.5 miles long), the Merrymeeting Trail would transform these two separate trails into a 34-mile-long intrastate trail connecting our State Capital and Maine's largest Town. Additionally, the Merrymeeting Trail could serve as an alternate route on the East Coast Greenway, a 3,000-mile national trail linking Calais, Maine with Key West, Florida.

Merrymeeting Trail would contribute to the quality of living in Midcoast Maine. It would provide a safe, inviting facility to support healthy communities. As well as draw people to our region, creating economic development opportunities and support downtown revitalization by bringing trail users into our village centers.

Sincerely,

Nicole Briand  
Town Manager  
Town of Bowdoinham  
[townmanager@bowdoinham.com](mailto:townmanager@bowdoinham.com)