

# MAINEDOT BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN & QUALITY COMMUNITY PROGRAM



New Safe Routes to School Sidewalks at the Crescent Park School  
In Bethel, Maine

SUMMER 2011

*Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Quality Community Program  
Yearly Report*

This report outlines the projects that Maine communities, in partnership with the Maine Department of Transportation and other state agencies, are achieving by improving conditions and creating new opportunities for bicycling and walking in Maine.

August 2011

MaineDOT Bureau of Transportation Systems Planning  
MaineDOT Bureau of Project Development

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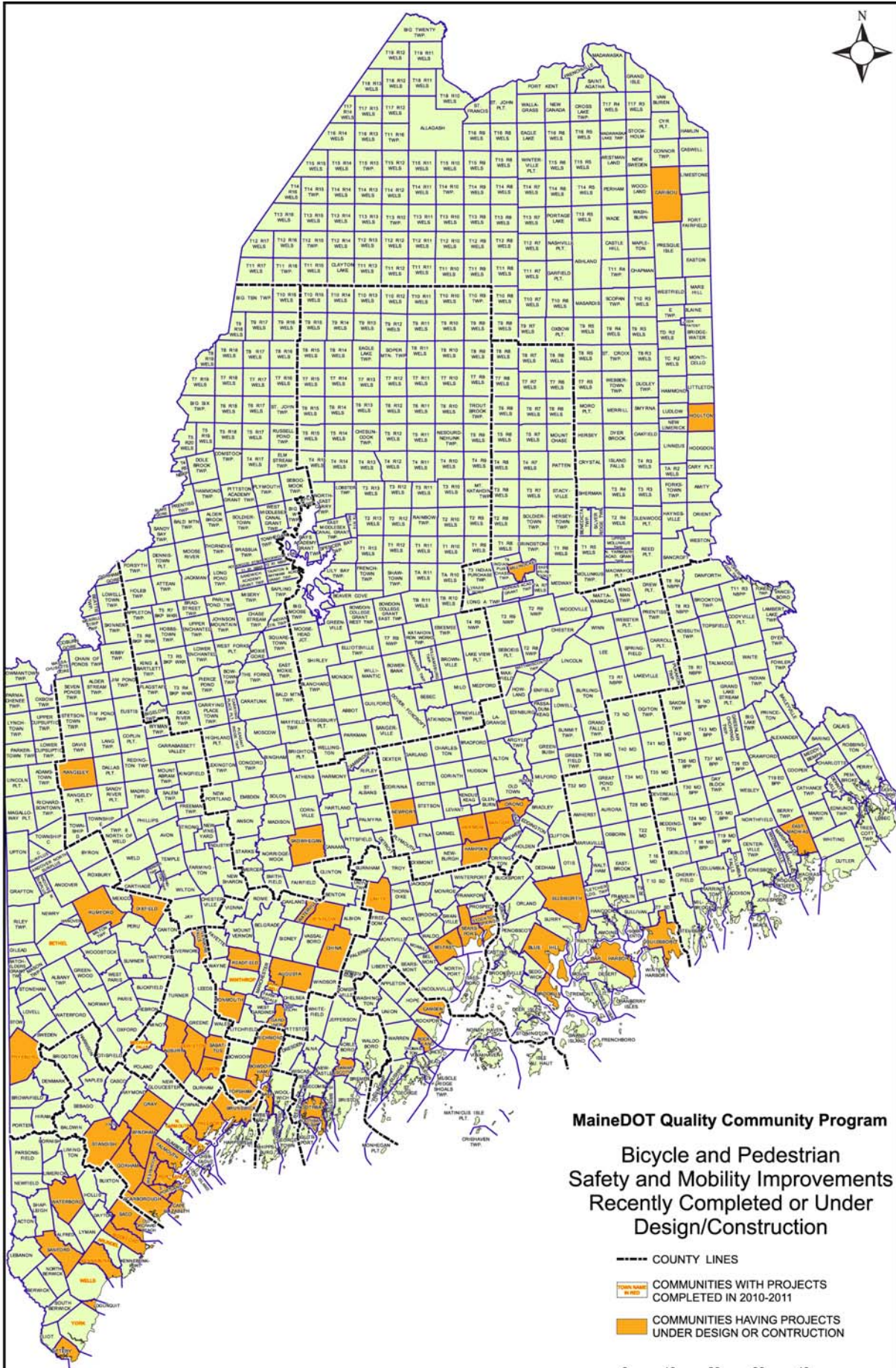
# OVERVIEW

The MaineDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program partners with local communities using federally dedicated funding to improve pedestrian infrastructure, facilitating safety and encouragement programs, and work with Maine communities to create improved community environments. MaineDOT facilitates a number of federally funded safety programs to encourage and enable safe bicycling and walking in Maine.



Bicycle and pedestrian improvements in communities throughout the state are funded by a variety of mechanisms through the Quality Community Program. The program uses dedicated federal funding sources to provide funding assistance in partnership with communities to improve the quality of the community environment. The two primary funding sources within the Quality Community Program—both federal—are Transportation Enhancement (TE), and Safe Routes to School. These funds are required to be used on bicycle and pedestrian projects that meet the transportation purpose of improving safety and mobility by connecting neighborhoods, schools, downtowns and village areas.

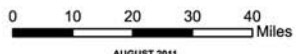
These programs include Maine Safe Routes to School, Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Education, and the Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Council.

These combined endeavors have contributed to recognition, both within and outside of the state, of Maine's commitment to creating a quality transportation system. This year, Maine was ranked the second friendliest state in the nation for bicycling by the League of American Bicyclists. Additionally, Governor Paul LePage designated the month of May Bicycle and Pedestrian month, both to recognize Maine's bicycle and pedestrian facilities and encourage people to take advantage of them.



**MaineDOT Quality Community Program**  
**Bicycle and Pedestrian**  
**Safety and Mobility Improvements**  
**Recently Completed or Under**  
**Design/Construction**

- COUNTY LINES
-  **COMMUNITIES WITH PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2010-2011**
-  **COMMUNITIES HAVING PROJECTS UNDER DESIGN OR CONSTRUCTION**



**MaineDOT**

AUGUST 2011

# COMPLETED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS 2010-11

## BANGOR SIDEWALKS

**Completed:** September 2010

**Funding:** City of Bangor, Federal TE

A new sidewalk, behind the existing granite curb on Union Street, was constructed to improve pedestrian safety.



## BAYSIDE TRAIL, PORTLAND

**Completed:** August 2010

**Funding:** Federal TE, City of Portland, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Private Donors

The Bayside Trail is a mile-long paved bicycle and pedestrian trail, connecting the East End Trail and Tukey's Bridge through the heart of downtown Portland to Elm St.

## BETHEL SIDEWALKS

**Completed:** June 2010

**Funding:** Federal Safe Routes

New sidewalks connecting to the Crescent Park School were constructed.



## DOWN EAST SUNRISE TRAIL

**Completed:** September 2010

**Funding:** Rail Corridor Rehabilitation

85 miles of the Calais Branch Rail Corridor was rehabilitated for future rail use. A multi-use trail facility was created along the 85 mile stretch, connecting Ellsworth to Calais and forming the northernmost part of the East Coast Green-



## DOWN EAST SCHOOL SIDEWALKS, BANGOR

**Completed:** November 2010

**Funding:** Federal Safe Routes

New sidewalks dramatically improving pedestrian safety around the Down East School were created.



## EASTERN TRAIL EXTENSION

**Completed:** December 2010

**Funding:** Federal TE

A 5 mile extension of the Eastern Trail was constructed, stretching from Route 111 in Biddeford through Arundel and ending at Route 35 in Kennebunk.





## FREEMPORT SIDEWALKS

**Completed:** September 2010

**Funding:** Federal Safe Routes, PACTS (MPO)

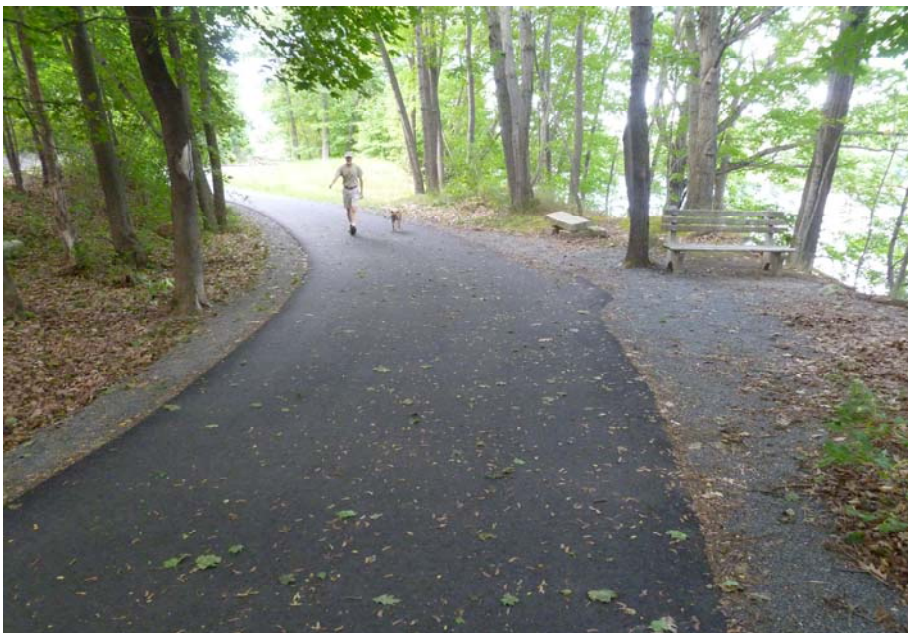
New sidewalks were constructed, stretching a fifth of a mile and connecting Freeport Middle School to the downtown.

## HERMON SIDEWALKS

**Completed:** August 2010

**Funding:** Town of Hermon, State Bike/Ped Bond

New sidewalks were built along the Billings Road, from the Route 2 intersection to Patten Drive. The sidewalks also connected to Hermon Middle School.



## KENNEBEC RIVER RAIL TRAIL PAVING

**Completed:** August 2010

**Funding:** Local Bond

A 2000 foot stretch of the Kennebec River Rail Trail between the Augusta city line and downtown Hallowell was paved, completing this 7 mile trail. The trail connects communities from Augusta to Gardiner.

## KENNEBUNK SIDEWALKS

**Completed:** August 2010

**Funding:** Federal Safe Routes, Local Bond

New sidewalks were built along the Thompson Road, from Route 35 to Alfred Road. The sidewalks also connected to Kennebunk Middle School.



## LEWISTON SIDEWALKS

**Completed:** October 2010

**Funding:** ATRC (MPO)

Sidewalks on both sides of Pine Street were reconstructed for a half a mile between Webster Street and Sabattus Street.

## RICKER FARM TRAIL, LISBON

**Completed:** August 2010

**Funding:** Federal TE, Town of Lisbon

A shared-use trail was constructed from the new elementary school on Mill Street to the Barker Brook Bridge on Upland Road. This trail connects to the existing Paper Mill Trail, creating a 1.6 mile off-road facility.



## UNITY TRAIL

**Completed:** June 2011

**Funding:** Federal TE, Private Donors, Unity College

A trail, complete with large bridge, was built from Unity College to downtown Unity, promoting connectivity between the two community hubs.



## WINSLOW CONNECTOR TRAIL

**Completed:** September 2010

**Funding:** Federal TE, Town of Winslow

A new trail was built from Benton Avenue to the Two Cent Bridge, creating a safe pedestrian connection between downtown Winslow across the Kennebec River into Waterville.



A view of Waterville from the Winslow Connector Trail

## WINTHROP PEDESTRIAN LIGHTS

**Completed:** November 2010

**Funding:** Federal Safe Routes

Two flashing school zone signs were installed where Greenwood and Highland Avenues intersect Main Street to make pedestrians safe near Winthrop Grade School.



## YARMOUTH SHARED-USE PATH

**Completed:** August 2010

**Funding:** Federal Safe Routes

A shared-use path was installed from Oakwoods Drive to McCartney Street, including a connection between Yarmouth Elementary School and Harrison Middle School.

## YARMOUTH SIDEWALKS

**Completed:** September 2010

**Funding:** PACTS (MPO)

Sidewalks were rehabilitated on Lafayette Street and East Main Street. New sidewalks were constructed on Spring Street.

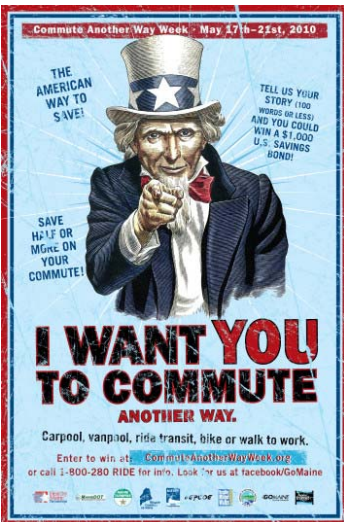


# NON-INFRASTRUCTURE SUCCESSES

## 2010-11

### ACTIVE COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE

In late spring of each year, MaineDOT, in collaboration with the MaineCDC, MaineDECD, and other state agencies, hosts a statewide conference to educate planners, municipalities, advocates, citizens, and others on the importance of improving the built environment for walking and bicycling, the value of these active community environments, and the processes involved in making the improvements. A host of experts from across the state make presentations on topics like Funding Your Project, Safe Routes to School, Engineering Options for Community Improvement, and Mixed-Use and Multi-Modal Facilities. This year, Mark Fenton, an engineer and national expert on transportation, public health issues, and community and public-policy initiatives, was the keynote speaker. Dan Stewart gave a lunchtime presentation on the specific tools available and processes involved in improving one's community transportation environment. Attendance has been steadily growing over the years, with this year's conference—the fourth annual, held on June 21st at Bowdoin College in Brunswick—drawing over two hundred people.



### BICYCLE COMMUTER PROGRAM

GO MAINE, in partnership with MaineDOT and the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, coordinates a statewide bicycle commuting program that reaches out to the public to educate and inform on the potential of the bicycle as a practical transportation option, and ultimately facilitate a real increase in bicycle commuting. Efforts focus on a variety of outreach and education targets and resources: employers and their wellness, fitness, human resources, facilities, community action, public relations, and marketing functions; local bicycle retailers and riding groups; Healthy Maine Partnership groups and connections; sustainability and environmental groups and connections; and local fitness centers.

## MAINE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MONTH

Governor Paul R. LePage signed an official proclamation proclaiming the month of May, 2011, as Bicycle and Pedestrian Month throughout the State of Maine, and urged all citizens to recognize this observance. This proclamation recognized that bicycling and walking are low cost and accessible forms of transportation; that they are safe, healthy and enjoyable forms of exercise; that we are working to make our communities safe places that encourage bicycling and walking to improve our quality of life; and that historically, Maine has been viewed as one of the most bicycle and pedestrian friendly states in the Nation.

## RADIO AND POSTER SAFETY CAMPAIGN

MaineDOT, in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the Bicycle Coalition of Maine (BCM), and Healthy Maine Walks, conducts a safety campaign each year to raise awareness of safe travel and behavior for bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists. The 2010 campaign was distributed statewide via radio, television, print and the web. The radio campaign came in first place at AASHTO's 2011 National Public Affairs competition, in the Radio Commercial with Consultant category. The Share the Road radio ads can be heard online at: <http://media.maine.gov/cgi-bin/search?smedia=audio&aid=7>. To order any of the posters (one of which is pictured at right), contact Cheryl Parlin at (207) 624-3272 or [cheryl.parlin@maine.gov](mailto:cheryl.parlin@maine.gov).



## SECOND MOST BIKE-FRIENDLY STATE

As part of National Bike Month events, the League of American Bicyclists ranked Maine as the second friendliest state for bicycling in the nation. Maine was originally ranked sixth in 2008, then rose to third in 2009 and 2010 before reaching second this year. The League made this decision after examining many aspects of the bicycling experience in Maine, among them legislation, policies and programs, infrastructure, education and encouragement, evaluation and planning, and enforcement. This ranking reflects the commitment, dedication, and collaboration of all those involved in improving bicycling and communities in Maine, including MaineDOT, the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, municipalities throughout the state, regional planning organizations, elected officials, health professionals, state agencies, and bicycle and pedestrian advocates.



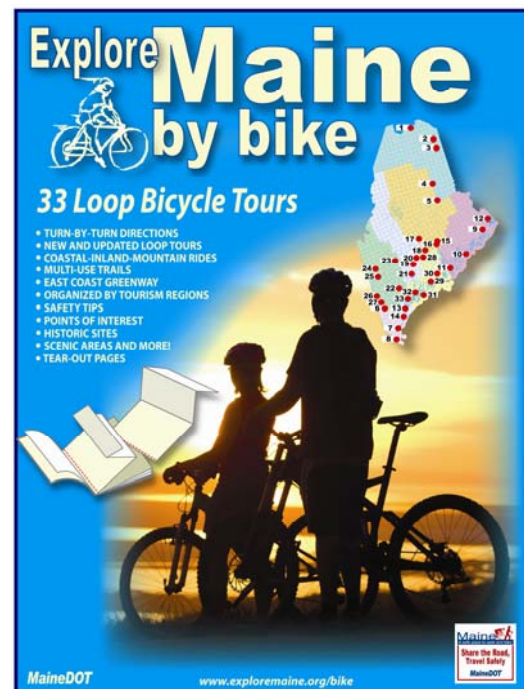


## SUNRISE TRAIL IS PROJECT OF THE YEAR

On June 17, 2011, the Down East Sunrise Trail was awarded the Maine Association of Planners' Project of the Year award. This is a recognition that the trail, a joint effort of MaineDOT, the Maine Department of Conservation, and several citizen organizations, is one of unprecedented length and an important new connection for local communities.

## EXPLORE MAINE BY BIKE (TOUR BOOK)

The MaineDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program recently published a statewide bike tour book with 33 bike tours throughout the state. The tour book highlights bicycle loop tours located throughout the state, directing residents and visitors to some of Maine's best scenic bicycling. A full-color, pull-out map accompanies each of the bike tours. There are tours for cyclists with all levels of experience. Ranging from 10 to over 100 miles in length, these tours reveal the diversity of Maine's beautiful landscape, from rugged coastline to rural woodlands, lakes, and mountains. The books are available at most Maine Visitor Centers, and the information is also available on the newly revamped bike tour site, at [www.exploremaine.org/bike](http://www.exploremaine.org/bike)







## QUALITY OF PLACE REPORT

MaineDOT, in coordination with MaineDOC and the State Planning Office (SPO), has completed a report entitled *Improving Maine's Quality of Place Through Integrated Bicycle and Pedestrian Connections*. The intent of the report is to document the processes and strategies that Maine State agencies, in coordination with municipalities, bicycle and pedestrian advocacy groups, planners, land trusts, and others are doing to create an interconnected transportation system that links and connects communities, neighborhoods, parks, business areas, and all of Maine's quality places.

## SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

### MAINE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY EDUCATION

MaineDOT, in partnership with the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, has instituted a statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Education (BPSE) Program. In 2010, the program expanded, hiring Jim Tasse as a full-time director. BPSE is made up of several components that all contribute towards a goal of increasing bicycle safety in Maine. The program includes a classroom education component, an after-school bike club component, a bike safety and the law component for law enforcement officers, and a bike commuter education program for adult bicycle commuters. In the Spring of 2010, this program reached 68 communities across fifteen Maine counties and educated 6,876 students on bicycle and pedestrian safety.



### SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

The Safe Routes to School program is a statewide effort to enable and encourage children to walk and bicycle to school. Specific programmatic elements focus on making walking and bicycling to school and after school activities safe and more appealing as well as facilitating the planning, development, and implementation of projects that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution in the vicinity of schools. There are two coordinators, one statewide and another for Southern Maine, who work directly with schools and help facilitate walk and bike to school programs in schools throughout the state. More than 63 schools statewide have held Walk and Bike to School events over the past year.

# PAST QUALITY COMMUNITY PROGRAM SUCSESSES

The following is a partial list of Transportation Enhancement and Safe Routes to School Projects completed before 2010. It is not comprehensive, but is intended to provide a general overview of the MaineDOT Quality Community Program's major accomplishments in the last few decades.



Ashland, Sidewalk · Aug 2005

Auburn, Riverwalk and Longley Bridge  
Underpass · Nov 2009

Augusta, Sidewalk · Sept 2009

Baileyville, School Zone Signage · June  
2009

Bar Harbor, Shoulders · June 2000

Bath, Sidewalk · Sept 2009

Belfast, Crossing Improvements · Sept 2009

Bethel, Sidewalk · Oct 1997

Brunswick, Androscoggin River Bike/Ped  
Path · June 1999

Brunswick-Topsham, Pedestrian Bridge ·  
Dec 2006

Calais, Waterfront Walkway · Aug 1997

Camden, Bike Racks · July 1996

Caribou, School Zone Improvements · July  
2009

Dover-Foxcroft, Sidewalk · Nov 2009

Falmouth, Safety Improvements · Sept 2009



Farmington, Sidewalk · Aug 2004

Fort Fairfield, Sidewalk · Oct 2009

Gorham, Sidewalk & Pedestrian Signals  
· May 2007

Hampden, Sidewalk · Nov 2009

Houlton, Pedestrian Bridge · Sept 2005

Lewiston-Auburn, Railroad Trestle  
Bridge · July 1994

Lisbon, “Paper Mill” Multi-Use Path ·  
Oct 2004

Livermore Falls, Multi-Use Path · Nov  
2009

Machias, Sidewalk · Aug 2009

Mountain Division Trail · Aug 2008

North Yarmouth, Shoulders and Side  
walk · July 2006

Norway, Sidewalk · Nov 2008

Ogunquit, Sidewalk · Oct 2001

Old Orchard Beach, Sidewalk · Oct  
2009

Orono, Bike Paths · 1976

Pittsfield, Sidewalk · May 2009

Perry, “Sipayik” Multi-Use Path · Nov  
2004

Portland, Eastern Prom Trail · Aug 2000

Presque Isle, Multi-Use Path · Aug 2008

Richmond, Sidewalk · Oct 1999



The Mountain Division is currently a 5.7 mile paved trail (plus a 1 mile loop) between Standish and Windham. In the future, it will run from Fryeburg into Portland, connecting the White Mountains region to coastal Maine.





Rockland, Sidewalk · Aug 2000

Rockport, “Jacob’s Quarry” Multi-Use Path · Nov 2003

Sanford, “Mousam Way” Multi-Use Path · July 2008

Solon, Multi-Use Trail · Sept 1998

South Berwick, Shoulders and Sidewalks · Nov 2005

South Portland, “Greenbelt” Multi-Use Path · March 2003

Southwest Harbor, “Mountain Connector” Multi-Use Path · Oct 2003

Thomaston, Sidewalk · Sept 2008

Van Buren, School Zone Lights · Nov 2009

Vinalhaven, Sidewalk · Aug 2009

Waterville-Winslow, “Two Cent” Pedestrian Bridge Rehab · Oct 2004

Westbrook, Raised Crosswalk · Aug 2008

Winter Harbor, Sidewalk · June 2009

Yarmouth, Beth Condon Multi-Use Path · Oct 2006

