



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

February 14, 2023

Support Letter for Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) and Eastern Trail Management District Application to the USDOT FY2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program.

Dear U.S. Secretary Buttigieg,

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine is writing in support of MaineDOT and Eastern Trail Management District's funding request to the RAISE grant program for the development of approximately 2.7 miles of off-road trail in two segments in North Berwick, Wells, and Kennebunk, Maine. As components of the regional Eastern Trail, these ready-to-build trails will fill gaps in the trail network and provide bicyclists and pedestrians with safe access to jobs, schools, housing, and other services in these communities.

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine is the statewide organization that advocates for bicyclists and pedestrians. We work to make Maine better and safer for bicycling and walking to encourage active transportation, which improves environmental and public health.

The 0.7-mile northern trail will link West Kennebunk village center to the current terminus of the Eastern Trail, which connects to an elementary school and continues to the regional service center of Biddeford. The 2-mile southern trail will address the lack of multimodal connectivity from the village of North Berwick to residential areas in Wells. Both trail segments will connect residential areas with major regional employers, enabling workers to commute by biking or walking instead of driving an automobile.

**This project aligns with our vision for the future of transportation in Maine to make walking and biking safer and more accessible. Dedicated infrastructure for walking and biking will encourage more people to be physically active which improves public and environmental health.**

**The Bicycle Coalition of Maine supports the projects included in this RAISE application, which will have a significant local and regional impact by providing safe and sustainable connections to economic opportunities and essential services in our communities. These projects will improve vulnerable user safety, reduce emissions, and overall improve quality of life for these communities.**

**Sincerely,**

**Jean Sideris  
Executive Director  
Bicycle Coalition of Maine**

