

Resolution Requesting Town of Brunswick Support for Merrymeeting Trail and Casco Bay Trail

Adopted by the Brunswick Town Council on December 5, 2022

WHEREAS Brunswick was the first town in Maine designated by the League of American Bicyclists as a Bike Friendly Community;¹

WHEREAS Brunswick has a multi-modal transit center with access to the Amtrak Downeaster², Brunswick Link³, Concord Coach Lines⁴, and Metro Breez⁵;

WHEREAS Brunswick's future development and infrastructure plans call for robust bicycle and pedestrian ways;⁶

WHEREAS the Merrymeeting Trail will provide people of all ages and abilities a safe, traffic separated trail for transportation and recreation⁷;

WHEREAS the Casco Bay Trail will provide people of all ages and abilities a safe, traffic separated trail for transportation and recreation⁸;

WHEREAS no train has run on the Lower Road for nearly 40 years⁹, or run on the Portland to Auburn corridor for over 7 years¹⁰;

WHEREAS Brunswick is a critical hub and connection point between both the Merrymeeting Trail and the Casco Bay Trail¹¹;

WHEREAS the Maine Department of Transportation has authority to initiate Rail Corridor Use Advisory Councils to recommend to the Commissioner the best future use for state-owned corridors, including the option of using the corridor as a trail on an interim basis, in accordance with Maine statute¹²;

WHEREAS the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council was formed in April 2022 to consider the best use of a state-owned corridor that would form the backbone of the Casco Bay Trail Alliance¹³;

WHEREAS the Lower Road Rail Use Advisory Council was formed in November 2022 to consider the best use of the state-owned corridor that would form a key part of the Merrymeeting Trail¹⁴;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Town of Brunswick supports recommending to the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Transportation that the rail corridors known as the Lower Road and the Portland to Auburn be permitted to be used as trails;

FURTHER, LET IT BE RESOLVED the Brunswick Town Council will notify both the Commissioner of Maine DOT and the appropriate RCUACs of this Resolve.