



October 28, 2008

Planning Department
City of Ellsworth
1 City Hall Plaza
Ellsworth, Maine 04605

Re: Bikes Belong Grant Application

To Whom It May Concern:

The Sunrise Trail Coalition would like to thank the City of Ellsworth Planning staff for developing an excellent and much-needed plan for creating a safe and inviting bicycle-pedestrian path. This path will connect to the 87-mile Down East Sunrise Trail (DEST) and extend it through Ellsworth allowing access from neighborhoods, Ellsworth High School, and Ellsworth Falls. Knowing that Bikes Belong promotes connections between bicycle trails, this project will provide a perfect example of this organizational goal.

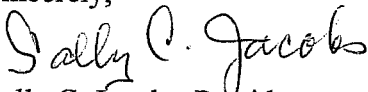
I have attended many meetings over the years as this path was presented and discussed in concept. It was a pleasure to view the draft documents this past week and see the plan finally crystallizing. If completed, it will coincide exactly with the completion of our Sunrise Trail and mean that the two trails will connect Ellsworth Falls to the city of Calais at the Maine-Canadian border over 90 miles away

The proposed bike path and its DEST connection will not only provide improved opportunities for recreational and commuter biking but also for healthful, fuel-saving bicycle tourism and economic development throughout Downeast Maine.

The Sunrise Trail Coalition is working with Ellsworth to create a "Life-style Center" for the region. It will serve as a public mass-transit hub as well as a trailhead for this major service center for all of Downeast. Maine.

This letter, demonstrates the Sunrise Trail Coalition's strong support for this project.

Sincerely,


Sally C. Jacobs, President