



Ellsworth On The Move

November 13, 2008

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

Re: Bikes Belong Grant Application

To Whom It May Concern:

We would like to thank the City of Ellsworth Planning staff for inviting *Ellsworth On The Move* to comment in support of the Bike Belong grant proposal. Our group is a sub-committee of Union River Healthy Communities, a Healthy Maine Partnership.

Our group advocates for improved access for all citizens. We have reviewed the draft documents on the City's webpage and are in strong support for this project.

The proposed bike path will provide improved opportunities for recreational and commuter biking. Creating safe bikeways will encourage people to bike and raise the status of our city as a recreation destination, not just a service center. The thousands of travelers headed to Acadia National Park each year with bikes in tow will have a reason to stop in Ellsworth and explore and enjoy our city. The opportunity to create a bikeway that has the potential to create an important new cross connection and a new possibility to link to other major bike routes would be a real plus. To become known as a biker friendly city is a marketable commodity.

To increase the activity level of our citizens improves the general health of the community. Added bonuses are that additional bicycle commuters conserve energy, decrease traffic and congestion, and have opportunities to network and socialize with other cyclists.

The creation of bikeways will make Ellsworth a more vibrant community to live, work and play. Good luck with the application process!

Sincerely,

Jane Freeman *Phyllis Young*

Ellsworth On The Move Committee Members
Jane Freeman Phyllis Young