

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EAST COAST GREENWAY APPLAUDS GOVERNOR KING AND COMMISSIONER MELROSE**

Augusta, Maine - Gov. King and MDOT Commissioner Melrose have been applauded today by the East Coast Greenway Alliance on the announced trail projects, many of which are constituent trails of the Calais, Maine-to-Key West, Florida East Coast Greenway.

East Coast Greenway Trustee, Sue Ellen Bordwell of Yarmouth, Maine noted that 14 of the 19 projects unveiled at today's press conference fall within the East Coast Greenway corridor in Maine. "Many of the trail investments fall directly on the Greenway's spine route. This contributes miles of new opportunities to the health, recreation and transportation opportunities of Mainers and visitors to Maine," said Bordwell. "The announced investment in the inland, river route through Maine is important in completing the ECG's vision in Maine," she continued.

Rather than taking travelers deep into the woods, the East Coast Greenway is designed as a multi-use trail for bicyclists, equestrians, walkers and the physically challenged. Although only a small portion of the Greenway in Maine has been designated off-road (Portland's East Promenade Trail, Yarmouth's Beth Condon Memorial Pathway, Saco's Eastern Trail, Brunswick's Bikepath and the South Portland Greenbelt), low traffic, bicycle & walker friendly roads are currently utilized to provide a continuous route. The projects announced today are yet more segments of waterfront esplanades, park paths and abandoned railways that will be linked together by the East Coast Greenway.

"In addition to the health and recreation aspects," continued Bordwell, "trails, particularly those that are part of larger networks have a huge potential to lure additional tourist dollars to the state. Added to the partnership the Greenway has established with Amtrak and the imminent arrival of Amtrak, there is a real potential to develop a whole new, non-automobile market for tourism. The East Coast Greenway will encourage visitors to Maine to leave their cars at home by linking not only rail but also bus and ferry passenger services to other destinations located along the trail network.

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