



10 Dexter Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
<http://newburyportlivablestreets.org>

January 16, 2024

Community Preservation Committee
City of Newburyport
City Hall
Newburyport, MA 01950

RE: Braunhardt Bike Trail
Application for CPA Funding

Dear Community Preservation Committee Members:

Newburyport Livable Streets is an organization of local residents working to improve and enhance our City's network of streets, sidewalks and paths so that they are safe and convenient for everyone. We are writing to express our strong support for the application by the Office of Planning and Development for funding to prepare a master plan for the Braunhardt Bike Trail.

As well as being a link in the regional Coastal Trails network, the Braunhardt Bike Trail provides a safe off-road walking and cycling route between the residential neighborhoods off Hale Street and the Storey Avenue shopping area. The Trail is thus both a significant recreational resource and a means for residents to access necessary shopping and services without using a car.

Two current planning efforts will make the Braunhardt Trail an even more valuable community resource in the near future. Off-road bike and pedestrian improvements that are being designed along Hale Street will provide a stronger connection between the Trail and the City's schools. Meanwhile, planned zoning changes will promote the development of multifamily residences in the Storey Avenue corridor, further increasing the number of residents who will directly benefit from this recreational path.

However, the Trail's existing layout and conditions are not consistent with the standards of the rest of our trail system; and it exhibits safety, accessibility and environmental issues that are documented in the funding application. A master plan for the Trail will provide a framework to guide future projects to address these deficiencies and to mitigate the Trail's environmental impacts on the surrounding wetlands.

Newburyport's off-road trail system is an important recreational and transportation asset for our community, and with thoughtful planning the Braunhardt Bike Trail can become an even more valuable component of this network. We hope that you will consider the funding application favorably so that the City can realize the potential of this important link in our walking and cycling infrastructure.

Very truly yours,

Newburyport Livable Streets
Rick Taintor, President

*Newburyport Livable Streets, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization.
Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.*