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City Council, City of Kodiak
710 Mill Bay Rd.
Kodiak, AK 99615

Re: Urban Trails

Dear Members of the Council:

This letter is to propose a partnership between Island Trails Network and the City of Kodiak to plan, design and construct trails that connect people with resources, link existing trails into a trail network, and improve Kodiak's standing as a walkable, pedestrian-friendly community.

Island Trails Network formed in 2006 to develop, maintain and promote sustainable land and water trail systems and access in the Kodiak archipelago. With our membership at 65 families and growing, we are becoming an acknowledged expert resource on trails and open spaces action, advocacy and education. In our strategic plan, we have identified as a high priority the incorporation of trails as transportation infrastructure into city and borough planning efforts.

We recently polled our members and the community to see which existing or proposed urban trails are most important to them. After reviewing the feedback we received in light of land ownership, connectivity, safety, cost, environmental impact, and expected maintenance, we developed the following prioritized list of trails projects:

1. Near Island Trails: A trail circumnavigating the island, linking existing trail systems at North End and South End parks and creating a robust system of walking trails to both mitigate and complement current development efforts. Two proposed segments include a trail traversing Rotary Park on the east side of Near Island and another along the channel connecting the proposed Ferry Terminal and Native Corporation office sites to the Zharoff bridge and North End park.
2. Mission Trail: This proposed trail links Mission Road near St. Herman's Mission to Rezanof Drive in the vicinity of the Zharoff bridge, satisfying a critical need to connect pedestrians to the bridge from the downtown area. A crude social trail currently exists there indicating current use patterns, but does not shed water and is too steep in grade to

be sustainable. A combination of stairs and hardened sections of trail are needed. Optional spurs could link to the Kodiak Senior Center parking lot, and to Marine Way in the vicinity of the KEA building.

3. Chichenof Trace: An existing portion of this trail begins at East Elementary, and follows the ridge behind the hospital to link to the East Addition subdivision near Chichenof St. A proposed extension of this trail would follow an existing city right-of way through East Addition subdivision, through Baranof Park and ultimately connect to Main Elementary. The Chichenof Trace could serve as a logical extension of the popular Rezanof bike path, almost reaching downtown. In addition to the recreational value, this trail could shorten emergency evacuation routes of two schools, the hospital and police station, each of which would reside on a different street but along the same pedestrian route.
4. Cannery Row Trail: This proposed trail linking Pier 2 to the downtown area through the seafood processing district would provide safe walking routes for plant employees, provide an alternative to along-street walking for cruise ship passengers, and create an opportunity for interpretative displays of Kodiak's economy, maritime heritage and history. A proposed extension of this trail would terminate at the end of the St. Paul harbor breakwater.

Additional trails discussed for future action included trails at Potatopatch Lake, Pearson Cove, Russian Ridge and the vicinity of Kodiak College.

Each of these trails build connections between neighborhoods and community assets. Besides providing a low-cost means of transportation, trails also improve air quality, property values, personal health and overall quality of life in a community.

With funding assistance from the City of Kodiak, Island Trails Network can provide trail consulting, education, volunteer resources and project management necessary to see the successful designation, design and construction of these trails.

We ask that you help us in our efforts to make Kodiak more walkable.

Best Regards,

Erin Whipple
President,
Island Trails Network