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To: [David Long](#)
Subject: Planning Commission Agenda -- 8/12/21 -- Portage Cove Trail 95% Plan
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Hello, Dave! We are writing in support of the Portage Cove Trail 95% Plan, the subject of the Planning Commission's public hearing tonight.

As long-time former residents of other communities with renowned waterfront trails and trail systems – Tacoma, Washington, and Anchorage, Alaska – we are writing to express our enthusiastic support of the Portage Cove Trail project and this opportunity to protect and celebrate Haines' connection to the waterfront.

The Portage Cove Trail will be an incredibly convenient and gorgeous place for our summertime visitors to get off their boats or out of their rigs, stretch their legs, and enjoy truly amazing opportunities to view and photograph nature up close in a marine environment. With a breathtaking backdrop of Lynn Canal, mountains, glaciers, and waterfalls, trail users will see whales, seals, sea lions, seabirds, eagles, otters, porpoises, and more. There is no doubt that users of the Portage Cove Trail will see what they came to see.

And a waterfront trail will not only be a huge attraction for our summertime visitors, it will also be an incredible asset to those of us who live in Haines year-round, especially during the winter. As regular, outdoor, year-round walkers, we will jump at the chance to stay out of the way of snowplows and traffic during our snowy months. A protected path will also be enjoyed by runners, bicyclists, snowshoers, and skijorers. The Portage Cove Trail will be a key addition to wintertime fitness opportunities and as fun during a snowfall as on a sunny summer day.

And the future possibilities are without limits – camping, playgrounds, a skate park, picnicking areas, beach access, interpretative signage, food trucks – our only limits are our imaginations!

Haines is one of the most special places on earth. As a connection to the waterfront and a catalyst for improvements, the Portage Cove Trail will make it even more so.

Thank you,

Laura and Richard Clement

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