

From: [Matt Jones](#)
To: [David Long](#)
Subject: Portage Cove Trail Project
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David: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the ongoing trail project for the August 12 planning hearings. Having lived in a number of Alaskan towns over 18 years, we have enjoyed a variety of trails and recreational facilities that make Alaska a great place to live. Some are remote and isolated, and some are more urban. While Haines is the smallest of those places we've been, it also has comparatively the least investment made in community access trails and facilities. Again, understandable given the limited resources we all have to deal with; however, this unique opportunity stands to help bolster that need in a way that can promote not only better living for we residents, but also a better place for tourists to visit and enjoy. That in turn will serve to help Haines be competitive in the tourism market, while balanced with the local desire to not necessarily grow to be another Skagway or Juneau with tons of ship visits. This project appears a well-balanced approach to year-round use and enjoyment for various stakeholders. We hope that some of our limited resources might be allotted to continue it's development.

Thank you for the work you all are doing on behalf of the community. Sincerely, Matt Jones