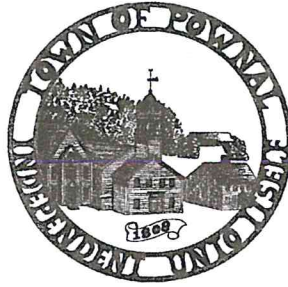


Board of Selectmen

Timothy Giddinge, Chair
Jonathan Morris
George Anderson, Jr.

207-688-4611
207-688-4978 (fax)



Town of Pownal
Mallett Hall
429 Hallowell Road
Pownal, Maine 04069

Administrative Assistant

Scott W. Seaver

May 11, 2018

Commissioner David Bernhardt
Maine Department of Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, Me. 04333-0016

Dear Commissioner Bernhardt,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the upcoming MaineDOT Project # 023695. This Highway Reconstruction/Rehabilitation project planned for 2019/2020 will improve over 11 miles of Route 9 as it passes from North Yarmouth, through Pownal and on to Durham, including the stretch of road that passes through the popular and high-trafficked Bradbury Mountain State Park.

As one of the five original State Parks in Maine, the park is a great example of successful cooperation between the State, Park management, the Town of Pownal and the Royal River Conservation Trust. The upcoming paving project coincides with a critical time of growth for Bradbury Mountain State Park. The Park has 127,000 day use visitors and 8,000 overnight campers per year who enjoy over 21 miles of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails, camping, a playground, and family friendly events and activities throughout the year. Since the popular facilities and trail networks at Bradbury now span both sides of Route 9, we need a safe and welcoming way for park visitors to cross the road and for drivers to safely pass through.

We see an opportunity to improve safety for all the users of this road – both those driving along Route 9 and those visiting the Park – as part of the upcoming paving project. Due to the growth in size and popularity of the park over the years, the Pownal Board of Selectmen is concerned that the pedestrian crossing from the West Side to the East Side across Route 9 is no longer safe or adequate due to the speed of the automobile traffic at this location and the lack of pedestrian signage and crossing facilities. This concern is also shared by Bradbury State Park management and Royal River Conservation Trust. We request that MaineDOT consider crossing enhancement and other changes to the design and speed limit of this section of road as part of the upcoming road project.

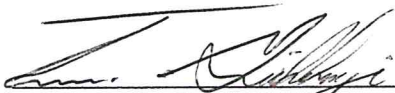
The current conditions of Route 9 at the point where it passes through Bradbury leads to higher speeds and poor visibility. Given the number of pedestrians both crossing the roadway and using the Park facilities, we believe that a traffic speed study needs to be undertaken to determine a safe speed limit. We are also aware of a pending project to install a 4-way stop at the intersection of Route 9 and Elmwood Road, providing further

reason for the traffic/speed study. Vehicles will need to be slowing down as they approach that intersection.

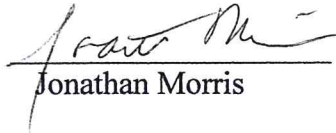
While the entrance to the parking lots on the west side of the park, and the access to the extensive trail network on the east side of the park remain very busy, it is clear that the safety of park visitors and the traveling public must be enhanced in order to prevent a tragedy at this location.

We are hopeful that if the MaineDOT, the Bradbury Mountain State Park administration, the Town of Pownal and the Royal River Conservation Trust are able to work together to take advantage of the opportunity presented by Project # 023695 the experience of visiting the park and traveling along Route 9 will be an enjoyable and safer experience for visitors and travelers alike.

Sincerely,



Timothy Giddings



Jonathan Morris

George Anderson, Jr.

Pownal Board of Selectmen

Cc.: Maine Dept. of Transportation: Patrick Adams, Gerry Audibert, Scott Rollins
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry: Gary Best
Town of Pownal: Scott Seaver, Chief Jesse Peters, Ronald Hodsdon
GPCOG: Rick Harbison, Paul Niehoff
Royal River Conservation Trust: Alan Stearns
Bradbury Mountain State Park: Chris Silsbee