



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
CONTACT: (207) 284-9260  
[eta@easterntail.org](mailto:eta@easterntail.org)

### **Eastern Trail Announces Completion of Construction on Saco-Old Orchard Beach Section**

January 23, 2012 (Saco, ME) – The Eastern Trail announced today that construction is now complete along its newest section of trail, which stretches from Thornton Academy in Saco to Milliken Mills Road in Old Orchard Beach and includes a bridge that spans Route 1 in Saco just north of Ross Road.

This newest success, coming just four months after the opening ceremony for the Eastern Trail Turnpike Bridge just north of Exit 25 in Kennebunk, is certainly cause for celebration. The Saco-OOB section's 4.4 miles provides another crucial link in the development of a 65-mile greenway in southern Maine. With the completion of this new section, 85 percent of the trail is now developed off-road north of Kennebunk.

"Fourteen years ago a small group of area residents said, 'Let's make this old rail line into a trail,' and we are now reaping the benefits," said Eastern Trail Alliance President Bob Hamblen. "A big 'thank you' is due the voters of Saco, who approved a \$500,000 bond in 2008 that made this possible."

An opening ceremony for the Saco-OOB section will be held this spring, though a date for the event has not yet been chosen.

With this section's completion, attention now turns to a .8-mile section in Scarborough that will include a bridge to span the Nonesuch River – already in the planning stages – and to the southern York County communities through which the trail will be developed, including Wells, Eliot, Kittery and the Berwicks.

When completed, the Eastern Trail will connect the Piscataqua River in Kittery with Bug Light on Casco Bay in South Portland with a mostly off-road greenway. The Eastern Trail follows the route of the historic Eastern Railroad, the first rail line connecting Boston and the Portland area. It extends through 12 communities in York and Cumberland counties. The Eastern Trail is the Southern Maine portion of the 2,900 mile East Coast Greenway, which stretches from Key West, Florida to Calais, Maine.

The Eastern Trail Alliance welcomes opportunities to tell groups about its dream. To schedule a no-cost Eastern Trail slide show, send an e-mail to [eta@easterntail.org](mailto:eta@easterntail.org) or call the ETA's office at 284-9260. For more information about the Eastern Trail check [www.easterntail.org](http://www.easterntail.org).