

## 2007 Smart Growth Awards – Friends of Midcoast Maine

Friends of Midcoast Maine granted two Smart Growth Awards at its Annual Meeting in Camden on June 7, 2007. Recognized by this smart growth organization were the Gateway One Planning Process for Route One and the Bath Train Station revitalization project in downtown Bath, Maine.

“These two projects represent some of the finest smart growth development and planning that is happening in the midcoast,” noted Executive Director Jane Lafleur. “We are pleased to recognize these two deserving projects.”

The Gateway One planning process is a 21 town project that is planning for the integration of land use and transportation decisions along the Route One Corridor in midcoast Maine from Brunswick to Bucksport. The Gateway One Steering Committee was recognized for its work to integrate land use and transportation decisions in the Route One corridor; for committing to the planning process since February 2005; for collaborating with regional and state-wide organizations throughout the process; for working to build consensus on planning and transportation issues and the tools that can be used to address them; and for committing to a process to balance community growth and local values with transportation services and needs.



**Peter Robohm, Mary Kate Reny, FMM Chair, and Jim Upham**

Bath resident and committee Chair Peter Robohm accepted this award up the behalf of the 21 town Steering Committee. Robohm noted that, while the project tasks are just now about half done, the municipal participants are very excited about the continuing spirit of cooperative work among the corridor representatives and about some of the data, planning tools, and insights that

have already been developed for future regional planning efforts. The group seeks to sustain economic growth in the Corridor without sacrificing the region's much-heralded quality of life.

The Bath Train Station Revitalization project award recognized the citizens of Bath, the City of Bath and the Bath Transportation Commission. The award commended the upholding of the principles of smart growth by revitalizing an historic landmark in downtown Bath in order to bring transportation alternatives and an economic development catalyst to the midcoast region; by working to merge transit, ferry and rail alternatives in one multi-modal location; by building community support for this \$1.2 million project with \$250,000 in local funds and the balance in federal and state funds; and by serving as an example of smart growth, historic preservation and community building for the midcoast region.

Transportation Commission Chair Peter Robohm and Vice Chair and City Planning Director Jim Upham accepted this award on the behalf of the City of Bath. Upham, who commented that he had been working on the project since 1998, thanked the Friends of Midcoast Maine for the award, thanked the Maine Department of Transportation for all of their support, and thanked Bath Transportation Commission Chair Peter Robohm for his efforts in bringing the revitalization to completion. Upham encouraged folks who are traveling Route 1 in Bath to get off the highway and into the downtown to see the results of the rehabilitation project.