

**Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency**

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**Michael Durkin, Director**

**“Vacant”, Deputy Director**



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation’s (“MaineDOT”) and the Town of Windham’s grant application for a 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (“RAISE”) Grant. The application outlines MaineDOT’s important plans to significantly improve North Windham, Maine via the *North Windham Moves: Regional Mobility - Local Access Project* (“Project”). The Project will implement numerous required safety and mobility improvements by:

- Reconstructing U.S. 302 and State Routes 35 and 115 to implement numerous roadway and active transportation safety improvements, including the elimination of left turns, the addition of traffic calming features and new ADA-compliant sidewalks and crosswalks
- Constructing local connector roads, that will provide drivers and first responders with easier access to the region’s commercial center and significantly reduce crashes on busy U.S. Route 302 and two high-volume state roads
- Improving sight distance, lighting, streetside utility easements, drainage and greenspace

The area in question is a critical route within the County. Route 302 is a primary evacuation route for the five towns north of it in addition to Windham itself. It is also an important transit route for mutual aid assistance for first responders between five central-county towns that support each other. If this road is blocked by traffic and/or Taking the actions outlined in this project would ensure that this road is an asset in the event of a disaster.

This road is also a transportation route for hazardous materials (HazMat). A significant HazMat incident in the 302 corridor would have long-lasting impacts across the region. With its focus on improving safety and reducing accidents, we lower the risk of a significant incident. Emergency management always tries to tie mitigation or prevention of disasters with response to them. This Project sagely impacts both.

We are pleased that MaineDOT and the Town of Windham are seeking assistance from USDOT to improve safety for all roadway users and reduce U.S. highway and state road congestion. We hope USDOT is able to assist in funding these improvements which cover all aspects of USDOT’s merit criteria for funding. Modernizing rural towns to make them safe, efficient, and resilient helps improve the safety of both residents and visitors to Maine.

Sincerely,

Michael Durkin  
Director- Cumberland County Emergency Management