

February 28, 2023

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 the Maine DOT'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 – an **East Connector Road, Middle Connector and West Connector** – that will provide drivers with easier access to the region's commercial center and significantly reduce congestion and crashes on busy U.S. Route 302 and two high-volume state roads
- Adding **multi-use pathways** that provide a safe route to encourage walking and biking to and from the commercial district
- Improving **sight distance, lighting, streetside utility easements, drainage and greenspace**

These improvements will improve safety, reduce inefficient roadway bottlenecks and increase accessibility to the rural region's retail and employment centers as well as vital tourism and recreation points critical to Maine's economy.

We are pleased that MaineDOT and the Town of Windham are seeking assistance from USDOT for this very important Project which will improve safety for all roadway users and greatly 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, walkable and better connected to shopping, employment, housing and tourism helps improve the quality of life for residents and creates a safe and enjoyable experience for visitors to Maine.

Sincerely,



Robert J Grondin III
President