



February 23, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Portland Parks Conservancy, I write to enthusiastically endorse the Maine Department of Transportation's plans to create new pathways that link the future campus for the Roux Institute at Northeastern University to Portland's existing trail network and surrounding community.

The Portland Parks Conservancy is an independent nonprofit organization that enhances our city's green spaces through philanthropy and community engagement. Current priorities include Portland Youth Corps, a work-service program for teens, the creation or revitalization of several local parks, volunteer coordination, and an initiative to create a more robust, diverse, and equitably dispersed tree canopy.

I have been very encouraged by plans for the new Roux Institute campus, which replaces an aging industrial lot with dynamic landscaping. Establishing new multi-modal infrastructure will help facilitate bicycle/pedestrian connectivity and traffic movement throughout the neighborhood and reduce reliance on commuting by car. This initiative is especially important for East Deering, which is both park-starved and isolated from the City's robust trail network compared to most Portland neighborhoods.

Thank you for considering the Roux Institute's application for this

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack Phillips".

Jack Phillips
Executive Director