

February 21, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I'm writing to communicate my support for the Maine Department of Transportation and non-profit IDEALS' project titled: East Deering: Pathways to Bridge the Gap Project, which is applying for grant support through the U.S. Department of Transportation.

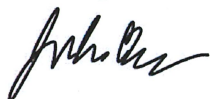
I'm the Chairman of the Board and controlling shareholder of Tilson Technology Management, Inc. ("Tilson"), a 1400 employee information infrastructure deployment company, which is headquartered proximate to this transportation project. We are a founding corporate partner with the Roux Institute, a part of Northeastern University ("Roux"), that offers advanced degrees in AI, analytics, and life sciences, all within a walkable, livable area inside of a federally designated HUB and Opportunity Zone. Tilson has made a long-term commitment to cooperative learning, tuition reimbursement, supporting employees with full benefits while working part time and seeking a graduate education.

We support cohorts of students every year to study at the Roux, work at Tilson, and live in Portland, Maine. When I talk to these student/knowledge workers, I hear that they have a great job, world class education in an emerging field, but that transportation, parking, and access to affordable housing is a big enough problem for them to threaten their ability to continue with work and study together. The project will provide a critical link for them between work and school, and more than double the amount of housing units they can access by walking or biking. In summary, this project will:

- Decrease use of cars and parking in a crowded urban area, with attendant reduction in carbon and other pollution,
- Increase use of walking and biking as a primary form a commute,
- Increase access to graduate education in the critical fields of AI, analytics, and life sciences,
- Increase access to affordable housing,
- Help knit together a community by making work, school, and everyday life possible in the same place, and
- Directly support the next generation of leaders in intelligent transportation communication, which is a key service line that Tilson provides.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can support this effort in any way.

Best regards,



Joshua Broder  
Chairman, Tilson  
CEO, Tilson Infrastructure