

Parks, Recreation & Facilities

Ethan Hipple

Director



2/12/2024

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, Recreation and Facilities Department, I write to express our support of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Program application submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) for the East Deering: Pathways to Bridge the Gap Project (Project). This application is submitted in partnership with the City of Portland and the Initiative for Digital Engineering and Life Sciences.

The Project will expand, redesign, and improve active transportation and roadway infrastructure in the East Deering neighborhood of Portland, Maine—creating a critical link between East Deering and the Old Port section of downtown Portland. The Project will improve community connectivity by:

- Creating new and restoring existing multi-use bike and pedestrian pathways that are safe and modern to encourage active transportation;
- Upgrading neighborhood roads and intersections to conform with Complete Street principles;
- Adjusting an interstate off-ramp to improve campus, transit and neighborhood traffic flow and alleviate impacts to a historic neighborhood and nearby disadvantaged communities.

My Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities oversees and maintains the multi-use trails in Portland, and annually over 350,000 people use trails in this area for recreation, fitness, and transportation. We are supportive of this transformational Project to support important neighborhood connections throughout Portland.

Thank you for your strong consideration of MaineDOT's RAISE proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ethan Hipple".

Ethan Hipple

Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department
City of Portland, ME
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