



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

August 31, 2023

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We write today to lend our full support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) Rural Surface Transportation Grant application through the U.S. Department of Transportation. MaineDOT is seeking \$27.6 million in discretionary grant funding to assist with a rehabilitation project that targets a section of U.S. Route 1 for a total project cost of nearly \$38 million.

MaineDOT's *Northern Maine U.S. 1 Road Improvement Project* makes necessary improvements to U.S. Route 1 in Frenchville, Maine, the region's only east-west thoroughfare. These improvements will repair two substandard sections of Route 1, totaling 10.4 miles of needed roadwork. The project will include improving the road surface, upgrading the topography, replacing drainage pipes and culverts, and upgrading the road's shoulders from gravel to pavement. This is imperative for the many within the bike and pedestrian community who utilize this roadway daily. This section of Route 1 is so heavily used by bicyclists that it was recently designated as a U.S. Bicycle Route, to connect the communities of Bangor, Maine to the St. John River in Allagash, a distance of 327 miles.

As state policy makers we understand the importance of the transportation system. Maine's highways maintain the connections to our communities. Maine is inherently rural. Our constituents, and all Maine residents, rely on safe highways to ensure access to vital goods, health care, and employment.

We have no doubt that MaineDOT is an excellent steward of taxpayer dollars. Federal discretionary grant programs have allowed MaineDOT to perform necessary repairs and replacements to aging infrastructure in the past, and we urge you to give this latest application strong consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Troy Jackson in black ink.

Troy Jackson
Senate President

Handwritten signature of Roger Clarence Albert in black ink.

Roger Clarence Albert
State Representative