



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



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VIA EMAIL

May 19, 2023

The Honorable Shailen Bhatt, Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bhatt,

Please accept this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation (“MaineDOT”) and Efficiency Maine application for a **2023 U.S. Department of Transportation Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (“CFI”) Discretionary Grant**. The application details MaineDOT’s funding need and comprehensive plan to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the state via the *Recharge Maine Project* (“Project”). There are gaps in the state’s EV charging station map and additional charging stations will:

- Help MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine meet EV charging requirements along Federally-designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (“AFCs”).
- Ensure locations beyond fuel corridors, including disadvantaged communities, have charging infrastructure to serve residents and tourists.
- Assist Maine in meeting its goal to decrease greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030 and 80% by 2050 – and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.
- Ensure funding received is consistent with that of other states.

The Project will equitably provide public charging in our community, serving individuals who do not have access to it at home such as those living in apartments and other multi-unit dwellings. The Project will benefit disadvantaged communities by ensuring chargers are located in neighborhoods of all income levels. It will greatly reduce ‘range anxiety’ by closing gaps between charging locations which will alleviate hesitation about making the switch to EVs. We are deeply concerned that Maine’s \$14 billion tourism industry will suffer if the state is unable to make an adequate number of safe and convenient EV chargers available to tourists.

The City of Westbrook, located completely within low-to-moderate income (LMI) census tracts, is the fastest growing City in the State of Maine according to the 2020 Census. We look forward to working with MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine to implement the program as soon as possible. The City has already invested in the infrastructure to bring electrical conduits to support EV charging into our new downtown parking garage that is slated to open in October 2023.

The City of Westbrook is pleased that MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine are seeking discretionary funding from USDOT for this very important Project. The Pine Tree State was an early adopter of EVs and set rigorous but attainable climate improvement goals long ago. We hope USDOT is able to help the State reach these goals by ensuring everyone in our community – residents and tourists – can easily and equitably access EV charging stations.

Sincerely,



Daniel Stevenson
Westbrook Economic Development Director