



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

July 11, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:


I write in strong support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) \$17.5 million application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program. Through their application, MaineDOT is requesting \$17.5 million from U.S. DOT to modernize two aging, rural ferry terminals linking the mainland to Islesboro, a year-round island community.

The proposed work through MaineDOT's project will expand the capacity of these terminals to accommodate a new plug-in hybrid ferry that is scheduled for delivery in 2027 and is 37 feet longer than the vessel that it will replace. The new ferry will accommodate 10 more vehicles than the current vessel in order to keep up with demand for the service. The project will also upgrade the electrical infrastructure at the terminals to allow for high-speed charging of the new ferry, which will run primarily on battery power with diesel backup.

The two existing ferry terminals were built in 1959 and are nearing the end of their service life. This funding and project are needed for the safe and efficient operation of the new ferry. This ferry provides a vital link between the mainland and an island community that is 3-miles off the Maine coast.

I fully support MaineDOT's application and urge you to award them the funding they are seeking. Please do not hesitate to contact myself, or MaineDOT Commissioner Bruce Van Note, with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



Janet T. Mills
Governor



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