



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
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AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0054

JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

LAURA A. FORTMAN  
COMMISSIONER

April 25, 2024

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

RE: Support Letter for Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) Application to the Federal Transit Administration Low or No Emission Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Maine Department of Labor (MDOL) is pleased to support MaineDOT's request for funding through the Federal Transit Administration's Fiscal Year 2024 Low or No Emission Grant Program. MaineDOT, in partnership with five Maine transit agencies, is seeking funding for low and no emissions vehicles for transit service across Maine. This grant will provide urgently needed funds to enable transit agencies to replace aging diesel and gasoline transit vehicles with hybrid and electric vehicles (EV) that advance Maine's ambitious climate and infrastructure goals. MaineDOT is proposing an innovative approach to ensure successful implementation of participating transit agencies' fleet transition plans including a focus on workforce development.

MDOL is committed to advancing high-quality job opportunities for Maine workers, businesses, and transit agencies by helping employers recruit and train a talented workforce, providing workers with the skills they need to be competitive in the economy through models such as registered apprenticeship, and ensuring safe and fair workplaces for people on the job. This grant funding will create new, high-quality job opportunities for workers in electrical and other trades professions, while also creating opportunities to upskill incumbent first responders and automotive service technicians and mechanics on how to maintain the state's EV fleet.

Upon award, MDOL will support this work by:

- Collaborating with MaineDOT, the Maine Community College System, labor unions, and other partners to strengthen the EV workforce by designing registered apprenticeship and certified pre-apprenticeship opportunities for these essential careers—building on the Maine Apprenticeship Program's nearly 1,000 current apprentices in clean energy and transportation occupations.
- Connecting jobseekers to EV careers and training opportunities through our 12 CareerCenters and local workforce partners with a focus on priority communities including women, individuals with disabilities, veterans, people of color, and the re-entry and recovery communities.

MDOL supports MaineDOT's grant application for this project and looks forward to the continued partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura A. Fortman".

Laura A. Fortman  
Commissioner  
Maine Department of Labor