



PORTLAND
Regional Chamber
of Commerce

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Cape Elizabeth • Cumberland • Falmouth • Gorham • Scarborough • South Portland • Portland • Westbrook

April 10, 2023

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

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce is pleased to support the Greater Portland Transit District's partnership with the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) to request funding FTA's Section 5339 Low or No Emission Grant Program.

As part of that application, GP Metro is seeking funding to replace three of its 2011 diesel buses with three new battery electric buses, along with supporting electric charging infrastructure, and resources for training and workforce development.

Our members recognize that transportation is a critical component of a successful economy. A strong public transportation system connects workers with jobs and brings customers to businesses in ways that create vibrant downtowns while helping our region achieve its climate and sustainability goals.

The Chamber is committed to supporting the City of Portland's "One Climate Future" initiative which has set a goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, as well as the State of Maine's "Maine Won't Wait" Climate Action Plan, which highlights the need to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy and prioritize investments in electric transportation. We recognize that GP Metro's proposed project aligns perfectly with these goals and demonstrates our support for taking effective action to reduce carbon emissions.

Replacing these three diesel buses with electric models will not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful pollutants, but it will also save the GP Metro money in fuel and maintenance costs in the long run. The Chamber strongly supports improvements in the levels of transit service, and we hope operating cost savings can be put to better use increasing the level of transit across our region.

The Chamber strongly supports GPTD's partnership with MaineDOT and their joint application, and we urge you to award the requested funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Quincy Hentzel".

Quincy Hentzel, President & CEO