



April 4, 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,

On behalf of the Maine Transit Association (MTA), we are writing to express our strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's application to FTA's Section 5339 Low or No Emission Grant Program.

As an organization committed to promoting public transportation throughout the state of Maine, we recognize the critical importance of investing in sustainable and environmentally-friendly transit options. As such, we believe that MaineDOT's effort to submit a joint application in collaboration with multiple statewide transit agencies is an important step in this direction.

The MTA has long advocated for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful pollutants in Maine's transportation system. We fully support the following projects included in MaineDOT's application, and we are confident that these investments will have a positive impact on our environment and on the communities that we serve.

- **Bangor Community Connector (BCC)** - two electric vans with associated chargers that will expand its paratransit fleet; one hybrid bus that will replace an existing end-of-life diesel bus.
- **Biddeford-Saco-Old Orchard Beach Transit (BSOOB)** - four electric buses with associated chargers as part of an ongoing fleet replacement and electrification plan.
- **Lewiston/Auburn Citylink (LA Citylink)** - two electric buses, with associated chargers, that will replace one end-of-life diesel bus in order to ensure fleet availability in light of anticipated reduced vehicle range.
- **Greater Portland Transit District (GP Metro)** - three electric buses, with associated chargers, as part of an ongoing fleet replacement and electrification plan.
- **Regional Transportation Program (RTP)** - four electric vans, with associated chargers, as part of an ongoing paratransit fleet replacement plan.
- **South Portland Bus Service (SPBS)** - three electric buses, with associated chargers, as part of an ongoing fleet replacement and electrification plan.
- **York County Community Action Agency (YCCAC)** - four electric vans, with associated chargers, to replace existing end-of-life gasoline paratransit vehicles.

We firmly believe that the projects included in MaineDOT's application align with the goals and objectives outlined in Maine's recently released "Maine Won't Wait" Climate Action Plan. This plan recognizes the urgent need to address climate change and sets ambitious goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of the economy, most notably transportation, which is responsible for 54% of the state's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. These projects will help achieve Maine's goals of reducing GHG by 30% by 2030 and by 85% by 2050.

After successful 2022 deployments of electric buses by the Greater Portland Transit District and Biddeford-Saco-Old Orchard Beach Transit, in partnership with MaineDOT, we are confident that MaineDOT and its project partners have the experience and technical capacity to deliver these projects. These projects represent an important investment in the state's clean energy future, and we fully endorse their efforts to transition to a more sustainable and environmentally-friendly transit system.

As an organization that represents transit providers throughout the state of Maine, we are proud to support the MaineDOT's application for funding under FTA's Section 5339 Low or No Emission Grant Program. We believe that this investment will help advance our shared goals for a cleaner, more equitable, and more sustainable future, and we urge you to seriously consider this application.

Respectfully,

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