



## 131<sup>st</sup> MAINE SENATE

April 10, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We are pleased to send this letter in strong support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) application for funding through the Federal Transit Administration Low or No Emission Grant Program. MaineDOT, in partnership with seven Maine transit agencies, all of which provide transit services to communities we represent in the Maine State Senate, is seeking funding for low and no emissions buses and vans for transit service across Maine, including associated infrastructure and staff training and workforce development.

Annual ridership for the 7 participating agencies combined in calendar year 2021 was 1.7 million. This continues to reflect the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; in calendar year 2019, the ridership exceeded 3.5 million boardings. As of March 2023, the combined agency bus fleet consists of 90 diesel, 56 gasoline, 10 compressed natural gas (CNG) and 4 electric vehicles; these vehicles are used to operate 46 year-round routes, five seasonal routes and several demand-response services.

If awarded this grant funding several of the existing diesel and gasoline vehicles will be replaced with hybrid and electric vehicles, expanding access to clean and sustainable transportation for thousands of Maine transit riders. The supporting infrastructure, which includes vehicle chargers, will ensure that these vehicles operate reliably and efficiently for the duration of their useful lives. Furthermore, the training and workforce development will ensure a skilled, diverse, and sustainable labor pool.

We strongly support MaineDOT's grant application for this important project and are hopeful that you will give their application your full consideration and award the requested funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben".

Benjamin M. Chipman  
Chair, Transportation Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne".

Anne Carney  
State Senator

Handwritten signature of Jill C. Duson in black ink, with the number 5027 written below the signature.

Jill C. Duson  
State Senator

Handwritten signature of Matthew Harrington in black ink.

Matthew Harrington  
State Senator

Handwritten signature of Timothy E. Nangle in blue ink.

Timothy E. Nangle  
Chair, State and Local Committee