



April 7, 2023

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,

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter in 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, 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.

These hybrid and electric vehicles will replace existing diesel and gasoline 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.

Introducing these vehicles will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigating the impacts of climate change, and directly supporting the goals of the state's climate action plan "Maine Won't Wait" and corresponding Clean Transportation Roadmap, which calls for continuing to decarbonize Maine's transportation sector.

The Lewiston-Auburn Transit Committee's entry into Low/No Emissions public transportation network enhances and supports the goals of each city's public health and sustainability goals. It will add more revenue vehicles to its transit infrastructure allowing for the consideration of possible service expansion or increased frequency along priority routes. At a minimum, it will increase the system performance and reliability goals all the while reducing its carbon footprint. It will also lead the efforts of each city to migrate to more sustainable infrastructure integration.

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

Sincerely,

Lawrence Allen
Interim MPO Director
Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center
125 Manley Road
Auburn, ME 04210