



March 30, 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 includes vehicle chargers necessary for these vehicles to be placed in service, which includes vehicle chargers. 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 supports 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.

BSOOB Transit recognizes climate change is upon us, and now is the time for action. The agency currently operates two of the first electric buses in Maine, and is preparing for two additional zero-emission vehicles and on-route chargers to begin operation by January 2024. Leveraging their existing infrastructure and knowledge to reduce harmful emissions and improve air quality will provide regional and statewide benefit.

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,

Chad Heid
Executive Director
Biddeford Saco Old Orchard Beach Transit