



ANDROSCOGGIN RIVERWALK ALLIANCE
18 Pleasant Street, Suite 522, Brunswick, Maine 04011
AndroscogginRiverwalk.org (207) 721-0022 (messages)

8th January 2025

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

RE: Maine Department of Transportation's application to fund the *Opportunities Providing Easier Navigation in Brunswick (OPEN in Brunswick) Project* under the FY 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program

Dear Secretary of Transportation,

Please accept this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's ("MaineDOT") application for an FY 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant award. The application outlines important plans to significantly improve safety and mobility in downtown Brunswick, Maine, under the *Opportunities Providing Easier Navigation in Brunswick (OPEN in Brunswick) Project* ("Project").

Like many towns in Maine, Brunswick is struggling to balance aging infrastructure with population growth. The Project addresses this challenge by constructing new and significantly improved infrastructure to create transportation options for all users. Project improvements include:

- Reconstructing streets to include traffic calming features and ADA-compliant sidewalks and crosswalks;
- Building a safe and modern multi-use pathway connecting two currently disjointed paths;
- Redesigning a one-way street;
- Resurfacing streets;
- Implementing drainage improvements; and
- Improving a bus stop

The Project will generate safety improvements in high crash areas, mitigate congestion, accommodate local and regional traffic more efficiently, and increase mobility and accessibility for all transportation modes—without widening streets.

Several components of the *OPEN in Brunswick* project are critical to the completion of the **Androscoggin Riverwalk**, a 1.25 mile loop path linking the downtowns of Brunswick and Topsham. Among other improvements, guardrails, crosswalks, wider sidewalks and new traffic signals will significantly enhance bicycle and pedestrian safety between the new Androscoggin River bridge currently under construction at Maine Street and the historic pedestrian Androscoggin Swinging Bridge off Mill Street.

We are pleased MaineDOT, in coordination with the Town of Brunswick, is seeking assistance for this very important project and hope USDOT will assist in funding these improvements. Modernizing streets while simultaneously improving pedestrian facilities will result in safe and efficient mobility in a regional service center. We respectfully request the Office of the Secretary of Transportation give favorable consideration to the *Opportunities Providing Easier Navigation in Brunswick (OPEN in Brunswick) Project*.

Sincerely,
ANDROSCOGGIN RIVERWALK ALLIANCE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Josh Katz', is written over the printed name.

Josh Katz, Chair