

Bowdoin

December 20, 2024

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:

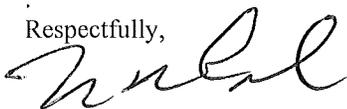
- Reconstructing streets to include traffic calming features and ADA-compliant sidewalks and crosswalks;
- Building a safe and modern multi-use pathway connecting two currently disjointed paths;
- Redesigning a one-way street;
- Resurfacing streets;
- Implementing drainage improvements; and
- Improving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

The Pleasant Street corridor, which this project addresses, is the major gateway to downtown Brunswick and Bowdoin College for visitors, commuters, and families entering Brunswick from the south. The safety and congestion along this route to the downtown have been the subject of many studies, plans and deliberations for years. The RAISE grant funding would allow the Town to finally address and improve aspects of the safety and functionality of this gateway for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists, something that is urgently needed.

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*.

Respectfully,



Matthew Orlando
Sr. VP for Finance & Administration

TREASURER'S OFFICE

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