



April 25, 2024

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,

The administration and faculty of Eastern Maine Community College and the Maine Community College system are pleased to support the MaineDOT to request funding for the Federal Transit Administration's Fiscal Year 2024 Low or No Emission Grant Program.

MaineDOT, in partnership with the Maine Community College System, is seeking funding for low and no emissions vehicles for transit service across Maine, including associated infrastructure and equipment as well as staff training and workforce development programs. As part of the application, MaineDOT is proposing an innovative approach to ensure successful implementation of the participating transit agencies' transition plans including a collaborative workforce development program facilitated by the state.

If awarded, the hybrid and electric vehicles procured will replace existing diesel and gasoline vehicles, expanding access to clean and sustainable transportation for thousands of transit riders in Maine. The supporting infrastructure includes chargers necessary for these vehicles to be placed in service. Furthermore, the training and workforce development will ensure a skilled, diverse, and sustainable labor pool that will be equipped on the technical details of low and zero emission vehicles.

Introducing these vehicles throughout the State of Maine will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and directly support 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.

Not only would this grant funding help support significant efforts to increase clean transportation throughout the state, but the necessity for workforce training programs, as a result, would also increase enrollment in educational opportunities at some of Maine's Community Colleges. Furthermore, workforce development programs, such as the current Electric Vehicle Technician Program at Eastern Maine Community College, would benefit greatly by being able to serve the education needs of the community.

Eastern Maine Community College administration, faculty, and system administrators strongly support MaineDOT's grant application for this pivotal project. We are hopeful that you will give the project your full consideration and award the requested funding.

Sincerely,

Kim Wilson-Ray
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