

April 18, 2024

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

RE: In Support of MaineDOT's FFY24 Bus and Bus Facilities Competitive Program Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) is pleased to support the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) request for funding through the Federal Transit Administration's FFY 2024 Bus and Bus Facilities Competitive Program.

MaineDOT, in partnership with Greater Portland Metro (GP Metro), is seeking funding to replace outdated vehicles in the agency's bus fleet with four 35' diesel buses to be supplied by New Flyer Industries. As part of the application, MaineDOT and GP Metro are proposing necessary workforce development.

The Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program's goals are to improve the condition of public transportation assets in order to maintain critical services and assure that our users have access to safe and reliable transportation. This grant opportunity will provide urgently needed funds to bring GP Metro's fleet to a state of good repair by replacing four 2011 buses that are at end of life. It will maximize operational reliability and ensure safety of agency personnel and transit riders. If funded, GP Metro will be able to update its fleet which will meet all compliance standards, enhance amenities for current and future agency employees, and improve the reliability of the agency's service in the region.

GPCOG's goal is to help the region adapt and thrive in a changing world. The enhancement of transit service in the region directly aligns with this goal and the replacement of these aging buses with new, more advanced equipment is a great way to achieve that goal. This investment by the federal government can help continue to grow the region in a vibrant and sustainable way.

GPCOG strongly supports 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,



Chris Chop
Transportation Director
Greater Portland Council of Governments