

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 8, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We are writing to express our support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) grant application for funding through the Federal Transit Administration Low or No Emission Grant Program.

MaineDOT has partnered with seven transit agencies throughout Maine to request funding for low and no-emission vehicles, as well as infrastructure and staff training for transit services throughout the state. In 2019, these agencies provided transportation to over 3.5 million passengers, contributing significantly to the state's economy. Though the pandemic resulted in lower ridership in 2021, the seven agencies still managed to transport over 1.7 million passengers.

The combined agency bus fleet consists of 90 diesel, 56 gasoline, 10 compressed natural gas, and 4 electric vehicles, which are used to operate 46 year-round routes, five seasonal routes, and several demand-response services. To reduce emissions and lower long-term costs, MaineDOT is supporting the seven agencies in acquiring 23 new vehicles, including 12 battery electric buses, 10 electric vans, and 1 hybrid electric bus, as well as chargers and workforce training over the next 3 years. This project will replace 19 fossil fuel vehicles that have reached the end of their useful life and provide improved service reliability, attracting new riders.

Thank you for your time on behalf of MaineDOT. We urge your full and fair consideration of their application, in accordance with all rules and regulations. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Corrinne Latti at 202-225-6116 (Pingree) or Barbara Hayslett at 207-492-6009 (Golden).

Sincerely,



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Jared Golden
Member of Congress