



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's Bus and Bus Facilities Competitive Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce is pleased to support MaineDOT's request for funding through the Federal Transit Administration's Fiscal Year 2024 Bus and Bus Facilities Competitive Program.

MaineDOT, in partnership with Maine transit agencies, is seeking funding to refurbish the Agency's facilities that are outdated and faulty. As part of the application, MaineDOT and our organization are proposing necessary workforce development.

The Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program's goals are to improve the condition of public transportation infrastructure 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 our local agency's infrastructure to a state of good repair by updating heating systems, modernizing security measures, etc. It will maximize operational reliability and ensure safety of agency personnel and transit riders. Additionally, the infrastructure improvements will put the agency in a good position for future fleet transition into low-or-no emission vehicles.

If funded, MaineDOT will be able to reconstruct and expand its facility which will meet all compliance standards, enhance amenities for current and future agency employees, and improve the reliability of the agency's service in our region. The updates from this funding will make our region more easily accessible in turn providing a positive economic gain in multiple industries.

The Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Shanna Cox'.

Shanna Cox
President & CEO
Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
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(207) 784-2249