

January 21, 2026

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

RE: Maine Department of Transportation's application to fund the *Sparkling New Life into Maine's Star City Project* under the FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program

Northern Light Health

Acadia Hospital
A.R. Gould Hospital
Beacon Health
Blue Hill Hospital
C.A. Dean Hospital
Eastern Maine Medical Center
Home Care & Hospice
Inland Hospital
Maine Coast Hospital
Mercy Hospital
Northern Light Health Foundation
Sebasticook Valley Hospital

Dear Secretary of Transportation,

Please accept this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's ("MaineDOT") application for an FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant. The *Sparkling New Life into Maine's Star City Project* ("Project") consists of significantly improving multimodal infrastructure and increasing safe access to businesses along Main Street/U.S. Route 1 through downtown Presque Isle.

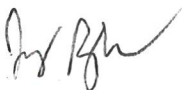
The City of Presque Isle is a significant regional service center in rural northern Maine. U.S. Route 1, which bisects downtown, has long been the sole freight route in the region, serving the area's important forestry, agriculture, and military industries and is a vital trade lane with Canada. Because of growing freight and regional traffic, the city's downtown transportation infrastructure experiences significant deterioration and contributes to unsafe conditions for users of all transportation modes.

The Project includes:

- Redesigning numerous streets to include safe traffic calming features, sidewalks, and crosswalks;
- Repaving or rebuilding roadways, sidewalks, and pathways to address structural deficiencies; and
- Reconfiguring a dangerous five-way intersection to reduce crashes and increase multimodal safety.

The Project will return transportation in Presque Isle to a state of good repair while maintaining the character of the community through safe mobility options and connectivity to employment and businesses. Improving multimodal access through a critical regional service center results in safer connectivity and promotes stronger economic development in rural Maine. In light of these considerations, we respectfully request the Office of the Secretary of Transportation give favorable consideration to the *Sparkling New Life into Maine's Star City Project*.

Sincerely,



Jay Reynolds, MD
SVP & President
Northern Light AR Gould Hospital and Medical Group

January 23, 2026



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

RE: Maine Department of Transportation's application to fund the Sparking New Life into Maine's Star City Project under the FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) 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 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant. The Sparking New Life into Maine's Star City Project ("Project") consists of significantly improving multimodal infrastructure and increasing safe access to businesses along Main Street/U.S. Route 1 through downtown Presque Isle.

The City of Presque Isle is a significant regional service center in rural northern Maine. U.S. Route 1, which bisects downtown, has long been the sole freight route in the region, serving the area's important forestry, agriculture, and military industries and is a vital trade lane with Canada. Because of growing freight and regional traffic, the city's downtown transportation infrastructure experiences significant deterioration and contributes to unsafe conditions for users of all transportation modes.

The number of visitors experiencing Aroostook County has increased every year since 2020 with a 17% increase in annual visitors in 2023 and a strong 120% spike in summertime visitation in 2025. Many of these visitors access recreation, entertainment, and services in Presque Isle before moving on to other attractions, venues, and events taking place in other parts of Aroostook County. This community is a high-value touch point to the visitor experience that influences the perception of the region and the quality of a person's visitation experience. Aroostook County has identified goals of increasing the number of overall visitors to the region, increasing the economic impact of their stay by promoting longer visits and marketing to family travel parties. Safety is the top concern of family visitors and this project promises to improve the street safety of pedestrians and motorists alike.

The Project will return transportation in Presque Isle to a state of good repair while maintaining the character of the community through safe mobility options and connectivity to employment and businesses. Improving multimodal access through a critical regional service center results in safer connectivity and promotes stronger economic development in rural Maine. I respectfully request the Office of the Secretary of Transportation give favorable consideration to the Sparking New Life into Maine's Star City Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jacob Pelkey'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jacob Pelkey
Tourism Developer
Aroostook County Tourism
Northern Maine Development Commission

www.visitaroostook.com

11 West Presque Isle Rd. PO Box 779, Caribou, ME 04736
Voice: (207) 498-8736 Fax: 1-866-498-1388 TTY: (207) 493-5856
jdinsmore@nmdc.org/jjpelkey@nmdc.org



January 13, 2026

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

RE: Maine Department of Transportation's application to fund the Sparking New Life into Maine's Star City Project under the FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program

Dear Secretary of Transportation,

On behalf of Ignite Presque Isle, I am pleased to offer this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's ("MaineDOT") application for an FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant to advance the *Sparking New Life into Maine's Star City Project* ("Project").

Ignite Presque Isle is a regional economic and community development organization dedicated to fostering entrepreneurship, workforce growth, and investment across Aroostook County. The vitality of Presque Isle's downtown transportation network is foundational to our mission, as it directly influences business accessibility, workforce mobility, and the long-term competitiveness of this rural service center.

Presque Isle serves as a critical hub for northern Maine, supporting forestry, agriculture, healthcare, education, and military operations, while also functioning as a vital trade corridor with Canada via U.S. Route 1. As freight volumes and regional traffic have increased, aging infrastructure and outdated roadway configurations have created safety concerns, reduced walkability, and constrained economic potential in the city's downtown core.

The Project thoughtfully addresses these challenges by:

- Redesigning numerous streets to incorporate traffic calming features, sidewalks, and safe, accessible crosswalks;
- Repaving or rebuilding roadways, sidewalks, and pathways to remedy structural deficiencies and improve durability; and
- Reconfiguring a dangerous five-way intersection to reduce crashes and significantly enhance multimodal safety.



From Ignite Presque Isle's perspective, these improvements are not only transportation upgrades—they are economic catalysts. Safer, more connected streets strengthen downtown businesses, encourage private investment, support workforce recruitment and retention, and improve access to employment, services, and amenities for residents and visitors alike. Importantly, the Project advances equitable mobility options in a rural region where reliable transportation access is essential to economic participation.

By restoring Presque Isle's transportation infrastructure to a state of good repair while preserving the community's character, the Project will help ensure that downtown remains a vibrant, accessible, and economically resilient center for northern Maine.

For these reasons, Ignite Presque Isle strongly supports MaineDOT's BUILD Grant application and respectfully urges the U.S. Department of Transportation to give favorable consideration to the *Sparkling New Life into Maine's Star City Project*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "LeRae Kinney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "LeRae" and the last name "Kinney" clearly distinguishable.

LeRae Kinney
Chief Executive Officer
Ignite Presque Isle

January 7, 2026

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

RE: Maine Department of Transportation FY 2026 BUILD Grant Application – Sparking New Life into Maine’s Star City Project

Dear Secretary Duffy,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation’s application for a FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant in support of the *Sparking New Life into Maine’s Star City Project*. This project will significantly improve multimodal transportation infrastructure and enhance safe access to businesses and services along Main Street/U.S. Route 1 in downtown Presque Isle.

Presque Isle serves as a critical regional hub for rural northern Maine. U.S. Route 1, which bisects the downtown, functions as the region’s primary freight corridor, supporting forestry, agriculture, and military activity while also serving as a vital trade route with Canada. Increased freight movement and regional traffic over time have placed substantial strain on the downtown transportation network, contributing to deteriorating infrastructure and unsafe conditions for pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, and commercial traffic alike.

The proposed project will address these challenges through a comprehensive set of improvements, including redesigning key streets to incorporate traffic calming measures, sidewalks, and crosswalks; rehabilitating roadways and pedestrian infrastructure to address longstanding structural deficiencies; and reconfiguring a hazardous five-way intersection to reduce crashes and improve multimodal safety.

Together, these investments will return Presque Isle’s transportation system to a state of good repair while preserving the character of the community and strengthening connections to local businesses and employment centers. By improving safety, accessibility, and reliability in a critical regional service center, this project will advance economic vitality and quality of life across rural Maine.

The University is currently investing millions of dollars in upgrading and improving its infrastructure, including classrooms, dormitories, and our own walkways and roadways in its efforts to accelerate the enrollment growth we have experienced since 2020. But the University will only be fully successful in our goals to attract more residential students and retain them as citizens following graduation if Presque Isle can move forward in its own infrastructure and community revitalization efforts.

EXPECT

An education that defies expectation.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to give favorable consideration to the *Sparking New Life into Maine's Star City Project*. Thank you for your continued commitment to strengthening transportation infrastructure in rural and underserved communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray J. Rice". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Raymond J. Rice
President



Aroostook Regional Transportation System, Inc.

P.O. Box 552, 24 Houlton Road

Presque Isle, Maine, Maine 04769

Telephone (207) 764-1290

Executive Director

Cyr Martin

www.arostooktransportation.org

January 14, 2026

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

RE: Maine Department of Transportation's application to fund the *Sparking New Life into Maine's Star City Project* under the FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) 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 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant. The *Sparking New Life into Maine's Star City Project* ("Project") consists of significantly improving multimodal infrastructure and increasing safe access to businesses along Main Street/U.S. Route 1 through downtown Presque Isle.

The City of Presque Isle is a significant regional service center in rural northern Maine. U.S. Route 1, which bisects downtown, has long been the sole freight route in the region, serving the area's important forestry, agriculture, and military industries and is a vital trade lane with Canada. Because of growing freight and regional traffic, the city's downtown transportation infrastructure experiences significant deterioration and contributes to unsafe conditions for users of all transportation modes.

The Project includes:

- Redesigning numerous streets to include safe traffic calming features, sidewalks, and crosswalks;
- Repaving or rebuilding roadways, sidewalks, and pathways to address structural deficiencies; and
- Reconfiguring a dangerous five-way intersection to reduce crashes and increase multimodal safety.
-

The Project will return transportation in Presque Isle to a state of good repair while maintaining the character of the community through safe mobility options and connectivity to employment and businesses.



**Aroostook Regional
Transportation System, Inc.**

P.O. Box 552, 24 Houlton Road

Presque Isle, Maine, Maine 04769

Telephone (207) 764-1290

Executive Director

Cyr Martin

www.arostooktransportation.org

Improving multimodal access through a critical regional service center results in safer connectivity and promotes stronger economic development in rural Maine. In light of these considerations, we respectfully request the Office of the Secretary of Transportation give favorable consideration to the *Sparking New Life into Maine's Star City Project*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cyr Martin", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cyr Martin
Executive Director



January 9, 2026

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

RE: Maine Department of Transportation's application to fund the *Sparkling New Life into Maine's Star City Project* under the FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) 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 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant. The *Sparkling New Life into Maine's Star City Project* ("Project") consists of significantly improving multimodal infrastructure and increasing safe access to businesses along Main Street/U.S. Route 1 through downtown Presque Isle.

The City of Presque Isle is a significant regional service center in rural northern Maine. US Route 1, which bisects downtown, and has been the sole North/South transportation route in the region, serving the areas important forestry and agriculture industries, and is a vital trade route with Canada. Because of the significant freight and regional traffic, the city's downtown infrastructure experiences significant deterioration and contributes to unsafe conditions for motorists and pedestrians.

The project sets the stage to transform Presque Isle into a safer, more vibrant regional service center by:

- Redesigning numerous streets to include safe traffic calming features, sidewalks, and crosswalks
- Repave or rebuild roadways, sidewalks, and pathways to address structural deficiencies; and
- Reconfigure a dangerous five-way intersection to reduce crashes and increase multimodal safety.

Over the past decade the City of Presque Isle and business community have made significant investments in the downtown including:

- Building a +\$10 million Community Center, playground, splash pad and recreational area located along the downtown and waterfront.

Bike Board and Ski

450 Main Street
Presque Isle, ME 04769
P: 207-769-2453



- Constructing a 1-mile pedestrian walk and bike path that circles the Community Center recreational area and connects it to the downtown.
- Rehabilitation of the historic 51-room Northeastland Hotel in the city center.
- Buildup of multiple retail, restaurant, and commercial businesses in the downtown.

The re-vibrance of downtown Presque Isle has been exciting. That's why Bike Board and Ski, a family-owned, 4-seasons outdoor retailer located our business in the downtown - because we believe in the power of community and want to be a catalyst for change. During our 13-years downtown we have experienced incredible growth, people have come together, and cyclists and pedestrians have come back to our downtown. It's been exciting to be part of the rebirth of our downtown that has been hindered by one major thing.

A consistently degrading, busy and unsafe 4-lane US 1/Main Street

We are told that our business sits on the corner of the busiest US 1/Main Streets in the state. We watch 4-lanes of trailer trucks and vehicles barrel down through our Main Street. We watch our customers struggle to park out front of our store. We have witnessed multiple vehicle and pedestrian incidents at the crosswalk outside our store, sadly a few with injury. We deal with the road noise, dust, exhaust, and pollutants. And, we have watched the Maine DOT repair our downtown multiple times due to the excessive rutting and degradation.

The Project will return transportation in Presque Isle to a state of good repair while maintaining the character of the community through safe mobility options and connectivity to employment and businesses. Improving multimodal access through a critical regional service center results in safer connectivity and promotes stronger economic development in rural Maine. In light of these considerations, we respectfully request the Office of the Secretary of Transportation give favorable consideration to the Sparking New Life into Maine's Star City Project.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Bouchard". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Andrew Bouchard
Bike Board and Ski



January 20, 2026

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

RE: **Maine Department of Transportation's** application to fund the *Sparking New Life into Maine's Star City Project* under the **FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) 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 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant. The *Sparking New Life into Maine's Star City Project* ("Project") consists of significantly improving multimodal infrastructure and increasing safe access to businesses along Main Street/U.S. Route 1 through downtown Presque Isle.

The City of Presque Isle is a significant regional service center in rural northern Maine. U.S. Route 1, which bisects downtown, has long been the sole freight route in the region, serving the area's important forestry, agriculture, and military industries and is a vital trade lane with Canada. Because of growing freight and regional traffic, the city's downtown transportation infrastructure experiences significant deterioration and contributes to unsafe conditions for users of all transportation modes.

The Project includes:

- Redesigning numerous streets to include safe traffic calming features, sidewalks, and crosswalks;
- Repaving or rebuilding roadways, sidewalks, and pathways to address structural deficiencies; and
- Reconfiguring a dangerous five-way intersection to reduce crashes and increase multimodal safety.

On behalf of the more than 450 residents of our Public Housing program, better pedestrian access to food, recreation, health care, community, and work would be a game-changer. Many of our residents, both young and old, lack access to motorized transportation and would benefit from these improvements.

The Project will return transportation in Presque Isle to a state of good repair and maintain the character of the community through safe mobility options and connectivity to employment and businesses. Improving multimodal access through a critical regional service center results in safer connectivity and promotes stronger economic development in rural Maine. In light of these considerations, we respectfully request the Office of the Secretary of Transportation give favorable consideration to the *Sparking New Life into Maine's Star City Project*.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Sweetser
Executive Director