



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE
RESOURCES
21 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0021

PATRICK C. KELIHER
COMMISSIONER

August 11, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington DC 20590

RE: Support Letter for Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) Application to the USDOT and FHWA FY23 Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program.

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) is writing in support of MaineDOT's funding request to the PROTECT Program for the raising of East Side Road in Addison, Maine. The existing causeway crosses the low-lying tidal creek / marsh complex and is vulnerable to sea level rise due to its location directly adjacent to tidal Pleasant Bay and its tributary, Knowles Brook. Increasing outages of East Side Road due to flooding disconnect communities in South Addison from critical emergency facilities and economic opportunities. This area upstream of this structure is an important habitat for several sea-run fish resources including imperiled rainbow smelt.

Maine DMR has worked with Maine DOT and many other partners to improve the resiliency of transportation infrastructure across Maine. We have had great success, and we are a committed partner in this work towards long-term, resilient change by assisting MaineDOT through implementation as well as help gain community and partner support to advance the raising and improvement of East Side Road. Maine DMR's current commitments to some of these projects include public outreach, matching funding, and post-construction monitoring.

If awarded, Maine DMR is committed to seeing the improvement of East Side Road through to successful implementation. This site is a frequent area of flooding and improving this area will be a significant benefit to the community.

Maine DMR is in full support of MaineDOT's efforts to improve the resiliency of Maine's transportation infrastructure, adapt to climate change, and address other climate related community priorities throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Sean Ledwin
Director
Bureau of Sea-Run Fisheries and Habitat