



8/15/2023

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 Downeast Salmon Federation (DSF) 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.

DSF 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. DSF's current commitments to some of these projects include local, on-the-ground support and advocacy for numerous MaineDOT projects, including the larger West Branch Pleasant Coastal Resilience Project just to the north of this proposed project site. If awarded, DSF is committed to seeing the improvement of East Side Road through to successful implementation.

DSF 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Charlie Foster'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

Charlie Foster  
Associate Director, DSF  
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