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September 14, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) funding request through the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. The purpose of this letter is to highlight the critical importance of MaineDOT's proposed road improvement project in Frankfort, Maine, and the positive impact it would have on the transportation infrastructure and environmental resilience of the State of Maine.

MaineDOT's application seeks funding to address the elevation of U.S. Route 1-A in Frankfort, a location that is particularly vulnerable to sea-level rise due to its proximity to the South Branch Marsh River. Currently, a portion of this roadway sits 2.5 feet below the Highest Astronomical Tide, posing a significant risk to both the infrastructure and the safety of the community. This stretch of U.S. Route 1-A serves as a vital Hurricane Evacuation Route, making its existing vulnerability to flooding a pressing concern.

Please give this application every appropriate consideration under all applicable laws and regulations. Thank you for your consideration of MaineDOT's proposed project, which would substantially improve the transportation infrastructure, environmental resilience, and overall safety of this region in Maine. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to have your staff contact Deidre Grant at (207) 945-0417.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator