

December 23, 2024

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

RE: Maine Department of Transportation’s application to fund the *Opportunities Providing Easier Navigation in Brunswick (OPEN in Brunswick) Project* under the FY 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) 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 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant award. The application outlines important plans to significantly improve safety and mobility in downtown Brunswick, Maine, under the *Opportunities Providing Easier Navigation in Brunswick (OPEN in Brunswick) Project* (“Project”).

Like many towns in Maine, Brunswick is struggling to balance aging infrastructure with population growth. The Project addresses this challenge by constructing new and significantly improved infrastructure to create transportation options for all users. Project improvements include:

- Reconstructing streets to include traffic calming features and ADA-compliant sidewalks and crosswalks;
- Building a safe and modern multi-use pathway connecting two currently disjointed paths;
- Redesigning a one-way street;
- Resurfacing streets;
- Implementing drainage improvements; and
- Improving a bus stop

The Project will generate safety improvements in high crash areas, mitigate congestion, accommodate local and regional traffic more efficiently, and increase mobility and accessibility for all transportation modes—without widening streets.

As a regional transit provider that operates in Brunswick, Metro keenly understands the impact that safe and accessible infrastructure has on building transit ridership. The proposed project that the MaineDOT is submitting aligns directly with Metro’s goal to encourage the use of public transit in the region and thus improve the quality of life for the entire community.

We are pleased MaineDOT, in coordination with the Town of Brunswick, is seeking assistance for this very important Project and hope USDOT will assist in funding these improvements. Modernizing streets while simultaneously improving pedestrian facilities will result in safe and efficient mobility in a regional service center. We respectfully request the Office of the Secretary of Transportation give favorable consideration to the *Opportunities Providing Easier Navigation in Brunswick (OPEN in Brunswick) Project*.

Sincerely,

Glenn Fenton

Glenn Fenton
Executive Director
Greater Portland Metro

