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September 13, 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) application to the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. MaineDOT is requesting funding to assist with a project that will raise a section of roadway in Addison, Maine.

If awarded, this project will significantly improve the resilience of East Side Road in Addison, Maine, through needed climate adaptation measures. The existing causeway crosses a low-lying tidal creek and is already vulnerable to sea-level rise due to its location directly adjacent to tidal Pleasant Bay and its tributary, Knowles Brook. This section of road frequently floods, often prohibiting passage and cutting off communities in South Addison from critical emergency services. This project will reduce the impact of flooding events and mitigate the potential for interruptions in service by elevating the roadway and associated bridge above astronomical high tide levels. Additionally, an increase in the size of the crossing over Knowles Brook will enhance water flow capacity, allowing for more naturalized flows.

Please give this request every appropriate consideration under applicable laws and regulations. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Deidre Grant at (207) 945-0417.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator