



THE HAROLD ALFOND CENTER  
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF  
**MAINE'S WORKFORCE**

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April 19, 2024

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

RE: Support Letter for Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) Application to the Federal Transit Administration Low or No Emission Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Harold Alfond Center for the Advancement of Maine's Workforce is pleased to support MaineDOT's request for funding through the Federal Transit Administration's Fiscal Year 2024 Low or No Emission Grant Program.

MaineDOT, in partnership with three Maine transit agencies, is seeking funding for low and no emissions vehicles for transit service across Maine, including associated infrastructure and equipment as well as staff training and workforce development programs. As part of the application, MaineDOT is proposing an innovative approach to ensure successful implementation of the participating transit agencies' fleet transition plans including joint procurement strategies and a collaborative workforce development effort facilitated by the state.

This grant will provide urgently needed funds to enable transit agencies to not only replace aging diesel and gasoline transit vehicles, but to do so with hybrid and electric vehicles that advance agency and state climate goals. The requested chargers are necessary for these vehicles to be placed in service. The training and workforce development funds will provide quality jobs to Mainers and ensure a skilled, diverse, and sustainable labor force is available to support this transition.

Introducing these vehicles throughout the State of Maine will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and directly support the goals of the State's climate action plan "Maine Won't Wait" and corresponding Clean Transportation Roadmap, which calls for continuing to decarbonize Maine's transportation sector.

The Harold Alfond Center for the Advancement of Maine's Workforce is a program of the Maine Community College System (MCCS). We actively partner with our seven community colleges to deliver high-quality and highly skilled training. Each of these training offerings lead to industry recognized credentials and certifications and have direct pathways back to our academic program. This pathway affords individuals an opportunity to continue building on their skillsets. We are excited to support the Maine DOT in their request and will be their key partner in delivering short-term workforce training.

The Harold Alfond Center for the Advancement of Maine's Workforce strongly supports MaineDOT's grant application for this pivotal project. I am hopeful that you will give the project your full consideration and award the requested funding.

Sincerely,

Dan Belyea  
Chief Workforce Development Officer  
The Harold Alfond Center for the Advancement of Maine's Workforce

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