



April 25, 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 Town of Orono 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 City of Bangor, Community Connector, and three other Maine transit agencies, who are 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.

Along with the State's Climate action plan, regionally we have just finished our own climate action plan that this funding would allow us to implement some of the plan's strategies around transportation and move us towards our goal of reducing the region's carbon footprint.

The Town of Orono strongly supports MaineDOT's grant application for this pivotal project. We are hopeful that you will give the project your full consideration and award the requested funding.

Sincerely,

Mitch Stone
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