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January 24, 2025

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

Dear Ms. Kaleta:

I write in support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) application for funding through the FY 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program. MaineDOT's proposed project, *Sparkling New Life into Maine's Star City*, aims to significantly enhance multimodal infrastructure and improve safe access to businesses along Main Street/U.S. Route 1 in downtown Presque Isle. This initiative is part of MaineDOT's Village Partnership Initiative, a program designed to assist municipalities in creating projects that ensure safety and accessibility for all users.

Presque Isle serves as a crucial regional service center in rural northern Maine. U.S. Route 1, which runs through the heart of downtown, has long been the primary freight route for the region, supporting key industries such as forestry, agriculture, and military operations, while also serving as a critical trade corridor with Canada. However, the growing volume of freight and regional traffic has led to significant wear and tear on the city's downtown infrastructure, creating unsafe conditions for all modes of transportation.

The project's proposed improvements include redesigning several streets to incorporate traffic control best practices, including the addition of sidewalks and crosswalks to enhance pedestrian safety. Additionally, the project involves repaving and reconstructing roadways, sidewalks, and pathways to address structural deficiencies and reconfiguring a hazardous five-way intersection to reduce accidents and improve safety for all users.

I am pleased that MaineDOT, in collaboration with the City of Presque Isle, is seeking support from USDOT for this vital project, which will help restore transportation infrastructure while preserving the community's character and improving mobility options and connectivity for residents, workers, and businesses alike. Thank you for your consideration of this application, consistent with applicable laws, rules, and regulations, and please notify Deidre Grant at (207) 945-0417 when a decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator