



January 16, 2025

Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support Letter for Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) and Town of Wells Application to the USDOT FY25 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program

Dear Secretary of Transportation:

I am writing today on behalf of the Board of Directors and the members of the Wells Chamber of Commerce in support of MaineDOT and the Town of Wells' funding request to the 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant application for the MaineDOT *Wells Route 1 Community Gateway: Implementing a Multimodal Vision for Transportation in Wells, Maine Project*.

The MaineDOT and Wells proposed project will improve safety and amenities for active transportation users, while optimizing the mobility and efficiency of motorists along the congested Route 1 corridor. Grant funding would allow the addition of sidewalks, bike lanes, traffic signal hardware upgrades, enhanced crossings, expanded transit stops, pedestrian lighting, and other amenities to maintain or improve operations along the Route 1 corridor. The Project will transform 5.6 miles of Route 1 in Wells into a more continuous, connected multimodal transportation network that serves all roadway users in Wells, while supporting economic growth and improving quality of life in this rural community.

We support this transformational project to create a community gateway along the Route 1 corridor in Wells that will reduce vehicle trips and vehicle emissions through implementation of multimodal opportunities.

Tourism is the economic engine for the Town of Wells. The Wells community has long recognized the importance of a healthy tourist industry to its local economy. This generational project will support economic growth and travel efficiency and safety not only for our residents but our visitors that have selected Wells as their vacation destination of choice.

Sincerely,

Eleanor J. Vadenais
President / CEO

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