



Michael Burke, Board President

Sandra Buchanan, General Manager

December 30, 2024

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

Please accept this letter of support regarding the Maine Department of Transportation's FY 2025 RAISE grant application for the "Opportunities Providing Easier Navigation in Brunswick" (OPEN in Brunswick) project to improve safety and mobility in Brunswick's congested downtown area.

As the fixed-route and ADA public transit provider for Brunswick, and operator of two commuter routes, and a flex-route service in the region, Western Maine Transportation Services understands the importance of this project to Brunswick's residents, businesses, and visitors, and to the areas surrounding Brunswick. We're very encouraged that MaineDOT is leading the effort for the OPEN in Brunswick project to benefit downtown Brunswick, and the entire region.

Downtown Brunswick is full of active small businesses, has a bus and rail transportation hub, is home to Bowdoin College, and is at the confluence of a number of significant local, state, and federal roadways. These serve as gateways to Bath (home of the Bath Iron Works shipyard) and Maine's fabled Mid Coast region, to the east; Freeport (home of L.L. Bean) and Portland, to the south; Maine's capital, Augusta, to the north; and Maine's second largest urban area, Lewiston ~Auburn, to the west. Brunswick's downtown is adjacent to the very successful BRAC implementation, Brunswick Landing, at the former Naval Air Station Brunswick, with its diverse business, research, manufacturing, and residential properties, including the 8000-foot Brunswick Executive Airport, the third-longest airfield in Maine. As such, the streets and roads through downtown Brunswick carry high volumes of local and regional residents, workers, freight, and tourists.

Brunswick continues to experience significant population and business growth as one of the most desirable communities in Maine, while being constrained by its streets, some of which were laid out and built as early as 1717. The OPEN in Brunswick project includes:

- Rebuilding key streets to include traffic-calming features, along with ADA-compliant sidewalks and crosswalks
 - Resurfacing other streets
 - Improving surface drainage
 - Constructing a bike-ped trail to connect two existing trails
 - Changing an important thoroughfare from one-way, to two-way traffic
- and
- Making bus stop improvements

We believe the OPEN in Brunswick project is very deserving of a RAISE grant, and we ardently hope your office is able to fully-fund MaineDOT for the requested amount.

Please contact us with any questions you believe we may be able to answer about this project.

Sincerely,

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