



January 27, 2023

Rick Murray  
Agreement Officer  
Office of Acquisition and Grants Management  
Federal Highway Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Mailstop E62-204  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Mr. Murray,

I am writing in support of the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Maine Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) project entitled "MaineDOT Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Program" as a municipal partner in the project, which is seeking funding from the Federal Highway Administration through the Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage Opportunity. The town of Alna supports the goal of this project in coastal Maine to improve access to key habitat for sea-run fish, while improving aging and insufficient culvert infrastructure that is currently a burden to our municipal budget. We support the collaborative approach MDOT is taking to improve access to habitat for endangered and climate resilient fish stocks and advance climate resilience strategies outlined in Maine Won't Wait, Maine's 4-year climate action plan through the replacement of aging and undersized culverts that currently are barriers to endangered fish and pose recurring problems, such as flood risk and road closure, to our town.

Alna is committing to participate in the project alongside the State of Maine to replace the culvert (MSHV #3747) on Egypt Rd. in Alna. This culvert is severely perched and close to failing, and its replacement will allow upstream passage for Atlantic salmon and other anadromous fish. The estimated cost for this project is \$1,480,920 including design and construction costs. This project has already received \$645,000 of federal funding, so the remaining balance is \$835,920. The town of Alna pledges \$167,184 as non-federal match to cover the 20% requirement. The town was awarded a Maine DEP Stream Crossing Grant of \$125,000 and will allocate town money to cover the remaining match (\$42,184).

The coordination that the State of Maine is providing around project design and implementation in combination with reducing the financial burden to the town with federal grant dollars is what is needed to make this project move forward. We request that the Federal Highway Administration fund the MDOT proposal which will provide access to 77 Atlantic salmon habitat units and 7.7 miles of stream habitat for key anadromous fish species.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Park".

Select Board Chair