



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

January 28, 2025

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

Dear Secretary of Transportation,

We are writing to express our strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) application for funding under the FY 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant program. The proposed project, *Sparkling New Life into Maine's Star City*, is an essential initiative to enhance the infrastructure of downtown Presque Isle, ensuring safer and more accessible multimodal transportation for its residents and visitors.

The City of Presque Isle plays a critical role as the primary regional hub for rural northern Maine, and U.S. Route 1, which cuts through the city, serves as the lifeblood of the local economy, providing essential routes for freight, commerce, and military transportation. However, the heavy traffic and growing regional demand have placed significant stress on the downtown infrastructure, leading to deteriorating road conditions and unsafe environments for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists alike.

This project will bring much-needed improvements to the city's transportation network, including the redesign of streets with traffic-calming measures, the addition of safe crosswalks and sidewalks, and the rebuilding of critical roadways and pathways. These upgrades will not only address the physical challenges posed by an aging infrastructure but will also provide a safer and more efficient environment for both residents and travelers. Additionally, the reconfiguration of the hazardous five-way intersection will further enhance public safety by reducing the potential for accidents.

We believe that this project will make a meaningful impact on the quality of life for the people of Presque Isle and the surrounding communities, many of whom we represent in the Maine State Legislature. The combined efforts of MaineDOT and the City of Presque Isle in addressing these challenges demonstrate a forward-thinking approach to infrastructure investment that prioritizes safety, sustainability, and equity.

We strongly urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to approve the RAISE Grant funding for this project. The proposed improvements are vital to the city's growth and prosperity, and we are confident that the benefits of this initiative will be felt across the entire region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trey Stewart".

Trey Stewart
State Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph F. Underwood".

Joseph F. Underwood
State Representative