



December 18, 2024

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

RE: Maine Department of Transportation's application to fund the *Sparkling New Life into Maine's Star City Project* under the FY 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program

Dear Secretary of Transportation,

Aroostook County Tourism (ACT) supports the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) application for an FY 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant. The *Sparkling New Life into Maine's Star City Project* (Project) will significantly improve multimodal infrastructure and increase access to businesses along Main Street/U.S. Route 1 through downtown Presque Isle. Today this travel route is a bottleneck to traffic and a hindrance to pedestrians, cyclists, economic growth of the downtown area.

The City of Presque Isle is the largest service center in Maine's Aroostook County – a county the size of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined. U.S. Route 1 bisects downtown and is the sole freight route in the region. This means freight traffic carrying logs, potatoes, and heavy equipment move through an extremely tight travel corridor to access all points to the north and New Brunswick, Canada.

The project includes:

- Updated sidewalks, curbs, and crosswalks provide protection to pedestrians and increase access to commercial properties and leisure areas.
- Reconfiguring a dangerous five-way intersection that is identified as the highest collision area in Aroostook County.

Please give your full consideration to the *Sparkling New Life into Maine's Star City Project* and contact me if I can share testimony on how this project will increase the safety, character, and livability of Presque Isle, Maine.

Sincerely,

Jacob Pelkey
Tourism Developer
Northern Maine Development Commission

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