

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 28, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write to express our strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MDOT) application for funding for its Traffic Mobility Improvements – Phase I Project through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program. The project will fulfill local transportation and economic needs by increasing traffic mobility in designated communities across Maine.

The State of Maine faces unique infrastructure challenges due to its geography, weather conditions, and population density. Because much of Maine is rural, reliable infrastructure is critical for its residents to access employment, education, health care, and other services. In its efforts to upgrade the state's infrastructure system, it is crucial that MDOT has adequate funding. Through this project, the department plans to leverage federal dollars to replace or enhance 101 traffic signals statewide as the first phase of a larger traffic mobility improvement project that aims to reduce traffic congestion and make transportation in the state more efficient.

This project will enable MDOT to integrate cutting-edge technologies into Maine's traffic signal system to improve aging infrastructure. The new features will have many benefits for Mainers, helping make industries like trucking more competitive in the state, improving traffic mobility for first responders, and making significant improvements to intersections for the blind and visually impaired in adherence to the American with Disabilities Act. As evidenced by the project outline, MDOT is prepared to make the necessary changes to the state's transportation system to make it safe and efficient for commuters, businesses, and community members alike. This is especially applicable to pedestrians who are unable to drive or who rely on limited public transit.

We strongly believe that the technological advances detailed in MDOT's BUILD proposal will go a long way towards ensuring that Maine's infrastructure is up to date, efficient, and reliable. Improving the state's overall traffic mobility would enhance the quality of life for area residents and further expand economic opportunity.

Thank you for your attention to this proposal. We respectfully request that the Department give careful consideration to the Maine Department of Transportation's application, subject to all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that your staff notify Cam O'Brien on Senator Collins' staff at (202) 224-2523 and Adam Lachman on Senator King's staff at (202) 224-5344 when a final decision is made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



CHELLIE PINGREE
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
1ST DISTRICT, MAINE

July 27, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I submit this letter in support of the Maine Department of Transportation's application for the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant program. The MaineDOT Traffic Mobility Improvements – Phase 1 Project—which this BUILD Grant would support if awarded—seeks to replace or enhance 101 traffic signals all across Maine.

All 101 traffic signals identified for replacement through this project are nearing or are at the end of their service life. It is imperative for not only the flow of traffic, but the safety of those motorists traveling through the intersection, that these traffic signals be operational and efficient. The project would also benefit first responders and emergency service providers who do so much for Mainers.

Along with upgrading and improving traffic signals across Maine, this project would enhance the safety of pedestrians with disabilities. The installation of Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) is important when addressing the welfare of all Mainers. This is especially beneficial because of the improved technology in traffic signals that help the blind and visually impaired navigate roadways. There will also be changes to improve ramps and making intersections easier to cross.

Many communities across the state would benefit tremendously if Maine were a recipient of the BUILD Grant funding. Several of these communities benefitting from the funding lie within the First Congressional District, which I represent in the US House of Representatives. The Traffic Mobility Improvements planned by the Maine Department of Transportation would make a drastic change for the residents in the areas chosen for the project. It will also make an important step forward in modernizing Maine's infrastructure.

I truly appreciate the Maine Department of Transportation's initiative to make necessary improvements to the infrastructure system in Maine. I wholeheartedly support the efforts of

MaineDOT, and respectfully request that you consider funding this project fully in the first round of BUILD funding.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chellie P.", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

July 13, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I offer this letter in support of the Maine Department of Transportation's application which seeks funding from the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program. The MaineDOT Traffic Mobility Improvements – Phase 1 Project, which this funding would go to support, seeks to replace or enhance 101 traffic signals all across Maine.

Traffic signals, when operating properly, move a significant amount of traffic from point A to point B. On the flip side, when a signal is working improperly, significant delays and safety concerns are created. The signals identified for replacement through this project are all nearing or are at the end of their service life. If these signals are not replaced, the safety of the traveling public could be in danger.

Along with upgrading and improving traffic signals across Maine, this project would enhance the safety of pedestrians with disabilities. Installing Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) and adding ADA improvements at pedestrian ramps would help those with disabilities to cross roadways that would otherwise be deemed dangerous for this population group.

Many communities across the state would benefit tremendously if Maine were a recipient of the BUILD Grant funding. Not only would it aid the mobility of traffic through these areas, it would improve the safety of every motorist and pedestrian travelling there. It is for these reasons that I wholeheartedly support the efforts of the Maine Department of Transportation, and respectfully request that you consider funding this project fully in the first round of BUILD funding.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul R. LePage".

Paul R. LePage
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



*3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003*

July 19, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

We are pleased to send you this letter showing our strong and unified support for the Maine Department of Transportation's efforts to secure funds through the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program. This funding, if awarded, will go towards critical improvements that focus on traffic mobility in Maine, including in its rural communities.

As a group, we collectively represent communities that will benefit greatly from the project planned by MaineDOT. The first phase of the traffic mobility improvements focuses on replacing or enhancing 101 traffic signals across the state. These technological advancements will provide safety and mobility benefits, which in turn will lead to a decrease in fuel usage and a gain in air quality. These improvements will also make a remarkable difference in the ability of First Responders and Emergency Services to do their jobs for the people of Maine.

The planned upgrades will be a boost to businesses and the communities that make up our districts. Being able to adjust the signals according to varying traffic volumes will benefit everyone and make traffic mobility more efficient and reliable. The benefits to commuters and regional commerce in our different districts will have a tremendous and positive impact, especially in view of potential reductions in traffic congestion.

Another benefit to the proposed project is the focus placed on our constituents who suffer from a disability that impairs their ability to easily navigate within our towns. A BUILD grant will help the department add Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS), which specifically aid those who are blind or visually impaired. These individuals have very few options and must walk most places due to the limited access to public transportation in Maine. There will also be many improvements made that will adhere to standards created by the ADA.

We appreciate the initiative the Maine Department of Transportation is taking to move forward and make critical improvements to our infrastructure systems in Maine. This grant funding would go a long way toward updating our state's traffic mobility systems and making our communities more accessible to all. We respectfully request that you favorably consider the department's application and its request for funding assistance from the U. S. Department of Transportation.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael Thibodeau
President of the Senate



Scott Cyrway
State Senator



Tom Saviello
State Senator



David Woodsome
State Senator



Donna Doore
State Representative



Brad Farrin
State Representative



Colleen Madigan
State Representative



Thomas Longstaff
State Representative



Shenna Bellows
State Senator



Roger Katz
State Senator



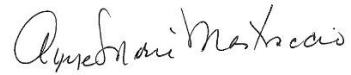
Rod Whittemore
State Senator



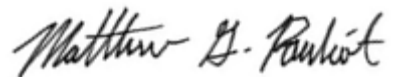
Erin Herbig
Democratic Majority Leader



Gay Grant
State Representative



Anne-Marie Mastraccio
State Representative



Matthew Pouliot
State Representative



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO, CITY MANAGER

July 16, 2018

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

RE: Maine DOT Traffic Mobility Improvements - Phase 1 Project under the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support of Maine Department of Transportations (Maine DOT) Build Grant Application for funding assistance for the Maine DOT Traffic Mobility Improvements project- Phase 1. The City of Augusta being the Capital of the state of Maine, sees its population triple each and every work day as vehicles head into and out of our municipality. This influx of traffic can lead to congestion, which puts a significant burden on the forty traffic signals throughout the city.

Maine DOT's Traffic Mobility Improvements – Phase 1 project allows the introduction of adaptive signal technology to two of our busiest corridors connecting the Capitol complex to the interstate. The ability of the adaptive technology to adjust signal timing based on traffic volumes will be of great benefit to the community, the commuters and the businesses within the community that use this route for commerce. The City is also intrigued with the addition of dedicated short range communications (DSRC) to our traffic signals. The City has several trucking firms that may benefit from the installations.

The addition of the Accessible Pedestrian Signals is also a benefit to our sight impaired members of the community and those that journey in during the work day. The other ADA improvements proposed will undoubtedly make the situation better for those involved.

I am pleased that Maine DOT is seeking assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation to repair not only our signals but those of our neighboring communities. The money saved on fuel and time of travel is a significant benefit to members of our community, the traveling public and those working in commerce. Therefore, we respectfully request that you consider funding for this project in the 2018 BUILD grant.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

William Bridgeo, City Manager

Copy:

Town of Farmington

153 Farmington Falls Road, Farmington, Maine 04938

Tel: 207-778-6538 Fax: 207-778-5871

E-mail: info@farmington-maine.org

TDD (Emergency): 911 / TDD (Administration): 207-778-5873



July 11, 2018

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

RE: MaineDOT Traffic Mobility Improvements - Phase 1 Project under the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support of Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) Build Grant Application for funding assistance for the MaineDOT Traffic Mobility Improvements Project- Phase 1. The Town of Farmington has many traffic signals that have reached the end of their service life and are operating at an extremely poor level of service. While the Town does its best to maintain the signals, the issues that arise are beyond what can be expected from normal maintenance.

MaineDOT's Traffic Mobility Improvements – Phase 1 project allows the introduction of Advanced Traffic Controllers, Accessible Pedestrian Signals and ADA improvements to all of our signals. The Town is also intrigued with the addition of dedicated short-range communications (DSRC) to our traffic signals allowing for introduction of Autonomous and Connected Vehicle communications. Nestle/Poland Spring, as a major employer north of town, may benefit from the DSRC installations and the safety benefits that Nestle/ Poland Spring and the traveling public will be afforded through the installs.

I am pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation to repair not only our signals but those of our neighboring communities. The money saved on fuel and time of travel is a significant benefit to members of our community, the traveling public and those working in commerce. Therefore, we respectfully request that you consider funding for this project in the 2018 BUILD grant.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Davis
Town Manager



City of Sanford, Maine
Public Works Department
156 SCHOOL STREET, SANFORD, MAINE 04073
(207) 324-9135 mehill@sanfordmaine.org



July 11, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: MaineDOT Traffic Mobility Improvements
Phase 1 Project: Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support for the Maine Department of Transportations (MaineDOT) Build Grant Application for funding assistance for the MaineDOT Traffic Mobility Improvements Project - Phase 1. The City of Sanford has twelve traffic signals that have reached the end of their service life and require frequent major repairs as the issues that arise are beyond normal maintenance expectations.

The MaineDOT's Traffic Mobility Improvements – Phase 1 project allows the introduction of Advanced Traffic Controllers, Accessible Pedestrian Signals, and ADA improvements to all of these signals. The City of Sanford also offers unique contributions in order to maximize the utilization of such improvements:

- The signals will be inter-connected via two strands of the City's new 288 strand fiber-optic network (SanfordNet) that we have initiated in order to help revitalize our local economy. By adding dedicated short range communications (DSRC) to the traffic signals, it will facilitate the introduction of; Autonomous and Connected Vehicle communications, centralization for signal control through the Sanford Regional Communications Center (SRCC), direct communications with our latest fleet patrol/emergency/maintenance vehicles, and benefits for local and regional private trucking firms.
- Along with SanfordNet, the City has been selected by the nonprofit Post Road Foundation to partner in a new study that will analyze the benefits of interconnectivity between intelligent infrastructure, high-quality communications, and sustainability. Smart grid applications currently involve existing utility companies such as water and sewer but are soon to also involve Sanford's 50MW solar array (as noted below). Adding intelligent traffic systems to this study portfolio would not only provide better service but that service would have the opportunity to be closely studied afterwards for additional national recognition. One of the primary study factors is economic development. For more information on the Post Road Foundation, please visit:

<https://www.muninetworks.org/content/post-road-foundation-announces-partners-new-funding-infrastructure-approach>

- The Sanford Seacoast Regional Airport (SFM) has created a significant regional niche by primarily serving non-commercial air traffic. Located just twelve miles from Maine's beaches, nearby to many business and vacation destinations, it services many planes that want to avoid the bustle of Boston, Massachusetts or Portland, Maine. The Airport is breaking ground in 2018 on a 50MW solar array that will generate economic stimulus for the community through land lease and tax revenue through Maine's most celebrated industry; natural resource extraction.



City of Sanford, Maine
Public Works Department
156 SCHOOL STREET, SANFORD, MAINE 04073
(207) 324-9135 mehill@sanfordmaine.org



- The construction of the New \$110 million Sanford High School, a fully integrated academic and career technical center, will significantly increase traffic demands upon the existing signals as 8 communities will contribute buses, students, and parents to the Center during peak traffic hours.

We are enthusiastic that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation to repair the City's signals and are very interested in the potential upgrade in transportation infrastructure that is greatly needed. The money saved on vehicle repair costs, fuel consumption, and time of travel resulting from improved signal timings, traffic coordination, and direct vehicle communications can be a tangible benefit to the City's municipal fleet and public safety departments, all members of our local community, the regional traveling Public, and commercial enterprises.

Therefore, we respectfully request that you consider funding for this project in the 2018 BUILD grant.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Buck
City Manager
City of Sanford

Matthew E. Hill, P.E.
Director of Public Works
City Engineer

Cc: Thomas Cote, Mayor of Sanford
Stephen Landry, P.E. MaineDOT State Traffic Engineer
Anne-Marie Mastraccio, Maine House of Representatives
Patricia Hymanson, Maine House of Representatives

David Bernhardt, P.E. MaineDOT Commissioner
Matthew Harrington, Maine House of Representatives
David Woodsome, Maine Senate



Office of the
City Manager

July 6, 2018

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

RE: MaineDOT Traffic Mobility Improvements - Phase 1 Project under the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support of Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) Build Grant Application for funding assistance for the MaineDOT Traffic Mobility Improvements Project- Phase 1. The City of Waterville has had some recent success with a MaineDOT signal upgrade, but we have seen that we have many intersections that have volumes that vary significantly during the course of the day. The addition of adaptive signal technology along Kennedy Memorial Drive (KMD) and the upper portion of Maine St will certainly help some of the issues we have at those locations.

MaineDOT's Traffic Mobility Improvements – Phase 1 project allows the introduction of adaptive signal technology to two of our busiest corridors connecting the downtown area to the interstate. The ability of the adaptive technology to adjust signal timing based on traffic volumes will be of great benefit to the community, the commuters and the businesses within the community that use this route for commerce. The City is also intrigued with the addition of dedicated short range communications (DSRC) to our traffic signals. The City has several trucking firms that may benefit from the installations.

I am pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation to repair not only our signals but those of our neighboring communities. The money saved on fuel and time of travel is a significant benefit to members of our community, the traveling public and those working in commerce. Therefore, we respectfully request that you consider funding for this project in the 2018 BUILD grant.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Roy
City Manager
City of Waterville



1 Common Street, Waterville, ME 04901-6699
Phone: (207) 680-4204 | Fax: (207) 680-4207
mroy@waterville-me.gov | www.waterville-me.gov



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU REHABILITATION SERVICES
DIVISION FOR THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED
151 JETPORT BOULEVARD
PORTLAND, MAINE 04102-9974

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

JOHN BUTERA
COMMISSIONER

July 3, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

RE: MaineDOT Traffic Mobility Improvements - Phase 1 Project under the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant

I am pleased to submit this letter of support of Maine Department of Transportations (MaineDOT) Build Grant Application for funding assistance for the MaineDOT Traffic Mobility Improvements project- Phase 1. As an Orientation & Mobility Specialist, I teach people who are blind and visually impaired (all ages) the skills to navigate safely and as independently as possible on foot and via public transportation. It is imperative in today's world, where there are more cars than people out on the streets AND those cars are getting quieter and quieter, that streets offer at least the safety the ADA requires. In general, it's safe to say that people who are blind/visually impaired do tend to gravitate to built up areas, given they cannot not drive and built up areas tend to offer more services. While I am not familiar with all the towns being proposed for upgrades, I do know that two of the proposed municipalities, Sanford and Farmington, have a significant amount of blind and sight impaired citizens. The ADA curb ramp upgrades, as well as the Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) will make crossing of significant intersections in those communities easier for those with visual impairments.

I commend MaineDOT for going after this grant and can only hope they will be awarded this grant. Blind and Visually Impaired Mainers don't have a choice to drive. Walking is the primary medium to get places (especially given the limited/non-existent public transportation beyond our few urban towns). Mainers need/deserve the safest route possible to get their basic daily needs/pleasures met...the ADA and APS improvements at least offers some of that safe passage.

Sincerely,


Kathy Clarrage

Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist
Division for the Blind & Visually Impaired
Katherine.c.clarrage@maine.gov

PHONE: 1-800-760-1573

TTY users call Maine Relay 711

FAX: (207) 287-5292

The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in programs, services and employment.

Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request.

Programs are provided as a proud partner of the American Job Center network.

tel | 800.640.7200
fax | 207.799.8346



127 Main Street
South Portland, ME 04106

July 9, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

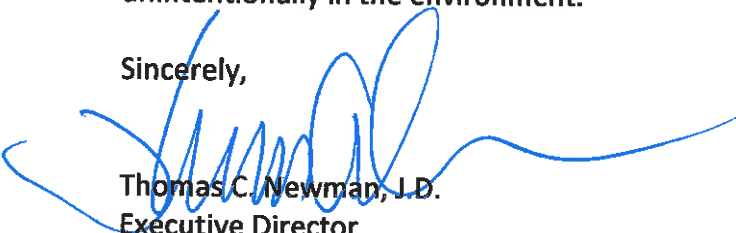
RE: Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant

Alpha One is pleased to support Maine Department of Transportations (MaineDOT) Build Grant Application for funding assistance for the MaineDOT Traffic Mobility Improvements project- Phase 1. For 40 years Alpha One, as Maine's Center for Independent Living (CIL), has striven to be Maine's leader in disability knowledge, services and resources. Operated by and for people with disabilities, Alpha One is committed to a vision of independence, choice and personal responsibility.

This grant will allow MaineDOT to increase independence and safety to more communities in Maine for people of all abilities. Maine's older active adults are also realizing the challenges of using outdated pedestrian facilities as they desire to stay engage in their communities, like Belfast who are being innovative to create more livable communities.

Alpha One celebrates the possible and we support the aspirations of all people with a disability. For us, Independent Living means people with a disability will live just like everyone else, having opportunities to make decisions about one's life, to pursue activities of one's choosing free of any arbitrary constraints created intentionally or unintentionally in the environment.

Sincerely,



Thomas C. Newman, J.D.
Executive Director
Alpha One