



August 15, 2024

The Honorable Shailen Bhatt, Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Maine Department of Transportation's application to fund the *Chargers to Promote Resilience: A Recharge Maine Community Project* under the FY 2024-2025 Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program

Dear Administrator Bhatt,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) grant application for the Federal Highway Administration's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program. The *Chargers to Promote Resilience: A Recharge Maine Community Project* — supported by project partner Efficiency Maine Trust — aims to deploy electric vehicle (EV) charging stations throughout Maine, particularly in areas facing climate change-related resiliency challenges.

Through the Project, MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine will install 64 DC Fast Charger ports across 10 communities and at six hospitals. The locations — primarily near the State's numerous peninsulas and along flood-prone rivers — have increasingly faced flooding and prolonged power outages due to severe weather. Other locations support affected communities during evacuations from such events.

The Project will:

- Improve charger availability during widespread power outages.
- Ensure communities statewide, including disadvantaged and rural areas, have equitable access to charging infrastructure.
- Help Maine meet its goal to decrease greenhouse gas emissions 45 percent by 2030, 80 percent by 2050, and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.

Forth is a mission-driven nonprofit that helps cities, states, utilities and employers plan and execute the transition to electric transportation. Forth promotes the adoption of EVs of all types and sizes; plans for thoughtful installation of EV charging infrastructure in various settings; promotes local, state and national policies that support transportation electrification; and helps launch and scale shared electric mobility initiatives ranging from e-scooters and e-bikes to ride-hailing companies and electric car-sharing. Forth firmly believes *The Chargers to Promote Resilience Project* will equitably increase access to crucial charging infrastructure in areas heavily impacted by power outages, while also helping Maine to reach their carbon reduction goals.

By expanding EV infrastructure, residents and Maine's many visitors will feel more confident about adopting EVs and the availability of power during extreme weather events. The widespread adoption of EVs is critical to reducing carbon emissions and protecting the State's natural resources from climate-related events. In light of these considerations, we respectfully request the Federal Highway Administration give favorable consideration to the *Chargers to Promote Resilience Project*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cat Plein".

Cat Plein
Development and Communications Director