



City of Auburn, Maine

Transportation Systems Director
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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 ***Delivering the Charge: A Recharge Maine Corridor Project*** under the **FY 2024-2025 Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program**

Dear Administrator Bhatt,

Please accept this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's ("MaineDOT") application under the FY 2024-2025 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program. The application outlines MaineDOT's important plans—with support from project partner Efficiency Maine Trust ("Efficiency Maine")—to expand access to electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure along Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs) in Maine.

Through the *Delivering the Charge: A Recharge Maine Corridor Project* ("Project"), MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine will install 80 DC Fast Charger ports for light-, medium-, and heavy-duty EVs across 20 strategic locations on Maine's most heavily travelled corridors. The new chargers will supplement the existing and growing network of public and private chargers and help complete the State's AFC buildout.

In alignment with the *Maine Plan for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment*, the Project will:

- Reduce EV range anxiety for residents and Maine's many visitors along Federally designated AFCs;
- Strengthen Maine's economy by reducing drivers' fuel costs and ensuring charging ease for visitors;
- Advance Maine's progress toward reducing harmful emissions from vehicles; and
- Help Maine meet its overarching goals to decrease greenhouse gas emissions 45 percent by 2030, 80 percent by 2050, and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.

The City of Auburn, through its climate planning work, has identified the strategic deployment of charging infrastructure of critical importance and identified those priorities citywide in partnership with Bates College students. There is a need to serve commercial and visitor activity along our transportation corridors, and to build confidence in our residents that transitioning to EV from internal combustion engines is feasible with nearby charging. Widespread adoption of EVs is essential to reducing carbon emissions and protecting Auburn and the State's natural resources. In light of these considerations, we respectfully request the Federal Highway Administration give favorable consideration to the *Delivering the Charge Project*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jonathan P. LaBonte".

Jonathan P. LaBonte
Transportation Systems Director