



TOWN OF GRAY

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Michael Foley
Town Manager
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August 19, 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 *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 Town of Gray, Maine, occupies a strategic location nestled between two significant population hubs: Greater Portland and Lewiston/Auburn. Five major state routes also intersect here along with Interstate 95. This position places Gray at the heart of a region that accounts for nearly half of Maine's total population and major traffic flow. Enhancing access to EV charging infrastructure in this corridor is not only crucial for supporting the growing number of EV owners but also aligns with broader state and community sustainability goals.

Recognizing the importance of EV adoption and infrastructure, Gray has proactively integrated electric vehicle priorities into its Comprehensive Plan. This forward-thinking approach underscores the town's commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. To date, Gray has already made substantial progress by installing Level 2 chargers at the Town Office, which are now actively utilized by municipal vehicles. This investment in EV infrastructure demonstrates the town's dedication to leading by example and supporting the transition to cleaner transportation options.

Despite these advancements, there is an ongoing and increasing demand for more advanced charging solutions, particularly Level 3 chargers, which offer faster charging times and are crucial for long-distance travel and increased convenience. The town regularly receives requests from residents and businesses for additional Level 3 charging stations, reflecting a growing recognition of their importance.

Securing this grant would be instrumental in addressing these needs and expanding the availability of Level 3 chargers in the area. By investing in this infrastructure, we can significantly enhance the accessibility and convenience of EV charging, support the broader regional effort to reduce carbon emissions, and foster a more sustainable community. This grant will not only help meet the immediate needs of EV owners but also contribute to the long-term goals of the state and the town by promoting the adoption of electric vehicles and advancing green energy solutions.

Widespread adoption of EVs is essential to reducing carbon emissions and protecting 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*.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Foley". The signature is stylized and cursive, written over the printed name below it.

Michael Foley, Town Manager