



8/16/24

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.

Every four years, NRCM conducts the only statewide survey of all registered EV owners in Maine. Our most recent survey in 2022 found that the top two concerns for prospective EV buyers were, by far, not having enough battery range to get where they want to go (55%) and not having enough charging stations to

support their travel needs (53%). Maine has made good progress in deploying EV charging over the past few years through the Recharge Maine program conducted by Maine DOT and Efficiency Maine, but charging availability remains a primary concern for our members and supporters as they consider switching to an electric vehicle.

Increasing charger availability strategically along Maine's most traveled corridors will help to mitigate concerns for drivers that live and work here, as well as for those who visit Maine and support Maine's vital tourism and recreation industries. Maine's EV population has been growing exponentially over the past several years, but Maine still has a long way to go to hit its climate goals. A robust charging network featuring ample community chargers complemented by strategically located fast chargers along Maine's major corridors will give Mainers the needed confidence to make the switch to electric.

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*.

Sincerely,

Jack Shapiro  
Climate and Clean Energy Program Director