

August 16, 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,

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy in Maine (TNC), I am writing to express our 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 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.

The Nature Conservancy is dedicated to creating a world where people and nature thrive and has been directly involved in efforts to reduce emissions across the state. TNC has worked closely with both MaineDOT and project partner, Efficiency Maine Trust on projects that support energy resilience and respond to the impacts of climate change.

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;
- 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.

Expanding EV infrastructure is the key to helping both residents and Maine's many visitors 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. Access to charging infrastructure is a commonly cited barrier to EV adoption across our state, and investments to combat this obstacle will help achieve our emissions reductions targets in the state and across the region.

TNC respectfully requests that the Federal Highway Administration give favorable consideration to MaineDOT's application for the *Delivering the Charge Project*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kaitlyn Nuzzo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a long, sweeping underline.

Kaitlyn Nuzzo  
Government Relations Director  
The Nature Conservancy in Maine