



November 28, 2022

Amit Bose, Administrator  
Federal Railroad Administration  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bose:

The Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center, the Area MPO for the Lewiston and Auburn, ME area, would like to express very strong support for the Vermont Agency Of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant application, "Tri-State Regional Rail Upgrade Project."

The St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad (SLR) is partnering with the states of Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire on this grant project. The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTRANS) is the lead applicant for the application. Matching funds are being provided by the States of Maine and New Hampshire, as well as the SLR to make the project an innovative public-private partnership. After years of investment in this corridor by the State of Maine and the SLR, this is the final work needed to complete the three-state modern heavy haul rail freight corridor and achieve 286,000 lb. railcar weight capacity for current and future Maine businesses. Railcar shipments are currently restricted to 263,000 lbs. which results in inefficient shipment of partially loaded freight cars. This puts our Maine businesses at a competitive disadvantage.

The SLR mainline will receive new, heavier welded rail, ties, ballast, and grade crossing rehabilitation. This project will continue efforts by the SLR and the three states over many years to upgrade the SLR main line into a state of good repair, enhance safety, and allow fully loaded modern rail car shipments,

Having access to the national rail network is very important for supply chain efficiency. Maine has several key businesses that depend on the SLR for the movement of wood pulp and chemicals for the paper making industry, propane for heating fuel, lumber, and other commodities.

Please give this CRISI grant application serious consideration for selection and award.

Sincerely yours,

Larry Allen  
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Transit Program Manager  
Civil Rights Officer  
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