



*130th Legislature
State of Maine*

May 18, 2022

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We would like to express our strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) application for funding through the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Program, for a project that would have an immensely positive benefit to a community we represent in the Maine State Legislature.

Through their application, MaineDOT is seeking funding assistance of \$44.1 million for the *Presque Isle Freight and Mobility Priority Corridor Project*. This project will provide a much-needed route for vehicles, particularly those carrying freight, traveling to points north and south of the City to avoid the downtown area.

The City of Presque Isle, situated in north-eastern Aroostook County, is a service center for smaller surrounding communities. The primary route in this area of the county for passenger and freight vehicles is U.S. Route 1, which navigates its way through the middle of the city. This presents a myriad of safety challenges and mobility obstacles for both motorists and vulnerable roadway users. This segment of U.S. Route 1 has been identified as a "freight bottleneck" on Maine's National Highway System network, due to the lower speeds, and congestion during peak travel times.

This project proposes to alleviate this congestion by creating a two-lane roadway bypass of Presque Isle, therefore reintroducing the village feel to downtown Presque Isle that's been eroded over the years. It will reduce trucking traffic through downtown Presque Isle, therefore allowing the city to focus on revitalizing its city center. Because of these benefits, and many more, we fully support the project, and would ask that you give MaineDOT's application and request for funding full consideration.

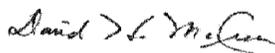
Sincerely,



Trey L. Stewart
State Senator



Joseph F. Underwood
State Representative



David H. McCrea
State Representative