

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 23, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write in support of the application submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rural Surface Transportation grant program. MDOT is requesting \$41.6 million in federal funding for the *Downeast Coastal U.S. Route 1 Improvement Project* to rehabilitate key sections of U.S. Route 1 in rural Downeast Maine.

Downeast Washington County is largely served by U.S. Route 1 and State Route 190, but the area is challenged in competing with more densely populated areas for limited capital improvement funds. Coastal U.S. Route 1 is vital to the communities and economy in Washington County, connecting its residents and businesses to larger service centers. Since its initial construction more than eighty years ago, various sections of these routes have seen periodic improvements, but this piecemeal approach has created an inconsistent corridor with varying shoulder width, inadequate drainage capability, and differing quality with many sections in poor or very poor condition. The condition of Coastal U.S. Route 1 and State Route 190 has created challenges for motorists and pedestrians and has adversely affected freight movement and economic growth.

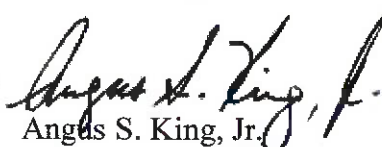
To improve motorist and pedestrian access in Washington County, MDOT proposes to rehabilitate 68 miles of roadway while widening shoulders to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians and to replace drainage structures to promote climate change resilience. MDOT's project is matched with \$13.5 million in federal and state funds, and represents a major investment in this underserved region, which is designated by the Northern Border Regional Commission as "economically distressed." Furthermore, this project would realize significant safety benefits, which MDOT estimates at \$2.89 million annually.

We urge your careful consideration of this proposal, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you please notify us directly or your staff notify Trevor Hustus (Collins) at (202) 224-1533, Adam Lachman (King) at (202) 224-5344, and Barbara Hayslett (Golden) at (207) 492-6009 when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Jared F. Golden
Member of Congress