

**Franklin Street Redesign Planning Project in Portland, Maine**

**Maine Department of Transportation  
City of Portland, Maine**

FY24-26 Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (RCP)  
U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)

Funding Opportunity Number: DOT-RCP-FY24-01  
CFDA Number: 20.940

**ATTACHMENT B:**

**Funding Commitment Letters**



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
16 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0016

Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

Bruce A. Van Note  
COMMISSIONER

September 27, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Assurance of Matching Funds

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

This letter serves as evidence of assurance by the State of Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) that matching funds for the FY 2024-2025 Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Grant application "*Franklin Street Redesign Planning Project in Portland, Maine*" submitted by MaineDOT are committed and will be provided.

MaineDOT is seeking \$2,000,000 in FY 2024-2025 RNC funds, matched by \$250,000 in State funds and \$250,000 from the City of Portland. This project will be included in MaineDOT's *Work Plan*, and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). It is consistent with MaineDOT's long-range plan. MaineDOT is committed to providing these matching funds to the Federal Funds requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce A. Van Note".

Bruce A. Van Note  
Commissioner

**Portland Executive Department**

*Danielle P. West, City Manager*



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September 19, 2024

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

**RE: Maine Department of Transportation's application to fund the *Franklin Street Redesign Planning Project in Portland, Maine* under the FY 2024–2026 Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to express the City of Portland's strong support for the for the Maine Department of Transportation's ("MaineDOT") Planning Grant application under the FY 2024–2026 Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program. The Franklin Street Redesign Planning Project in Portland, Maine ("Project") is part of MaineDOT's Village Partnership Initiative and presents a critical opportunity to reconstruct the Franklin Street corridor in Portland, Maine, and reconnect communities impacted by past transportation decisions.

The Project will build upon over 15 years of City and stakeholder involvement and enable the seamless transition from updated conceptual planning to the design phase. The Franklin Street Redesign Planning Project supports several Council goals that touch on the areas of sustainability, housing, equity, and the enhancement of our transportation network. This project will reverse much of the damage done as part of urban renewal that razed homes and severed neighborhood connections. The Project will transform transportation access, safety, and the pedestrian experience while fostering new housing opportunities and economic development and restoring the city's fabric.

The City of Portland, through a vote of the Portland City Council, has committed \$250,000 in non-federal match toward the RCP project application. The City of Portland has the funds available for its portion of the non-federal match of this project.

The City hopes you will give favorable consideration to funding the Franklin Street Redesign Planning Project in Portland, Maine which aligns with USDOT goals of providing equitable transportation options to all. I am pleased MaineDOT, in partnership with the City of Portland,

**Portland Executive Department**

*Danielle P. West, City Manager*



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is seeking assistance from USDOT for this important Project and hope USDOT will assist in funding these improvements.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Danielle P. West  
City Manager

Attachment: Council Order Authorizing Local Match Commitment

MARK DION (MAYOR)  
PIOUS ALI (A/L)  
APRIL D. FOURNIER(A/L)  
ROBERTO RODRÍGUEZ (A/L)

**CITY OF PORTLAND**  
**IN THE CITY COUNCIL**

ANNA TREVORROW (1)  
VICTORIA L. PELLETIER (2)  
REGINA L. PHILLIPS (3)  
ANNA BULLETT (4)  
KATE SYKES (5)

**ORDER AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF \$250,000 AS THE LOCAL  
MATCH FOR THE RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS  
GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE DESIGN PHASE OF THE  
FRANKLIN STREET DESIGN PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, in 2009, the Portland City Council adopted the Reclaiming Franklin Street Study to establish a design concept that converts Franklin Street to a more standard urban street and restores lost neighborhood connectivity, which was further refined and developed by the 2015 Franklin Street Master Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the findings and guidance of a September 2023 City Council workshop, the City of Portland and the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) entered into a Village Partnership Initiative agreement to update the Franklin Street Master Plan to incorporate changes that have occurred since 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, in August of 2024, MaineDOT informed the City of its interest in applying for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods federal grant program to support the design phase for the Franklin Street project, with a total grant request of \$2,500,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the grant application requires a 10% local match, amounting to \$250,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's Impact Fee Study allows the use of impact fee revenues for transportation projects, which includes the Franklin Street design project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED THAT**, the Portland City Council hereby approves the appropriation of \$250,000 from existing impact fee funds to provide the 10% local match required for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods federal grant program; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that the City Manager or designee is hereby authorized to execute whatever documents are necessary to effect the intent and purpose of this Order.