

Portland Executive Department

Danielle P. West, City Manager



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,

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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:
Danielle P. West
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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.