

# APPENDIX E

Letters of Support



# DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING

## CITY OF BANGOR

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JOHN THERIAULT PE, PTOE  
CITY ENGINEER

June 29, 2021

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

Re: MaineDOT - Diverging Diamond Interchange Project – Bangor, Maine  
Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity  
(RAISE) Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The City of Bangor is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Maine Department of Transportation's RAISE Grant application for funding of the Divergent Diamond project to be located at the I-95 Interchange with Hogan Road.

Hogan Road is a heavily travelled commercial arterial that provides access to the City's major shopping centers, businesses, and technical schools. Within the vicinity of the I-95 Interchange, there are currently three locations that have been identified as high crash locations by the MaineDOT. In addition, there are no facilities along Hogan Road at the bridge to safely accommodate pedestrians or bicyclist. The Maine Department of Transportation held a public meeting concerning this diverging diamond project a couple of years ago and the project was well received by city staff as well as the public.

City staff and the public were excited for the project because of the safety benefits that will result. We believe the project will reduce congestion on Hogan Road as well as reduce the number and severity of vehicle crashes. The project will also provide safe and necessary pedestrian and bicycle accommodations across the bridge completing a vital connection across the interstate for active modes of transportation.

The City of Bangor fully supports this important project and hopes that you consider it for funding through the RAISE Grant Program.

Sincerely,

John Theriault, PE  
Bangor City Engineer



June 28th, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg;

Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System (BACTS) is pleased to offer this letter of support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) application for the 2021 Rebuilding America's Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant. The grant would help fund the Hogan Road/I-95 Improvement project, a project that will improve safety and traffic flow in the region.

The proposed Divergent Diamond Interchange project will reduce high crash locations at the Hogan Road/I-95 interchange, reduce traffic cues, and will improve transit services along this corridor. In addition, the overpass bridge will be improved to allow for safe bicycle and pedestrian travel, which is currently non-existent.

As the Bangor region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), BACTS, is in support of MaineDOT's grant application, as this project will improve safety and mobility for all modes of travel.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Best regards,

*Sara Devlin*

Sara Devlin  
Executive Director, BACTS

CC:  
Bill Mayo, City of Old Town  
John Theriault, BACTS Chair



April 5, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Please accept this letter as testament of Eastern Maine Community College's full support for the Maine Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application through the U.S. Department of Transportation. MaineDOT is seeking \$25 million in discretionary grant funding to rehabilitate and replace portions of a currently dangerous interchange off of I-95.

Our main college campus is located off Hogan Road in Bangor. MaineDOT's project will replace the state's worst safety performing interchange with a newer, safer, more efficient interchange next to our campus. These improvements will undoubtedly help our students, whether they are driving, walking, or biking to our campus. The current design of the interchange is not pedestrian and bicyclist friendly, and while it can move large amounts of traffic, it does not appear to do it safely.

EMCC offers over 30 one- and two-year program options, as well as short term and specialized training and retraining courses for business, industry, and community. All EMCC learners are offered support services, regardless of location and our services are accessible at all locations. EMCC students are from all across Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and internationally. Our specific serves areas in Maine are the counties of Penobscot, Piscataquis, Waldo and Hancock.

In the 2021-22 academic year, we served 2,718 learners in various modalities with 138 living on campus. Of these learners, 68% are part-time learners and 32% are full-time learners. In addition, the EMCC campus is home for Literacy Volunteers of Bangor and one of the Penquis Childcare Centers. With the return to in-person classes and work environments, our partnerships increasing their service and the emerging immigrant population, our campus is expecting a higher volume of traffic.

This project is expected to improve safety for the traveling public, including our staff and students, by decreasing the number of crashes by up to 50% as well as helping to prevent dangerous and costly backups on I-95. It will also alleviate congestion and increase mobility.

We are pleased to see MaineDOT put forward this project and are excited for the changes to come. I respectfully request that you please consider funding this project fully through the RAISE program. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or MaineDOT Commissioner Bruce Van Note.

Sincerely,

Wayne Burton, Ed.D.  
Interim President