February 21, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter in support of the Maine Department of Transportation and the Town of Windham's grant application for a 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity ("RAISE") Grant.

The *North Windham Moves: Regional Mobility - Local Access Project* will implement numerous safety and mobility improvements including traffic calming measures and new sidewalks and crosswalks along U.S. Route 302 and State Routes 35 and 115 in North Windham. Additionally, constructing three local connector roads will improve accessibility to the region's commercial center and significantly reduce congestion and crashes on busy U.S. Route 302. Furthermore, adding multi-use pathways will provide a safe route for those walking and biking to and from the commercial district.

Windham is a service center that provides its residents and nearby communities access to jobs, shops, medical care, and other essential services. It is also a gateway to vital tourism and recreation critical to Maine's economy. This project will improve safety and reduce congestion as well as increase accessibility for all roadway users. The project is the result of an exceptional partnership between the MaineDOT and the Town of Windham, which began with a planning feasibility study in 2019. This partnership along with MaineDOT's repeated ability to successfully deliver grant-funded projects on time and within budget, will no doubt result in a successful project.

I strongly support MaineDOT and the Town of Windham's request for RAISE discretionary grant funding. Please do not hesitate to contact myself, or MaineDOT Commissioner Bruce Van Note, with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills
Governor