

MaineHealth

February 20, 2024

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing in support of the Raise Grant application submitted by the Maine DOT with funding partner IDEALS (Initiative for Digital Engineering and Life Science) and in coordination with the City of Portland, Maine, and Northeastern University. This funding is for multi-modal infrastructure improvements to facilitate bicycle/pedestrian connectivity and traffic movement throughout the East Deering neighborhood, which will be the future home of the Roux Institute at Northeastern University.

Maine Health is the state's largest healthcare organization, with 12 community hospitals and 22,000 employees treating 1.1 million residents in Maine and New Hampshire. We are an official partner of the Roux Institute at Northeastern University, giving us invaluable access to graduate and training programs in artificial intelligence, data analytics and biomedicine.

The Raise Grant compliments our Healthy Communities initiative to improve the well-being of the communities we serve. Increasingly we see residents take advantage of the city's robust network of trails and paths. The planned campus for the Roux Institute at Northeastern University is ideally situated to connect to existing and planned trails around the city. Developing safe bicycle and pedestrian access to this new waterfront campus will reduce dependency on vehicles and set a new standard for multi-modal transportation in Portland.

The Raise Grant is key to achieving these goals, and I urge you to look favorably upon it.

Sincerely,



Andrew T. Mueller, MD
Chief Executive Officer