



1 Hancock Street  
Portland, ME 04101

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

February 28, 2024

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Roux Institute's application to the RAISE grant funding program to improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity into Portland, Maine. This project will improve the Deering community's infrastructure, provide safe access in and out of Portland's peninsula, and enable sustainable transportation alternatives for commuters throughout the area.

WEX (NYSE: WEX), a Portland-based global technology company, is dedicated to helping simplify the business of running a business by providing payment and software services to over 600,000 businesses globally. In 2019, we moved our headquarters from South Portland back into Portland, where it now abuts the working waterfront and the street where our predecessor's family-owned business operated in the late 1800s. Our employees value and take advantage of the public pathways and space along the Eastern Promenade, particularly as a point of access to the bike path.

In planning for our headquarters, we dedicated a large bike room to store our employees' gear and developed a program to incentivize biking into and out of Portland to reduce traffic congestion. Many of our approximately 1,010 Portland-based employees enjoy outdoor recreation and we have a vested interest in ensuring their ability to access their workplace safely and securely, which can be a challenge in Portland's historic neighborhoods where roads do not have adequate space to install bike lanes.

In the last decade, our community has undergone a rapid transformation and experienced population growth as quality of life and education programs like those offered by the Roux Institute draw talent into Maine. WEX has benefitted from this influx, hiring individuals directly from the Roux Institute and supporting our current employees' further education through its Masters programming. As the area continues to expand, enhancing safe, reliable, and efficient transportation into and out of Portland while creating intermodal infrastructure as proposed in the Roux Institute's grant program will be invaluable to supporting economic growth while reducing dependence on vehicle transportation. In addition, the project will safely and efficiently reconnect a historically disadvantaged community to education, employment, healthcare and recreation throughout Portland.



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The health of Portland's economy is dependent upon the fostering of a liveable environment where green space is protected, innovation can flourish, and access to the outdoors be protected. This proposal achieves those goals and I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa D. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Melissa D. Smith  
Chair of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, WEX