

Charles E. Hewett, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Initiative for Digital Engineering and Life Sciences
100 Commercial Street
Portland, Maine 04101

Re: RAISE Grant Providing Infrastructure Surrounding The Roux Institute

Dear Chuck:

Chris Mallett has briefed me on the Maine Department of Transportation's plans to submit a RAISE grant to the US Department of Transportation to support multi-modal access at the developing Roux Campus. I understand that this grant would fund infrastructure supporting bicycling, walking, metro, and vehicular access to, through, and around the site. Additionally, it would include an interstate exit ramp to Sherwood Street; a bicycle bridge to the Portland peninsula; a Tukey's Bridge underpass connecting trails to the south, east, and north to the Back Cove trail; and Sherwood Street improvements that would facilitate automobile, public transit, bicycle, and pedestrian egress from the Roux Campus. These plans will not only benefit the Roux Campus and its users but will benefit University of Southern Maine students, faculty, and staff.

The University and the Roux Institute have a growing number of collaborations at both the faculty and student level that make ease of transit between the two campuses increasingly critical. The proposed infrastructure will make multiple modes of transportation easier, quicker, and more cost effective for our work together. It will also reduce the environmental impacts of the collaboration by making biking, walking, and metro ridership attractive options for traveling between the two campuses. With its publicly accessible waterfront and pier, I expect that easy access to this property will create a popular recreational destination for our students as well.

Moreover, at USM, we have both employees and students who live in many locations in and near Portland. The new biking infrastructure, serving as a hub connecting the Eastern Prom, Mid-Town, Martin's Point, and possible Berlin Subdivision trails to the Back Cove trail, will make it possible for many of our community members to bike or e-bike to our campus safely and efficiently and make us a more attractive place to study, teach, and work.

I wish you all success with this grant request and look forward to hearing a positive result. Please let me know if I can help further in any way.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Edmondson, Ph.D.

Office of the President

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