

Portland Executive Department
Danielle P. West, City Manager



February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary

U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave, SE

Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the City of Portland, Maine, I write to express our support of the *Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity* (RAISE) Program application submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) for the *East Deering: Pathways to Bridge the Gap Project* (Project). This application is submitted in partnership with the City of Portland and the Initiative for Digital Engineering and Life Sciences.

The Project will expand, redesign, and improve active transportation and roadway infrastructure in the East Deering neighborhood of Portland, Maine—creating a critical link between East Deering and the Old Port section of downtown Portland. The Project will improve community connectivity by:

- Creating new and restoring existing multi-use bike and pedestrian pathways that are safe and modern to encourage active transportation;
- Upgrading neighborhood roads and intersections to conform with Complete Street principles; and
- Adjusting an interstate off-ramp to improve campus, transit and neighborhood traffic flow and alleviate impacts to a historic neighborhood and nearby disadvantaged communities.

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We are strongly supportive of this transformational Project to support important these critical neighborhood connections throughout Portland. Because of the grant's focus on the East Deering neighborhood with key connections to East Bayside and the East End, it will play a big role in improving the physical activity, access to jobs/services and health outcomes for disadvantaged communities in multiple neighborhoods. It will also help mitigate numerous transportation safety issues and enhance multimodal access to a future campus in East Deering.

Thank you for your strong consideration of MaineDOT's RAISE proposal.

Sincerely,

Danielle P. West

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City Manager