

Portland Fire Department
Keith Gautreau
Fire Chief



February 13, 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 Portland Maine Fire Department, 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.

We are supportive of this transformational Project to support important neighborhood connections throughout Portland.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Gautreau".

Keith N. Gautreau
Chief of Department