



Municipalité  
de  
Ste. Agathe

# Town of St. Agatha

## Municipalité de Ste. Agathe

419 Main Street, PO Box 110  
St. Agatha, Maine 04772

### Board of Selectmen

David Guerrette  
Shawn Ouellette  
Mark  
Chamberland

**Town Manager**  
Michelle Bernier

**Town Clerk**  
Megan Pinette

**Deputy Clerk**  
Ashley Guerrette

**Phone**  
(207) 543-7305

**Fax**  
(207) 543-7306

**Website**  
[www.stagatha.com](http://www.stagatha.com)

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg,  
Secretary United States Department of  
Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Ave,  
SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary,

On behalf of the town of St. Agatha, Maine, I am pleased to support the Maine Department of Transportation's (Maine DOT) application for the 2023 Rural Grant application. The application requests \$25 Million, and Maine DOT has committed to a match of \$6.9 million. This is a substantial amount of money, but the amount of work needed on this critical section of US Route 1 in northern Maine is vital to correcting fundamental deficiencies in the highway's design and safety. It will provide a quality highway that will benefit the region for decades.

St. Agatha is not located directly on US Route 1, but its residents and businesses are frequent users. Fort Kent and Madawaska are the two service center communities in this remote part of Maine and the USA. The region's only hospital is in Fort Kent, and major retail stores are in Madawaska; agriculture and forest products, including paper from one of the State's last paper mills, rely on US Route 1. The Frenchville project will connect the two centers and make travel more efficient and much safer.

The emerging tourist economy of northern Maine will benefit from the improvements. This section of US Route 1 is part of the newly designated St. John Valley/Fish River National Scenic Byway and the 380-mile US Bike Route 501 from Bangor to Allagash. As the region repositions to bring more summer tourists, high-quality roads that are bike and pedestrian friendly are a selling point.

This project will close the gap in the modernization of US Route 1. The importance of this is that US Route 1 is part of the National Highway System and provides the primary connection to Interstate 95 in Houlton, 120 miles to the south. Although not a substitute for an interstate, a well-built, well-maintained highway will provide safe and efficient connections to the rest of Maine and the USA.

Thank you for considering the Maine DOT's request, and St. Agatha will support you in making a decision that will have enormous positive benefits for this distant but essential region of Maine.

Respectfully,

Michelle Bernier, Town Manager