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April 18, 2024

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

RE: Support Letter for Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) Application to the Federal Transit Administration Low or No Emission Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter in support of MaineDOT's application for funding through the Federal Transit Administration Low or No Emission Grant Program. MaineDOT, in partnership with seven Maine transit agencies, is seeking funding for low and no emissions buses and vans for transit service across Maine, including associated infrastructure and staff training and workforce development.

These hybrid and electric vehicles will replace existing diesel and gasoline vehicles, expanding access to clean and sustainable transportation for thousands of Maine transit riders. The supporting infrastructure includes vehicle chargers necessary for these vehicles to be placed in service, which includes vehicle chargers. Furthermore, the training and workforce development will ensure a skilled, diverse, and sustainable labor pool.

Introducing these vehicles will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigating the impacts of climate change, and directly supports the goals of the state's climate action plan "Maine Won't Wait" and corresponding Clean Transportation Roadmap, which calls for continuing to decarbonize Maine's transportation sector.

York County Community Action Corporation (YCCAC), a partner in the grant application, is our regional and local public transportation provider. YCCAC operates several transportation routes which serve the downtown area of Sanford and connect residents to vital destinations and services. The City of Sanford provides financial support for YCCAC as part of our annual municipal budget.

The City recently teamed with MaineDOT and other stakeholders to successfully apply for RAISE grant funding for important improvements to the downtown area. A safe and vibrant downtown will encourage residents to live in surrounding neighborhoods where they can easily make local trips via multi-modal means, including transit. As you are

well aware from your efforts in South Bend, redevelopment of our Downtown and Mill District here in Sanford will bring new life to the entire area. It is very important for our riders to be able to safely access our services, and the proposed projects will greatly improve pedestrian accommodations and connections to our transit stops.

As part of the project design, the City and MaineDOT will be incorporating bus pull-outs at key stops, and we are already coordinating on locations for transit shelters. Both of these will improve both vehicular and pedestrian safety.

I strongly support MaineDOT's grant application for this important project. I am hopeful that you will give the project your full consideration and award the requested funding.

Sincerely,



Steven R. Buck
City Manager
City of Sanford, ME