



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

August 17, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to send you the following letter in support of MaineDOT's funding request through the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Through their application MaineDOT is requesting funding to assist with making changes to the elevation of U.S. Route 1-A in Frankfort, Maine. The existing portion of the road sits 2.5 feet below Highest Astronomical Tide (HAT) and is vulnerable to sea level rise due to its location directly adjacent to the South Branch Marsh River. This portion of U.S Route 1-A is a Hurricane Evacuation Route and increasing vulnerability to flooding reduces the functionality of the route.

MaineDOT has and continues to work to improve the resiliency of transportation infrastructure across Maine. They have had great success, and are committed in working towards long-term, resilient change. In addition to raising the profile of the road above HAT levels, MaineDOT intends to upsize a large culvert that currently is also below HAT level. The replacement structure will be sized to accommodate more natural tidal flows as well as enhance passage and habitat connectivity for anadromous fish, including federally and state endangered Atlantic salmon, short-nosed sturgeon, and Atlantic sturgeon.

I am in full support of MaineDOT's efforts to improve the resiliency of Maine's transportation infrastructure, adapt to climate change, and address other climate related community priorities throughout the state. I respectfully urge you to grant them the funding they are seeking through their application to USDOT.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills
Governor



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