



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

February 15, 2023

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's ("MaineDOT") and the Town of Windham's grant application for a 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity ("RAISE") Grant. The application outlines MaineDOT's important plans to significantly improve North Windham, Maine via the *North Windham Moves: Regional Mobility - Local Access Project* ("Project"). The Project will implement numerous required safety and mobility improvements by:

- Reconstructing U.S. 302 and State Routes 35 and 115 to implement **numerous roadway and active transportation safety improvements**, including the elimination of left turns, the addition of traffic calming features and new ADA-compliant sidewalks and crosswalks
- Constructing local connector roads – an **East Connector Road, Middle Connector and West Connector** – that will provide drivers with easier access to the region's commercial center and significantly reduce congestion and crashes on busy U.S. Route 302 and two high-volume state roads
- Adding **multi-use pathways** that provide a safe route to encourage walking and biking to and from the commercial district
- Improving **sight distance, lighting, streetside utility easements, drainage and greenspace**

These improvements will improve safety, reduce inefficient roadway bottlenecks and increase accessibility to the rural region's retail and employment centers as well as vital tourism and recreation points critical to Maine's economy.

As members of the Windham Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, we are charged with encouraging and promoting recreational opportunities for our community members not just through programs but also through development of the town's lands and infrastructure. Our roadways have seen such an increase of use that the need for reconstruction is a necessity not only for traffic flow but also for members of our community to have safe multi-use pathways. We advocate for our citizens to get outside and enjoy all of the amenities that Windham has to offer, but without improvements of safety, lighting, and roadways, it is hard to feel confident that we are reaching all of the members of our community. Improving these areas now will help us to maintain and protect the future of our great town.

We are pleased that MaineDOT and the Town of Windham are seeking assistance from USDOT for this very important Project. We hope USDOT is able to assist in funding these improvements which cover all aspects of USDOT's merit criteria for funding.

Sincerely,

Windham Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Shawn Hardy, Jennie Butler, Casey Dubay, Matthew Bouchard, Kayla Desmond, Maureen Denig, Debra Matthews, John Henry