



## CITY OF BELFAST

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The Honorable Shailen Bhatt, Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Maine Department of Transportation's application to fund the *Chargers to Promote Resilience: A Recharge Maine Community Project* under the FY 2024-2025 Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program

Dear Administrator Bhatt,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's ("MaineDOT") grant application for the Federal Highway Administration's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program. The *Chargers to Promote Resilience: A Recharge Maine Community Project* ("Project")—supported by project partner Efficiency Maine Trust ("Efficiency Maine")—aims to deploy electric vehicle (EV) charging stations throughout Maine, particularly in areas facing climate change-related resiliency challenges.

Through the Project, MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine will install 64 DC Fast Charger ports across 10 communities and at 6 hospitals. The locations—primarily near the State's numerous peninsulas and along flood-prone rivers—have increasingly faced flooding and prolonged power outages due to severe weather. Other locations support affected communities during evacuations from such events.

The Project will:

- Improve charger availability during widespread power outages;
- Ensure communities statewide, including disadvantaged and rural areas, have equitable access to charging infrastructure; and
- Help Maine meet its goal to decrease greenhouse gas emissions 45 percent by 2030, 80 percent by 2050, and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.

The City of Belfast has long supported the adoption of EVs and the development of a robust EV charging network, by implementing its own public EV charging network and also by supporting other community anchors/resources in their own efforts to add EV chargers. The need to have EV chargers and other resilient infrastructure in place is very front of mind with the City of Belfast from the significant damage it suffered at the hands of the January 2024 coastal storms, and the City of Belfast is excited to be part of an initiative such as this that will address these challenges.

By expanding EV infrastructure, residents and Maine's many visitors will feel more confident about adopting EVs and the availability of power during extreme weather events. The widespread adoption of EVs is critical to reducing carbon emissions and protecting the State's natural resources from climate-related events. In light of these considerations, we respectfully request the Federal Highway Administration give favorable consideration to the *Chargers to Promote Resilience Project*.

Sincerely,

Thomas Kittredge  
Economic Development Director, City of Belfast