



**TOWN OF THOMASTON**  
**TOWN MANAGER**  
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TEL: (207) 354-6107

August 19, 2024

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 Town of Thomaston, Maine, is a strong advocate for a greener community through our collaboration with Efficiency Maine. Efficiency Maine has assisted Thomaston in the past with grant funding for public EV charging stations and a rebate program to purchase an EV police cruiser. The proposed project is an invaluable resource for our community, and we are proud to support it.

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*.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kara George".

Kara George  
Town Manager