



City of Auburn, Maine

Office of the City Manager

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April 24, 2023

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

Dear Administrator Bhatt,

Please accept this letter in strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation (“MaineDOT”) and Efficiency Maine application for a **2023 U.S. Department of Transportation Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (“CFI”) Discretionary Grant**. The application details MaineDOT’s funding need and comprehensive plan to install EV charging infrastructure in the state via the *Recharge Maine Project* (“Project”). There are gaps in the state’s EV charging station map and additional charging stations will:

- Help MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine meet EV charging requirements along Federally-designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (“AFCs”).
- Ensure locations beyond fuel corridors, including disadvantaged communities, have charging infrastructure to serve residents and tourists.
- Assist Maine in meeting its goal to decrease greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030 and 80% by 2050 – and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.
- Ensure funding received is consistent with that of other states.

The Project will equitably provide public charging in our community, serving individuals who do not have access to it at home such as those living in apartments and other multi-unit dwellings. The Project will benefit disadvantaged communities by ensuring chargers are located in neighborhoods of all income levels. It will greatly reduce ‘range anxiety’ by closing gaps between charging locations which will alleviate hesitation about making the switch to EVs.

The City of Auburn partnered in the fall of 2022 with a Bates College student research team to investigate the opportunities for equitable EV charging infrastructure deployment within our community. With their assistance, and that of our citizen-led sustainability workgroup, we’ve identified locations that would meet the needs of our residents in apartments as well as be accessible to those traveling through our community to other Maine tourist destinations.

We are pleased that MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine are seeking discretionary funding from USDOT for this very important Project. The Pine Tree State was an early adopter of EVs and set rigorous but attainable climate improvement goals long ago. We hope USDOT is able to help the state reach these goals by ensuring everyone in our community – residents and tourists – can easily and equitably access EV charging stations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phillip E. Crowell, Jr.", with a checkmark at the end of the signature.

Phillip E. Crowell, Jr. ICMA-CM
City Manager