



Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

May 20, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in strong support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) applications for funding through the FY2022 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Awards. MaineDOT is requesting \$44.1 million through the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Program and \$41.6 million through the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program. These funds, if awarded, would support projects in Aroostook County, and eastern Maine.

*The Presque Isle Freight and Mobility Priority Corridor Project* will provide a vital route for vehicles, including tractor trailers, to travel around the City of Presque Isle instead of being forced to access points north or south via Main Street. The project proposes the construction of a much-needed bypass which will alleviate the heavy traffic currently forced to drive directly through the city, bringing back a safe, village atmosphere to Presque Isle. Maine's villages are the heart of our state, and I am pleased to see MaineDOT putting a strong focus on efforts to make Maine's communities safer and more accessible to all modes of transportation.

*The Downeast Coastal U.S. Route 1 Improvement Project* will provide much-needed rehabilitation to sections of U.S. Route 1 and State Route 190. Coastal US Route 1 and State Route 190 serves as the primary highways of Downeast Washington County connecting the regions service center communities of Machias, Eastport, and Calais within the project area. Trucks traveling on the US Route 1 corridor deliver raw materials from fields, forests, and fisheries to mills, warehouses, store shelves, and the Port of Eastport to serve Maine's businesses and residents and the international market. It is imperative that these major routes- that residents depend on for their livelihood- be upgraded and maintained to current standards.

I urge you to fund both applications submitted by MaineDOT. They are worthy projects, and MaineDOT has successfully proven that they can administer a grant project both on-time and within budget. Please do not hesitate to contact myself, or MaineDOT Commissioner Bruce Van Note, with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills  
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

May 11, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) grant application for the U.S. Department Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grant program (INFRA). The application outlines MaineDOT's important plans to build the second stage of a truck bypass in northern Maine via the *Presque Isle Freight and Mobility Priority Corridor Project* ("Project").

The bypass sets the stage to transform Presque Isle via numerous downtown improvements that will make the area safer and more accessible to all users, including pedestrians and cyclists. The two-lane bypass will redirect truck traffic out of downtown, ensuring harmful emissions, noise pollution and safety concerns are greatly reduced while simultaneously providing a critically-needed faster route for trucks and through traffic around town instead of through it. Trucks currently encounter traffic along Main Street (US Route 1) downtown as they negotiate the region's commercial center. The two-lane bypass provides numerous benefits, including:

- Creating a better environment for MaineDOT and the City of Presque Isle to revitalize downtown
- Reducing truck traffic and associated pollutants, noise and road/curb damage
- Minimizing conflicts between trucks and horse-and-buggies used by northern Maine's abundant Amish community
- Providing a future right-of-way for a multiuse trail critical to Maine's tourism economy
- Decreasing transit time for northern Maine freight, including the region's time-sensitive perishables traffic

Trucks currently traveling through downtown encounter traffic, numerous stoplights, cross streets, driveways, crosswalks, bicyclists, pedestrians and trains while meandering at 25 mph. The bypass will allow trucks and other vehicles to avoid downtown and maintain 55 mph, saving time and money while improving safety and laying the groundwork for a much-needed downtown transformation to ensure the city will be suitable for active transportation.

**Northern Light Health**

Acadia Hospital  
A.R. Gould Hospital  
Beacon Health  
Blue Hill Hospital  
C.A. Dean Hospital  
Eastern Maine Medical Center  
Home Care & Hospice  
Inland Hospital  
Maine Coast Hospital  
Mercy Hospital  
Northern Light Health Foundation  
Sebastcook Valley Hospital

We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from USDOT for this very important Project and respectfully request that you please consider fully funding this Project for an MPDG Grant award. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. LaFrancois', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Greg LaFrancois  
SVP & President

Northern Light AR Gould Hospital



**AROSTOOK**  
COUNTY TOURISM

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter as I enthusiastically support the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) grant application to the U.S. Department Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grant program (INFRA). The application outlines MaineDOT's important plans to complete the second stage of a truck bypass in northern Maine via the *Presque Isle Freight and Mobility Priority Corridor Project*.

Traffic and access to Northern Maine is primarily made through US Route 1 which travels directly through downtown Presque Isle. This heavy traffic flow impacts the downtown area in terms of walkability, parking, and affects the way people navigate through the region. The Presque Isle downtown area is the cultural center for the region hosts many events that attract a lot of foot and bicycle traffic – this can sometimes be dangerous due to the heavy trucking traffic on this roadway. I see this investment directly affecting Aroostook County Tourism's work in these ways:

- Creating a better environment for MaineDOT and the City of Presque Isle to revitalize downtown
- reduce conflicts between trucks and horse-and-buggies used by northern Maine's Amish communities
- Providing a right-of-way for a multiuse trail critical to Maine's four season tourism economy

This request makes the most of recent investments to begin moving trucking traffic away from the downtown area where they can safely assume travel speeds at 55 mph without crosswalks, train crossings, bicycles, and residential driveways. Trucks currently traveling through downtown encounter stop and go traffic due to six stoplights and leisurely activities common on Main Street.

We are pleased that MaineDOT is approaching USDOT for this very important Project. I respectfully request you please consider fully funding this Project as it will have an immense impact on region and this cultural center. Please contact me directly if I can assist you understanding the impacts this has on the visitors experience as they explore Maine's Aroostook County.

Sincerely,



**Jacob Pelkey**  
Tourism Developer  
Northern Maine Development Commission

[www.visitaroostook.com](http://www.visitaroostook.com)

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11 West Presque Isle Rd. PO Box 779, Caribou, ME 04736  
Voice: (207) 498-8736 Fax: 1-866-498-1388 TTY: (207) 493-5856  
[jdinsmore@nmdc.org](mailto:jdinsmore@nmdc.org)/[jpelkey@nmdc.org](mailto:jpelkey@nmdc.org)

**Bike Board and Ski**  
450 Main Street  
Presque Isle, ME 04769  
P: 207-769-2453



May 10, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept our letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) grant application for the U.S. Department Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grant program (INFRA). The application is for an important MaineDOT's project to build the second stage of a truck bypass in northern Maine via the *Presque Isle Freight and Mobility Priority Corridor Project ("Project")*.

The bypass sets the stage to transform Presque Isle to be a safer, more vibrant regional center by taking the high-speed truck and vehicle traffic around the city core creating a better environment for the City of Presque Isle and MaineDOT to revitalize downtown. Over the past decade the City of Presque Isle and business community have made significant investments in the downtown including:

- Building a +\$10 million Community Center, playground, splash pad and recreational area located along the downtown and waterfront.
- Construction of a 1-mile pedestrian walk and bike path that circles the Community Center recreational area and connects it to the downtown.
- Rehabilitation of the historic 51-room Northeastland Hotel in the city center.
- Buildup of multiple retail, restaurant, and commercial businesses in the downtown.

The re-vibrance of downtown Presque Isle has been exciting. That's why, Bike Board and Ski, a family-owned, 4-seasons outdoor retailer located our business in the downtown - because we believe in the power of community and want to be a catalyst for change. During our 9-years downtown we have experienced incredible growth, people have come

**Bike Board and Ski**  
450 Main Street  
Presque Isle, ME 04769  
P: 207-769-2453



together, and cyclists and pedestrians have come back to our downtown. It's been exciting to be part of the rebirth of our downtown that has been hindered by one major thing.

**A consistently degrading, and busy 4-lane US 1/Main Street**

We are told that our business sits on the corner of the busiest US 1/Main Streets in the state. We watch 4-lanes of trailer trucks and vehicles barrel down through our Main Street. We watch our customers struggle to park out front of our store. We have witnessed multiple vehicle and pedestrian incidents at the crosswalk outside our store, sadly a few with injury. We deal with the road noise, dust, exhaust, and pollutants. And, we have watched the Maine DOT repair our downtown multiple times due to the excessive rutting and degradation.

The project contained with this grant application - to build the second stage of a truck bypass in northern Maine via the *Presque Isle Freight and Mobility Priority Corridor Project* ("Project") will solve the majority of the issues plaguing our downtown and allow our community to thrive.

We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from USDOT for this very important Project and respectfully request that you please consider fully funding this Project for an MPDG Grant award.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Bouchard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew Bouchard  
Bike Board and Ski



May 5, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) grant application for the U.S. Department Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grant program (INFRA). The application outlines MaineDOT's important plans to build the second stage of a truck bypass in northern Maine via the *Presque Isle Freight and Mobility Priority Corridor Project* ("Project").

The bypass sets the stage to transform Presque Isle via numerous downtown improvements that will make the area safer and more accessible to all users, including pedestrians and cyclists. The two-lane bypass will redirect truck traffic out of downtown, ensuring harmful emissions, noise pollution and safety concerns are greatly reduced while simultaneously providing a critically-needed faster route for trucks and through traffic around town instead of through it. Trucks currently encounter traffic along Main Street (US Route 1) downtown as they negotiate the region's commercial center. The two-lane bypass provides numerous benefits, including:

- Creating a better environment for MaineDOT and the City of Presque Isle to revitalize downtown
- Reducing truck traffic and associated pollutants, noise and road/curb damage
- Minimizing conflicts between trucks and horse-and-buggies used by northern Maine's abundant Amish community
- Providing a future right-of-way for a multiuse trail critical to Maine's tourism economy
- Decreasing transit time for northern Maine freight, including the region's time-sensitive perishables traffic

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We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from USDOT for this very important Project and respectfully request that you please consider fully funding this Project for an MPDG Grant award. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "LaNiece Sirois".

LaNiece Sirois, Executive Director

Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce  
3 Houlton Road  
Presque Isle, ME 04769  
(207) 764-6561



May 9, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) grant application for the U.S. Department Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grant program (INFRA). The application outlines MaineDOT's important plans to build the second stage of a truck bypass in northern Maine via the *Presque Isle Freight and Mobility Priority Corridor Project* ("Project").

The bypass sets the stage to transform Presque Isle via numerous downtown improvements that will make the area safer and more accessible to all users, including pedestrians and cyclists. The two-lane bypass will redirect truck traffic out of downtown, ensuring harmful emissions, noise pollution and safety concerns are greatly reduced while simultaneously providing a critically-needed faster route for trucks and through traffic around town instead of through it. Trucks currently encounter traffic along Main Street (US Route 1) downtown as they negotiate the region's commercial center. The two-lane bypass provides numerous benefits, including:

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- Decreasing transit time for northern Maine freight, including the region's time-sensitive perishables traffic

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We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from USDOT for this very important Project and respectfully request that you please consider fully funding this Project for an MPDG Grant award. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Patty Cavagnaro*

Patty Cavagnaro, HR Manager  
Huber Engineered Woods, LLC



436 Main Street, Presque Isle, ME 04769



436 Main Street, Presque Isle, ME 04769

May 11, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) grant application for the U.S. Department Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grant program (INFRA). The application outlines MaineDOT's important plans to build the second stage of a truck bypass in northern Maine via the *Presque Isle Freight and Mobility Priority Corridor Project* ("Project").

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Trucks currently traveling through downtown encounter traffic, numerous stoplights, cross streets, driveways, crosswalks, bicyclists, pedestrians, and trains while meandering at 25 mph. The bypass will allow trucks and other vehicles to avoid downtown and maintain 55 mph, saving time and money while improving safety and laying the groundwork for a much-needed downtown transformation to ensure the city will be suitable for active transportation.

The initial phase serves the community well and is a solid base to the proposed project. Approving the next application allows the full potential of reducing unnecessary truck traffic in the downtown area. Ignite Presque Isle is excited to see the project continue and make a lasting impact on Presque Isle and the region.



436 Main Street, Presque Isle, ME 04769



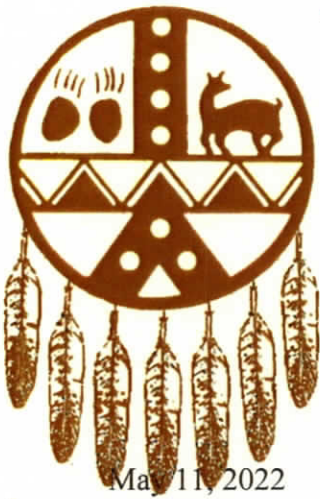
436 Main Street, Presque Isle, ME 04769

We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from USDOT for this very important Project and respectfully request that you please consider fully funding this Project for an MPDG Grant award. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clinton Deschene".

Clinton Deschene  
Director of Community Innovation, Ignite Presque Isle



**MI'KMAQ NATION**  
7 NORTHERN ROAD  
PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769  
(207) 764-1972

May 11, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) grant application for the U.S. Department Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grant program (INFRA). The application outlines MaineDOT's important plans to build the second stage of a truck bypass in northern Maine via the *Presque Isle Freight and Mobility Priority Corridor Project* ("Project").

The bypass sets the stage to transform Presque Isle via numerous downtown improvements that will make the area safer and more accessible to all users, including pedestrians and cyclists. The two-lane bypass will redirect truck traffic out of downtown, ensuring harmful emissions, noise pollution and safety concerns are greatly reduced while simultaneously providing a critically-needed faster route for trucks and through traffic around town instead of through it. Trucks currently encounter traffic along Main Street (US Route 1) downtown as they negotiate the region's commercial center. The two-lane bypass provides numerous benefits, including:

- Creating a better environment for MaineDOT and the City of Presque Isle to revitalize downtown
- Reducing truck traffic and associated pollutants, noise and road/curb damage
- Minimizing conflicts between trucks and horse-and-buggies used by northern Maine's abundant Amish community
- Providing a future right-of-way for a multiuse trail critical to Maine's tourism economy
- Decreasing transit time for northern Maine freight, including the region's time-sensitive perishables traffic

Trucks currently traveling through downtown encounter traffic, numerous stoplights, cross streets, driveways, crosswalks, bicyclists, pedestrians and trains while meandering at 25 mph. The bypass will allow trucks and other vehicles to avoid downtown and maintain 55 mph, saving time and money while improving safety and laying the groundwork for a much-needed downtown transformation to ensure the city will be suitable for active transportation.



We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from USDOT for this very important Project and respectfully request that you please consider fully funding this Project for an MPDG Grant award. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Edward Peter Paul  
Tribal Chief





Office of the President  
33 EDMONT DRIVE, PRESQUE ISLE, ME 04769 · 207-768-2811 · [terowley@nmcc.edu](mailto:terowley@nmcc.edu)

May 5, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) grant application for the U.S. Department Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grant program (INFRA). The application outlines MaineDOT's important plans to build the second stage of a truck bypass in northern Maine via the *Presque Isle Freight and Mobility Priority Corridor Project* ("Project").

The bypass sets the stage to transform Presque Isle via numerous downtown improvements that will make the area safer and more accessible to all users, including pedestrians and cyclists. The two-lane bypass will redirect truck traffic out of downtown, ensuring harmful emissions, noise pollution and safety concerns are greatly reduced while simultaneously providing a critically-needed faster route for trucks and through traffic around town instead of through it. Trucks currently encounter traffic along Main Street (US Route 1) downtown as they negotiate the region's commercial center. The two-lane bypass provides numerous benefits, including:

- Creating a better environment for MaineDOT and the City of Presque Isle to revitalize downtown
- Reducing truck traffic and associated pollutants, noise and road/curb damage
- Minimizing conflicts between trucks and horse-and-buggies used by northern Maine's abundant Amish community
- Providing a future right-of-way for a multiuse trail critical to Maine's tourism economy
- Decreasing transit time for northern Maine freight, including the region's time-sensitive perishables traffic

Trucks currently traveling through downtown encounter traffic, numerous stoplights, cross streets, driveways, crosswalks, bicyclists, pedestrians and trains while meandering at 25 mph. The bypass will allow trucks and other vehicles to avoid downtown and maintain 55 mph, saving time and money while improving safety and laying the groundwork for a much-needed downtown transformation to ensure the city will be suitable for active transportation.

Presque Isle is a college town with both a community college and a university so facilitating student cyclists is very important. Making these improvements would also help the educational facilities since we recruit, based on the educational experience and the over-all accommodations of the community.

We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from USDOT for this very important Project and respectfully request that you please consider fully funding this Project for an MPDG Grant award. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy Crowley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Timothy Crowley, President  
Northern Maine Community College



## Northern Maine Development Commission

May 5, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) grant application for the U.S. Department Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grant program (INFRA). The application outlines MaineDOT's important plans to build the Phase II of a truck bypass in northern Maine via the *Presque Isle Freight and Mobility Priority Corridor Project* ("Project").

The bypass sets the stage to transform Presque Isle via numerous downtown improvements that will make the area safer and more accessible to all users, including pedestrians and cyclists. The two-lane bypass will redirect truck traffic out of downtown, ensuring harmful emissions, noise pollution and safety concerns are greatly reduced while simultaneously providing a critically-needed faster route for trucks and through traffic around town instead of through it. Trucks currently encounter traffic along Main Street (US Route 1) downtown as they negotiate Aroostook County's largest commercial and retail center. The two-lane bypass provides numerous benefits, including:

- Creating a better environment for MaineDOT and the City of Presque Isle to revitalize downtown
- Reducing truck traffic and associated pollutants, noise and road/curb damage in the City's downtown
- Minimizing conflicts between trucks and horse-and-buggies used by northern Maine's abundant Amish community
- Providing a future right-of-way for a multiuse trail critical to Maine's tourism economy
- Decreasing transit time for northern Maine freight, including the region's time-sensitive perishables traffic
- Improving safety for pedestrians and bicyclists along Main Street and especially near the University of Maine at Presque Isle campus.

Trucks currently traveling through downtown encounter traffic, numerous stoplights, cross streets, driveways, crosswalks, bicyclists, pedestrians and trains while meandering at 25 mph. The bypass will allow trucks and other vehicles to avoid downtown and maintain 55 mph, saving time and money while improving safety and laying the groundwork for a much-needed downtown transformation to ensure the city will be suitable for active transportation.



Equal Opportunity Lender/Agency

[www.nmdc.org](http://www.nmdc.org)

11 West Presque Isle Rd., PO Box 779, Caribou, ME 04736  
Voice: (207) 498-8736, Fax: 1-866-493-1388, TTY: (207) 493-5856



We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from USDOT for this very important Project and respectfully request that you please consider fully funding this Project for an MPDG Grant award. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Clark  
Executive Director  
Northern Maine Development Commission

/RPC



# City of Presque Isle, Maine

The Office of  
City Manager

**Martin Puckett**

Email: mpuckett@presqueisleme.us

April 27, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the City Council, through a unanimous vote of approval, please accept this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) grant application for the U.S. Department Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grant program (INFRA). The application outlines MaineDOT's important plans to build the second stage of a truck bypass in northern Maine via the *Presque Isle Freight and Mobility Priority Corridor Project* ("Project").

The bypass sets the stage to transform Presque Isle via numerous downtown improvements that will make the area safer and more accessible to all users, including pedestrians and cyclists. The two-lane bypass will redirect truck traffic out of downtown, ensuring harmful emissions, noise pollution and safety concerns are greatly reduced while simultaneously providing a critically-needed faster route for trucks and through traffic around town instead of through it. Trucks currently encounter traffic along Main Street (US Route 1) downtown as they negotiate the region's commercial center. The two-lane bypass provides numerous benefits, including:

- Creating a better environment for MaineDOT and the City of Presque Isle to revitalize downtown via a *Complete Streets* transformation
- Reducing truck traffic and associated pollutants, noise and road/curb damage
- Minimizing conflicts between trucks and horse-and-buggies used by northern Maine's abundant Amish community
- Providing a future right-of-way for snowmobiles and ATVs critical to Maine's tourism economy
- Decreasing transit time for northern Maine freight, including the region's time-sensitive perishables traffic

Trucks currently traveling through downtown encounter traffic, numerous stoplights, cross streets, driveways, crosswalks, bicyclists, pedestrians and trains while meandering at 25 mph. The bypass will allow trucks and other vehicles to avoid downtown and maintain 55 mph, saving time and money while improving safety and laying the groundwork for a much-needed downtown transformation to ensure the city will be suitable for active transportation.

12 Second Street

Presque Isle, ME 04769-2459

Phone: 207.760.2780

Fax: 207.764.2501

*The City of Presque Isle is an equal opportunity provider. To file a complaint, write to  
HR Director, 12 Second Street Presque Isle, ME 04769, or call (207) 760-2700.*

We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from USDOT for this very important Project and respectfully request that you please consider fully funding this Project for an MPDG Grant award. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Puckett", written in a cursive style.

Martin Puckett  
City Manager



Presque Isle Community Development Association, Inc.  
12 Second Street, Presque Isle, ME 04769  
Telephone: (207) 760-2722 Fax: (207) 764-2501

May 5, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) grant application for the U.S. Department Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grant program (INFRA). The application outlines MaineDOT's important plans to build the second stage of a truck bypass in northern Maine via the *Presque Isle Freight and Mobility Priority Corridor Project* ("Project").

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It has been shown that visitors are more likely to return to a shopping and dining district such as our historic downtown if the area is perceived as safe. Moving commercial truck traffic to a bypass corridor will not only assist the businesses relying on the trucks for transit of their goods but make our downtown more appealing and safer for all pedestrians.

*Presque Isle, Maine – The Star City of the North*



Presque Isle Community Development Association, Inc.  
12 Second Street, Presque Isle, ME 04769  
Telephone: (207) 760-2722 Fax: (207) 764-2501

We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from USDOT for this very important Project and respectfully request that you please consider fully funding this Project for an MPDG Grant award. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

Kimberly R. Smith  
Executive Director  
[ksmith@presqueisleme.us](mailto:ksmith@presqueisleme.us)

*Presque Isle, Maine – The Star City of the North*

# PRESQUE ISLE

*historical society*

*Estey House and Fire Station*

PO Box 285, Presque Isle, ME 04769 [www.pihistory.org](http://www.pihistory.org) (207) 762-1151 [pihistoricalsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:pihistoricalsociety@hotmail.com)

May 5, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) grant application for the U.S. Department Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grant program (INFRA). The application outlines MaineDOT's important plans to build the second stage of a truck bypass in northern Maine via the *Presque Isle Freight and Mobility Priority Corridor Project* ("Project").

The bypass sets the stage to transform Presque Isle via numerous downtown improvements that will make the area safer and more accessible to all users, including pedestrians and cyclists. The two-lane bypass will redirect truck traffic out of downtown, ensuring harmful emissions, noise pollution and safety concerns are greatly reduced while simultaneously providing a critically-needed faster route for trucks and through traffic around town instead of through it. Trucks currently encounter traffic along Main Street (US Route 1) downtown as they negotiate the region's commercial center. The two-lane bypass provides numerous benefits, including:

- Creating a better environment for MaineDOT and the City of Presque Isle to revitalize downtown
- Reducing truck traffic and associated pollutants, noise and road/curb damage
- Minimizing conflicts between trucks and horse-and-buggies used by northern Maine's abundant Amish community
- Providing a future right-of-way for a multiuse trail critical to Maine's tourism economy
- Decreasing transit time for northern Maine freight, including the region's time-sensitive perishables traffic

Trucks currently traveling through downtown encounter traffic, numerous stoplights, cross streets, driveways, crosswalks, bicyclists, pedestrians and trains while meandering at 25 mph. The bypass will allow trucks and other vehicles to avoid downtown and maintain 55 mph, saving time and money while improving safety and laying the groundwork for a much-needed downtown transformation to ensure the city will be suitable for active transportation.

From an historical perspective, relocating the higher speed, heavier and much louder commercial truck traffic from downtown to a bypass corridor will increase the aesthetics and charm of the downtown while helping to maintain historical integrity. In addition, tour guides as well as pedestrians (residents and visitors alike) will be able to converse without yelling to be heard over the truck traffic.

We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from USDOT for this very important Project and respectfully request that you please consider fully funding this Project for an MPDG Grant award. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kimberly R. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kimberly R. Smith  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Board of Directors

May 9, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

This is a letter of support from the Presque Isle Industrial Council for the Maine Department of Transportation's (Maine DOT) grant application for the U.S. Department Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grant program (INFRA). The application outlines Maine DOT's plans to build the second stage of a truck bypass in northern Maine via the *Presque Isle Freight and Mobility Priority Corridor Project*.

The second stage of this bypass project will make the area safer and more accessible to all users, including pedestrians and cyclists. The bypass will redirect truck traffic out of downtown, ensuring harmful emissions, noise pollution and safety concerns are greatly reduced while simultaneously providing a critically needed faster route for trucks and through traffic around town instead of through it.

The two-lane bypass provides numerous benefits, including:

- Complimenting the 25-million-dollar phase one bypass project which addressed a percentage of commercial truck traffic passing through the downtown area.
- Creating a better environment for Maine DOT and the City of Presque Isle to revitalize downtown
- Reducing truck traffic and associated pollutants, noise and road/curb damage
- Providing a future right-of-way for a multiuse trail critical to Maine's tourism economy
- Allow a wider transportation corridor for area's large agricultural equipment to utilize.
- Decreasing transit time for northern Maine freight, including the region's time-sensitive perishable agricultural produce.

Trucks currently traveling through Presque Isle's downtown encounter traffic, numerous stoplights, cross streets, crosswalks, pedestrians, and rail traffic while limited to a 25 mph. speed limit. The bypass project will allow trucks and other vehicles to avoid the downtown area and maintain a 55-mph travel speed, while improving safety, travel time, and allow Presque Isle to facilitate a downtown transformation project.

We are pleased that Maine DOT is seeking assistance from USDOT for this important Project and respectfully request that you please consider fully funding this Project for an MPDG Grant award. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Thomas Powers

**Executive Director**

**Presque Isle Industrial Council**





## PRESQUE ISLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

43 North Street, Suite 2  
Presque Isle, ME 04769  
(207) 764-4476

Laurie Kelly  
*Chief of Police*



May 10, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (Maine DOT) grant application for the U>S Department Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grant program (INFRA). The application outlines Maine DOT's important plans to build the second stage of a truck in Northern Maine via the Presque Isle Freight and Mobility Priority Corridor project.

The bypass sets the stage to transform Presque Isle via numerous downtown improvements that will make the area safer and more accessible to all users, including pedestrians and cyclists. The two-lane bypass will redirect truck and traffic out of downtown, ensuring harmful emissions, noise pollution and safety concerns are greatly reduced while simultaneously providing a critically needed faster route for trucks and through traffic around town instead of through it. Trucks currently encounter traffic along Main Street (US Route 1) downtown as they negotiate the region's commercial center. The two-lane bypass provides numerous benefits, including:

- Creating a better environment for Maine DOT and the City of Presque Isle to revitalize downtown.
- Reducing truck traffic and associated pollutants, noise and road/curb damage.
- Minimizing conflicts between trucks and horse-and-buggies used by northern Maine's abundant Amish community.
- Providing a future right-of-way for a multiuse trail critical to Maine's tourism economy.
- Decreasing transit time for northern Maine freight, including the region's time-sensitive perishables traffic.

Trucks currently traveling through downtown encounter traffic, numerous stoplights, cross streets, driveways, crosswalks, bicyclists, pedestrians and trains while meandering at 25 mph. The bypass will allow trucks and other vehicles to avoid downtown and maintain 55 mph, saving time and money while improving safety and laying the groundwork for a much-needed downtown transformation to ensure the city will be suitable for active transportation.

As a law enforcement agency, our priority is to ensure and maintain public safety. As a municipal department we respond to traffic complaints, property damage crashes and personal injury crashes on a daily basis. Speed and distraction are our leading causes for crashes in the downtown area. Unfortunately, Tractor Trailer trucks are not immune from initiating these kinds of violations, creating an eminent danger to the public due to the physical size and breaking distance. On a daily basis, the downtown area is crowded with pedestrians crossing the street, children exiting school buses and customers entering and leaving commercial development. Diverting truck traffic to the bypass and avoiding the downtown area entirely would be extremely beneficial to the health and safety of our citizens.

We are pleased that Maine DOT is seeking assistance from USDOT for this very important Project and respectfully request that you please consider fully funding this Project for an MPDG Grant award. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Deputy Chief Chris Hayes  
Presque Isle Public Safety