

**Office of the City Manager  
City of Eastport  
22 Washington Street  
Eastport, ME 04631  
(207) 853-2300  
citymanager@eastport-me.gov**



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 Rural Surface Transportation Grant program (Rural). The application outlines MaineDOT's important plans to rehabilitate over 63 miles of coastal US Route 1 in Washington County, Maine, and a segment of State Route 190 from Eastport to the Pleasant Point Reservation via the Downeast Coastal US Route 1 Improvement Project. This highway is the primary coastal route serving Downeast Maine and is critical to the coastal communities that rely on it to connect them to larger service centers where people work, shop, and obtain medical care. It is also an important freight corridor that serves the natural resource based economy, including the Woodland Pulp Mill in Baileyville, the largest employer in Washington County, and the Port of Eastport. Furthermore, this corridor includes sections of the Bold Coast Scenic Byway, critical to Downeast Maine's tourism economy.

In addition to rehabilitation work, the project will include:

- Roadside safety improvements to help address rural roadway departure crashes and fatalities, which in Maine are above the national average
- Widening shoulders to better accommodate cyclists and pedestrians
- Replacing drainage structures to better withstand the effects of climate change and promote fish passage
- Supporting EV charger installations to help meet Maine's plan to bring Level 3 chargers to rural Maine

This project provides numerous benefits to Washington County, which has the highest poverty rate in the state with nearly 19 percent living at or below the poverty line and includes areas of persistent poverty. The county is home to two tribes, including the Sipayik Passamaquoddy Nation (Pleasant Point Reservation), which is one of the fastest growing communities along US Route 1. The County is also experiencing ongoing effects of the opioid epidemic. This project will directly benefit disadvantaged communities and areas of persistent poverty by improving the mobility and safety of this important corridor, including improving accessibility to bicyclists and pedestrians.

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City of Eastport**

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22 Washington Street  
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We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from USDOT for this very important project. This grant will build a stronger Route 1 corridor that supports the local people and natural resource-based economy and prepares the region for a changing climate. We 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 that reads "Kate Devonshire". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kate Devonshire  
City Manager  
City of Eastport



144 Main St.  
Baileyville, ME 04694  
(207)427-3311

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

May 20, 2022

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 Rural Surface Transportation Grant program (Rural). The application outlines Maine DOT's important plans to rehabilitate 63 miles of coastal U.S. Route 1 in Washington County, Maine, and a segment of State Route 190 from Eastport to the Pleasant Point Reservation via the Downeast Coastal U.S. Route 1 Improvement Project. This highway is the primary coastal route serving Downeast Maine as well as the deep water port in the City of Eastport and is critical to the coastal communities that rely on it to connect them to larger service centers where people work, shop, and obtain medical care. It is also an important freight corridor that serves the County's natural resource based economy, including our St. Croix Chipping facility, Woodland Pulp and St. Croix Tissue mills in Baileyville. Collectively, our three facilities are the largest employer in Washington County. Furthermore, this corridor includes sections of the Bold Coast Scenic Byway, critical to Downeast Maine's tourism economy.

In addition to rehabilitation work, I understand the project will include:

- Roadside safety improvements to help address rural roadway departure crashes and fatalities, which in Maine are above the national average.
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This project provides numerous benefits to Washington County, which has the second highest poverty rate in the state with about 18 percent living below the poverty line and includes areas of persistent poverty. The county is home to two tribal communities, including the Sipayik Passamaquoddy Nation (Pleasant Point Reservation), which is one of the fastest growing communities along US Route 1. The County is also experiencing ongoing effects of the opioid epidemic. This project will directly benefit underserved communities and areas of persistent poverty by improving the mobility and safety of this important corridor, including improving accessibility to bicyclists and pedestrians.

We are pleased that Maine DOT is seeking assistance from US DOT for this very important project. This grant will build a stronger Route 1 corridor that supports the local people, natural resource-based economy and, undoubtedly, better prepares the region for a changing climate. We respectfully request that you please consider fully funding this project for an MPDG Grant award. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Richard'.

Martin Richard

Vice-President IGIC- East Operations

**COUNTY OF WASHINGTON**  
**P.O. Box 297, County Courthouse**  
**Machias, Maine 04654**  
**(207) 255-3127**  
**Fax: (207) 255-3313**  
**manager@washingtoncountymaine.com**

**Commissioners:**

**Christopher M. Gardner, Chairman**  
**John B. Crowley, Sr., Commissioner**  
**Vinton E. Cassidy, Commissioner**

**County Manager:**

**Betsy Fitzgerald**  
**Administrative Secretary:**  
**Carla J. R. Manchester**

May 20, 2022

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“The Sunrise County – where the sun first shines!”

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy Fitzgerald". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Betsy Fitzgerald  
County Manager

# Calais School Department

32 Blue Devil Hill  
Calais, ME 04619  
207-454-7561 Telephone  
[ronaldjenkins@calaischools.org](mailto:ronaldjenkins@calaischools.org)

**Ronald D. Jenkins, Superintendent of Schools**

May 20, 2022

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

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The City of Calais lies along this route and has the largest high school and elementary population in Eastern Washington County. We serve as many as eleven (11) different communities and on the typical day have as many as fifteen (15) school buses traveling these roads. During the winter months, at times, in very unsafe road conditions. We strongly support better roads for our people and especially for our students that must have a safe road to travel to school.

We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from USDOT for this very important project. This grant will build a stronger Route 1 corridor that supports the local people and natural resource-based economy and prepares the region for a changing climate. We respectfully request that you please consider fully funding this project for an MPDG Grant award. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ronald D. Jenkins  
Superintendent



May 20, 2022

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U.S. Department of Transportation  
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Washington, DC 20590

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Sincerely,

Susan L. Mingo  
President



## Board of Directors

Tom Michaud  
**Chair**  
Sunrise Opportunities

Kay Kimball  
**Vice Chair**  
University of Maine System

Lucas Morris  
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Machias

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RH Foster, Inc.

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Town of Danforth

Megan Sorby  
Kingfish Maine

Dee Sabattus  
United South and Eastern  
Tribes

### *Ex-Officio*

Betsy Fitzgerald  
**Secretary**  
Washington County  
Commissioners

Representative Will Tuell  
Washington County  
Legislative Delegation



May 11, 2022

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In addition to rehabilitation work, the project will include:

- Roadside safety improvements to help address rural roadway departure crashes and fatalities, which in Maine are above the national average
- Widening shoulders to better accommodate cyclists and pedestrians
- Replacing drainage structures to better withstand the effects of climate change and promote fish passage
- Supporting EV charger installations to help meet Maine's plan to bring Level 3 chargers to rural Maine

This project will invest in one of the most vital pieces of public infrastructure in our county and will also improve access for dozens of communities including Sipayik (the Pleasant Point Reservation of the Passamaquoddy Tribe), which is one of the fastest growing communities along US Route 1. This investment will help our community as we face significant challenges, include the ongoing opioid epidemic, areas of persistent poverty, and the highest poverty rate in Maine with nearly 19 percent living at or below the poverty line. This project will directly benefit disadvantaged communities and areas of persistent poverty by improving the mobility and safety of this important corridor, including improving accessibility to bicyclists and pedestrians.

Main Office: 7 Ames Way, Machias, ME 04654

Calais Office: 330 North Street, Calais, ME 04619 \* Milbridge Office: 87 Maine Street, Milbridge, ME 04658

Tel: 207.255.0983 \* Fax: 207.255.4987 \* [www.sunrisecounty.org](http://www.sunrisecounty.org)

We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from USDOT for this very important project. This grant will build a stronger Route 1 corridor that supports the local people and natural resource-based economy and prepares the region for a changing climate. We 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 "Charles J. Rudelitch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Charles J. Rudelitch, Esq.  
Executive Director  
Sunrise County Economic Council



DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism  
7 Ames Way Machias, Maine 04654  
207-255-0983 DownEastAcadia@gmail.com  
DownEastAcadia.com  
DownEastAcadiaRegionalTourism.org



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

May 11, 2022

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism strongly supports the Maine Department of Transportation's (Maine DOT) grant application for the U.S. Department Rural Surface Transportation Grant program (Rural). This project will directly benefit rural communities by improving the mobility and safety of a primary transportation corridor, including improving accessibility to bicyclists, pedestrians, and tourists.

The section of highway included in the Maine DOT proposal is the primary coastal route serving Downeast Maine and is critical to the coastal communities that rely on it. As a highly rural region that requires primarily on-road transportation, Washington County communities depend upon safe and accessible travel routes for nearly every aspect of everyday life, economic success, and community well-being. Our long-term viability requires regular improvements to central travel ways for these and other purposes.

The economy of Downeast Maine is highly dependent upon tourism. Safe and enjoyable transportation routes are critical to tourism. Nearly all visitors either drive to the region from their home base or drive once they arrive in the region (via air travel). The section of highway that is the subject of this proposal is a primary travel route for travelers that support the tourism economy. The corridor includes large sections of the Bold Coast National Scenic Byway, a key asset of Downeast Maine's tourism economy. It also includes the Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway, which connects with the East Coast Greenway and US Bike Route 1 to provide diverse safe routes and encourage active transportation as a method for travelers to experience the Bold Coast National Scenic Byway.

Washington County's popularity as a tourism destination is growing rapidly. It is imperative to upgrade and maintain primary travel routes for the safety and benefit of all users. The project includes roadside safety improvements that are critical to the success of the three bicycle routes in the region, and that are critical for improving the overall travel experience and experience of the Bold Coast National Scenic Byway. Two key aspects of the project that improve these assets

are widening shoulders to better accommodate cyclists and pedestrians and supporting traveler needs by adding Level 3 EV chargers to rural Downeast Maine.

DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism (DART) is a collaboration whose members develop, manage, support, and promote natural, recreational, and cultural assets of DownEast Acadia. DownEast Acadia is one of eight designated Tourism Regions in Maine and includes all of Washington and Hancock Counties. DART Members and partners include chambers of commerce, economic development groups, regional planners, educational institutions, municipalities, business organizations, recreation and conservation groups, cultural/heritage organizations, business owners, state agencies, and more.

DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism strongly supports Maine Dot's proposal to build a stronger Route 1 corridor that supports the local people, travelers, and the natural resource-based economy. We encourage you to consider fully funding this project for an MPDG Grant award. Thank you for your time and consideration.

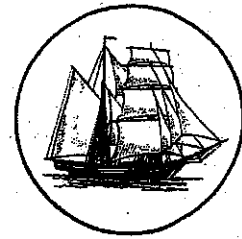
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Crystal Hitchings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Crystal Hitchings, Program Coordinator  
DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism



**Town of Machias**  
Town Office  
7 Court Street, Suite #1  
P.O. Box 418  
Machias, ME 04654



May 20, 2022

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U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Kitchen".

William Kitchen  
Machias Town Manager

Telephone: (207)-255-6621 Fax: (207) 255-6492 E-Mail: go to [machiasme.org](http://machiasme.org)  
Visit our website at [machiasme.org](http://machiasme.org)

**"Town of Machias is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer."**



**City Building**  
11 Church Street  
P.O. Box 413  
Calais, Maine 04619  
207-454-2521  
Fax: 207-454-2757  
[www.calaismaine.org](http://www.calaismaine.org)

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Sincerely,

Mike Ellis  
City Manager  
City of Calais

**An Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider**

"In accordance with Federal Law and USDA Policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability (not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 1-800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."



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



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