

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

March 31, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is with great pleasure that I write today in support of the application for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) in close collaboration with the City of Sanford, Maine. Through their application, MaineDOT is requesting \$25 million of federal discretionary funding to support a project with a total cost of \$31.25 million. The remainder of the project total will be provided through state and local funds.

This village partnership initiative, entitled the *Downtown Sanford Village Partnership Initiative Project*, proposes to reconstruct several main roadways within the heart of the downtown, improving safety and accessibility for all modes of transportation. The transportation aspects of this project accompany a much larger vision, in which the goal is the revitalization of Sanford's downtown.

The City of Sanford, Maine, is one of the larger municipalities in the south-western region of the state. Its proximity to New Hampshire attracts visitors from not only smaller neighboring communities, but individuals crossing the New Hampshire-Maine border. The City also serves as a bedroom community for many individuals who work at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. This project proposes the creation of a large park & ride facility, which will significantly aide those commuting to the shipyard, and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. An important focus of my administration has been setting forth plans to combat climate change. I applaud both the MaineDOT, and the City of Sanford, for making this a priority when developing this project.

MaineDOT has repeatedly proven its ability to successfully deliver grant-funded projects on time and within budget. The department also has demonstrated its ability to work closely with municipalities across the state. I have no doubt that this project will result in similar success.



I strongly support MaineDOT and the City of Sanford's request for RAISE discretionary grant funding. Please do not hesitate to contact myself, or MaineDOT Commissioner Bruce Van Note, with any questions you might have.

Respectfully,

Janet T. Mills,

Governor





April 6, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

It is with great pleasure that we submit this letter in support of the application submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) for funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant program. MaineDOT through their application, in collaboration with the City of Sanford, is requesting \$25 million of federal discretionary funding to be combined with state and local funding for a total project cost of \$31.25 million.

The *Downtown Sanford Village Partnership Initiative* project proposes to rehabilitate several roadways in downtown Sanford, making them safer and more pedestrian friendly in the process. Each of these road segments are heavily utilized by both motorists and the bicycle/pedestrian communities we represent in the Maine State Legislature. As state policy makers we understand the importance of the transportation system. Maine's highways maintain the connections to our communities. Our constituents, and all Maine residents, rely on safe roadways to ensure access to vital goods, health care, and employment, and this project is an important step towards that goal.

We have no doubt that MaineDOT is an excellent steward of taxpayer dollars, but the fact remains that the department faces significant and chronic funding challenges, even with the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Just prior to the onset of the pandemic, bipartisan members of a state commission that had been established to examine transportation funding in Maine determined that our state's unmet transportation funding need was in excess of \$230 million annually. This amount has increased not only due to the pandemic, but also to inflation and the rising cost of construction. Federal discretionary grant programs have allowed

MaineDOT to perform necessary repairs and replacements to aging infrastructure in the past, and we urge you to give the department's latest application strong consideration.

Sincerely,

David C. Woodsome

and C. Woodsome

**State Senator** 

Patricia Hymanson State Representative

Matthew A. Harrington
State Representative



# City of Sanford, Maine Administration Department 917 MAIN STREET, SANFORD, MAINE 04073

917 MAIN STREET, SANFORD, MAINE 04073 (207) 608-4150 FAX (207) 324-9166



March 1, 2022

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg Office of the Secretary of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington, DC 20590

#### Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am the Communications Coordinator for the City of Sanford and a member of the Friends of Downtown, in Sanford Maine, and we SUPPORT the RAISE Grant application. Friends of Downtown is an ad-hoc grass-roots committee, made up of mostly Sanford residents, business owners/managers, many non-profits, and a few City officials.

Sanford's downtown is distressed. Many of us date the decline of Sanford's downtown to the disastrous federal Urban Renewal program of the 1960's. Much of Sanford's infrastructure has not been significantly addressed with capital improvement since then.

Despite this, City leaders have worked diligently and courageously to secure investments to improve our Downtown. These measures include: Partners Bank relocating their headquarters to Downtown, a first revitalized mill building in our Mills District used to redevelop into housing units, construction of a Downtown Police Station, recently approving the development of 83 units of new housing in Downtown, and developing the largest municipally-owned fiber optic network in Maine.

In addition, City leaders have applied for and received various grants to clean up contaminated industrial sites and improve the downtown streetscape. The voters have voiced their support by approving a \$6.2M roadway improvement bond in 2019 that was then built in 2020.

The missing ingredient in Downtown Sanford is modern transportation infrastructure. A RAISE Grant award would make a great difference in supporting our economy. Included in this grant request are safer intersections, more walkable streets, connected trail systems, and recreation on the Mousam Promenade (two laps makes a 5K run). These improvements, diligently planned and funded rather than in pieces over a long period of time, will present a clear roadmap for Residents, business-owners, and our supporting community that the revitalization of our Downtown corridor is happening now. Please help Sanford by approving this RAISE Grant and seeing another great community in Maine revive and thrive.

Sincerely,

Jordan Wilson Communications Coordinator, City of Sanford



### City of Sanford, Maine

#### Office of the City Manager

919 MAIN STREET, SANFORD, MAINE 04073 (207) 324-9173 FAX (207) 324-9124

City Council Anne-Marie Mastraccio, Mayor Maura A. Herlihy, Deputy Mayor Robert G. Stackpole Ayn M. Hanselmann Jonathan L. Martell Becky A. Brink

City Manager Steven R. Buck

Honorable Peter Buttigieg Secretary of Transportation Unites States Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

March 4, 2022

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As the duly elected Mayor of the City of Sanford, Maine, I enthusiastically support the cooperative effort between the City of Sanford and the Maine Department of Transportation towards their mutual application of a RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) Grant.

The work proposed in this application is a result of years of planning and decision making across multiple administrations of City government, all with the same vision: lift Sanford's transportation infrastructure to invigorate the local economy, broaden our tax base, and improve our quality of life. Sanford's Residents have been clear with their support by approving a \$6.2M roadway bond referendum in 2019. City Administration have done their due diligence with a roadway conditions analysis that determined the required local investment in our transportation infrastructure is \$4M annually. We have been incrementally approaching that annual funding level since the report was received by the City Council and City Manager and passed through our annual budget process.

Our administrative actions have also reflected our vision for the City. Sanford has recruited and retained sought-after professionals and leaders including but not limited to:

- Steven R. Buck, City Manager: Maine's 2017 Manager of the Year
- Matthew E. Hill, P.E.: City Engineer/Director of Public Works: 23 years of experience with NHDOT, MaineDOT, and the private sector
- Beth Della Valle, AICP: 42 years professional land use experience including NNECAPA's 2004 Planner of the Year, Officer of the Maine Association of Planners, and private sector experience

There is so much more I could tell you about the heart of this community and the fiercely independent, hardworking spirit that has passed down through generations of its members. Sanford is committed not only to advocating for itself to obtain these vital improvements to infrastructure, but also to dedicating the time and resources necessary to maintain them in the future. As the Mayor and leader of our community, I dedicate our efforts to those that call Sanford home.

Sincerely,

maro Ina fraccio Anne-Marie Mastraccio Mayor of Sanford, Maine





The voice of Maine business

Honorable Peter Buttigieg Secretary of Transportation Unites States Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

March 8, 2022

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to support the cooperative effort between the City of Sanford and the Maine Department of Transportation towards their mutual application of a RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) Grant. You will find that their application strongly meets many if not all of the desired merit criteria.

Particularly, Sanford has much to benefit from this proposed investment in economic competitiveness and opportunity. With a population of over 21,000 people, Sanford is the only City in Maine not located directly on the I-95 corridor which typically drives the economy of Maine. Instead, it sits at the crossroads of York County and acts as an economic and social service center for all its neighboring municipalities.

Sanford has shown the ability to be good partners whether with MaineDOT on roadway infrastructure improvement programs such as the Municipal Partnership Initiative (MPI), through Sanford Regional Communications Center (SRCC) providing emergency dispatch services to the county or being the home to the regional office of Maine Department of Health and Human Services meeting the needs of the underserved.

Downtown Sanford contains a great example of the type of transportation infrastructure that, once revitalized, can facilitate this area to once again become a great economic engine for the State of Maine. The Maine State Chamber of Commerce, the City of Sanford, and the Maine Department of Transportation believe it is worth the investment and I invite you and the United States Department of Transportation to join in our vision and financial efforts through award of this RAISE Grant application.

Sincerely,

Dana F. Connors President/CEO



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

April 14, 2022

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Sanford Chamber of Commerce is pleased to submit this letter of support for the cooperative application of Maine DOT and the City of Sanford towards a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant.

The City of Sanford and Maine DOT have been active and successful team members since the City launched a grass-roots efforts towards the revitalization of Downtown Sanford and a rededication to fostering our local businesses and economy, many of whom we represent. Improving the transportation infrastructure in the heart of our community will result in increased economic opportunity for such businesses. The timing of this project is critical as we have many concurrent efforts underway.

The downtown is starting to see a rebirth with the commitment of local business and City support. We have increased the footprint of Central Park by purchasing and demolishing an old building adjacent to the park expanding the usage of open space for the public. Private investment will create new housing opportunities this summer overlooking Central Park. The Center for Shopping is upgrading pedestrian walkways to encourage walking traffic and one of the last standing mills in the downtown will be soon be under reconstruction.

The Sanford Chamber of Commerce is committed to furthering economic health of Downtown Sanford through partnerships and commerce. We believe this project will benefit the vitality of our community and spur increased investment for generations to come by encouraging access locally and regionally to our Downtown.

We fully support the City of Sanford and Maine DOT in these efforts.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Stanley

Chamber President

## **Sanford Housing Authority**

Commissioners:
Chairperson, Kimberly J. LaChance
Glenn J. Dowey
Michael Jean
Pamela Buck
Rebecca Ames
George Little
Arlene Townsend

Executive Director
Diane Gerry



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

February 16, 2022

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As a Member of the Sanford Friends of Downtown Business Group, we are pleased to submit this letter of support for the cooperative application of MaineDOT and the City of Sanford towards a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant.

The City of Sanford and MaineDOT have been active and successful team members since the City launched a grass-roots effort towards the revitalization of Downtown Sanford and a rededication to fostering our local businesses and economy. Improving the transportation infrastructure in the heart of our community will result in increased economic opportunity in our community.

Sanford Housing Authority provides safe, quality and affordable housing to people in the City. We have a public housing building that is located in the downtown and serves people that are elderly and/or disabled. Reliable transportation for recipients of our programs allows tenants to participate in their community, to foster growth in relationships and therefore feel connected and viable members of the city. Their living experience is enhanced and is empowering for them.

We fully support the City of Sanford and MaineDOT in these efforts.

Sincerely,

Diane G. Gerry Executive Director

Sanford Housing Authority dgerry@sanfordhousing.org





Cycle Sanford

Feb. 22, 2022

Honorable Peter Buttigieg
Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The proposed RAISE project would be truly transformative for our little city.

It would make it easier to do so many things without a car – ride a bike to school, pick up a prescription, cruise the farmers market. All of these trips could be done safely. Scenically. Healthfully. This is the dream of so many communities. And it's definitely within our reach with this project.

Drive-through convenience is the default mode for many people here in Sanford. We have drive-through lanes at our banks, fast-foot franchises, pharmacies and coffee shops. But we also have the "good bones" of a community largely built before the automobile age. We have sidewalks, compact neighborhoods, an historic downtown and schools close-by. A RAISE grant would enable us to build back the heart of our town for 21<sup>st</sup> century living.

The key project is the Mousam Promenade, a 1.7-mile bicycle-pedestrian path around #1 Pond, a lovely old mill pond that connects our waterfront, our downtown and our historic Mill Yard.

Here's what Mousam Promenade enables:

- A much safer way for children to bike and walk to Sanford Middle School and Sanford Pride Elementary School. This is especially valuable for children on the East Side, where car ownership rates are lowest.
- A convenient place for downtown workers to get some exercise and fresh air during their lunch break.
- A draw for visitors, tourists and potential new residents.
- An alternative transportation artery that runs 4.5 miles from Sanford High School to Springvale and connecting to a 5.5-mile Rail Trail. Most residents live within a quarter mile of this artery.

Awarding a RAISE grant to Sanford would redress an injustice. It was the federal Urban Renewal program that tore apart the fabric our downtown and replaced it with a suburban-style strip mall. We have lived with that mistake for 52 years and counting. It would be wonderful to get federal help to knit our community back together.

Sincerely,
Cycle Sanford Board Members



March 24, 2022

Matthew E. Hill, P.E.
Director of Public Works
City Engineer
156 School Street
Sanford, Maine 04073
(207) 324-9135
mehill@sanfordmaine.org

Dear Matt:

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the Federal RAISE Grant for the Sanford Downtown Revitalization.

As a local developer, I have partnered with the City of Sanford on several projects. Sanford's progressive approach to revitalizing it's downtown has once again given us the incentive to undertake another Sanford project. ReinCorp will break ground for a 30-unit market-rate housing project, in Sanford's Downtown, early summer of 2022. The Federal RAISE Grant will positively impact the success of our new project.

In conclusion, I fully support the efforts of Maine Department of Transportation and City of Sanford as they seek approval of the Federal RAISE Grant for Sanford's Downtown Revitalization.

Best regards,

Robert J. Reinken, President



#### York County Emergency Management Agency 149 Jordan Springs Road Alfred, Maine 04002 (207) 324-1578 (207) 324-4997 Fax



March 31, 2022

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

RE: City of Sanford RAISE Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As the current Director of the York County Emergency Management Agency, I have worked extensively with the Local Emergency Director, City Manager and City Council members for the City of Sanford in regard to their emergency preparedness and response capabilities. I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the cooperative application of Maine DOT and the City of Sanford towards a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant.

The City of Sanford has spent a considerable amount of time evaluating their current economic situation and planning the changes necessary to revitalize the downtown area to encourage growth and future business opportunities and create a center for the community where economic development opportunities work in sync with the interests, business goals, entertainment and social interests of the local population. The proposed changes will also address current issues such as high traffic volumes, accident prone areas, ADA compliant sidewalks and crosswalks, inadequate street lighting, parking and signage problems therefore increasing the levels of protection and safety for their citizens. The proposed changes to the road infrastructure will address the poor road conditions and traffic flow and increase the response time and level of safety for the first responders as well as the overall community. I commend the City of Sanford for the time and efforts they have put in to reduce or eliminate the negative aspects and issues of their downtown area and provide a safe aesthetically pleasant destination in the community for business, arts, entertainment and recreational activities for all ages.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the City of Sanford's grant application. This project is a pertinent part of the overall vision for the future economic and community development, technical innovation and protection of the life, health and safety of the Sanford community.

Sincerely,

Arthur W. Cleavés

Director

AWC/lce cc: file





#### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF U.S. NAVAL SHORE ESTABLISHMENTS Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Chapter

30 March 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigleg,

I am writing to you today as President of the National Association of Superintendents (NAS) chapter located at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine. NAS is a private association composed of senior managers from the four naval shipyards operated by the United States Navy. On behalf of our Membership, I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the cooperative application of the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) and the City of Sanford towards a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant associated with creating a park and ride location in Sanford, Maine.

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and other co-located military commands employ more than 7,600 workers and constitute the largest single employer in the Southeastern Maine and New Hampshire Seacoast area. Due to the nature of their work, the vast majority of these workers must be present at the shipyard each workday. There are limited affordable housing options in the immediate vicinity of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. This results in thousands of workers who must commute from a considerable distance to get to work.

In 2020, Sanford, Maine was home to 529 workers of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard or other co-located military commands, the most of any single community where shipyard workers live. When including other communities that share a border with Sanford, this number rises to over 1600 workers, representing over 20% of

the shipyard workforce. Sanford is located 32 miles from Portsmouth Naval Shipyard requiring a typical commute of 40 minutes by car each direction.

In recognition of the significant challenges represented by a large, distant commuting workforce, in 2019 a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) was initiated. The Town of Kittery and the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC) sponsored the JLUS with funding support from the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment/Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation. Recommendations from the JLUS are used to help local jurisdictions guide community development and infrastructure investments that protects and preserves military readiness and defense capabilities while supporting continued economic development and public health, safety, and general welfare of those living and working near an active military installation.

The proposed Sanford park and ride is consistent with the JLUS goals and recommendations and other actions that are being pursued, including a micro-transit pilot within the Sanford/Springvale zone. The park and ride represents a great improvement to begin to reduce traffic congestion in Southern Maine as well as employee parking needed at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Parking and traffic are routinely cited as the top concern of shipyard workers in employee surveys.

We fully support the City of Sanford and MaineDOT in these efforts and appreciate your support in awarding a RAISE grant to this very worthy project.

Sincerely,

Matthew St. Pierre

President

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg Secretary of Transportation United States Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

March 4, 2022

Dear Secretary Buttigleg,

On behalf of TPD Construction Co., I am writing to voice our strong support for the cooperative effort between the City of Sanford and the Maine Department of Transportation towards their mutual application for a RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) Grant. As a long-time Sanford business, we are invested in, and committed to, the revitalization of the Sanford community.

TPD Construction recently designed and permitted two residential apartment buildings within the area of the proposed RAISE Grant scope, spanning the corner of Main Street and Roberts Street in downtown Sanford. These buildings are proposed to host 36 dwelling units and construction is slated to begin in 2023-2024. The units are intended to be market-rate apartments as there is a high demand for modern, energy efficient units within the City of Sanford.

TPD Construction recently redeveloped Roosevelt School Apartments located at 53 River Street in Sanford, which is along the proposed Mousam Promenade next to Number One Pond. Roosevelt School has eight residential market-rate apartment units. River Street, as part of Mousam Promenade, is scheduled for reconstruction through another cooperative MPI effort between the City of Sanford and the Maine DOT in 2023.

TPD Construction also recently developed Austin Place Apartments located at 14 Country Club Road in Sanford. Austin Place has thirty-six residential apartments at market rate. Phase 1 of Austin Place was completed in 2021 and we intend to begin construction of Phase 2 in 2022.

The City of Sanford is a great partner to local business. We found Sanford's local development review process very supportive of our development efforts. The city officials and residents are very excited and eager to support growth and improvement within the community. I was born and raised in Sanford, and as a member of the community and local developer, I can assure you that the revitalization of the downtown area will significantly and positively impact the economy and quality of life for its community members.

Sincerely.

hen? Ment, v. Stephen P. Dumont Vice President

TPD Construction Co.



Honorable Peter Buttigieg Secretary of Transportation Unites States Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

March 4, 2022

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Maine Better Transportation Association (MBTA), I wanted to express the association's enthusiastic support for the RAISE Grant proposal presented by the City of Sanford and MaineDOT with the goal of reconstructing Downtown Sanford.

The reconstruction project would clearly enhance the City and the region in many ways. It would improve safety and economic opportunity, along with community livability, not only to the City, but to the overall region. Similarly, the transportation benefits to this project are significant, as the effort would support major arteries and local roads, and also increase transportation options and mobility for travelers.

The downtown revitalization effort, of which the reconstruction is a major component, will make Sanford even more of a destination. The City has been making aesthetic and safety improvements for some time now as part of its plan, focusing on community amenities to revitalize the area, while also looking at solutions to freight issues such as supply chain challenges.

The MBTA embraces the multimodal nature of this effort as it aims to improve vehicle transportation, but also provide better options for walkers and runners, bicyclists, persons using wheelchairs, and those wanting to use transit. This project is also important for the environment. MBTA served on the Maine Climate Council's Transportation Working Group, and while many of the recommendations to reduce transportation carbon emissions focused on electrification, the group also recognized the need to reduce vehicle trips by providing more transportation options, including buses and shuttles with designated pick-up and drop-off locations to help underserved populations.

Maine, along with the rest of the country, is seeing a big spike in injuries and fatalities to bicyclists and pedestrians. It is critical that we address this safety crisis, by making infrastructure improvements, and deploying other strategies. All levels of government, along with the public sector, must work together to make walking and cycling safer for everyone and developing more walkable neighborhoods is an important step that Sanford is doing.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this transformational regional project which will have many and varied transportation benefits to Sanford and to the State.

Sincerely,

Maria R. Fuentes Executive Director

Maria R. Fuentes

Maine Better Transportation Association

146 State Street Augusta ME 04330

PHONE: 207.622.0526 FAX: 207.623-2928 www.mbtaonline.org





March 2, 2022

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

RE: Sanford Maine RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Sanford Regional Economic Growth Council, I am pleased to inform you of our enthusiastic support for Sanford's RAISE Grant application. The growth council is a private, nonprofit development corporation that works each day to improve livelihoods and enhance prosperity for our residents.

As such we have routinely participated with community leaders, businesses and organizations to take incremental steps to help Sanford evolve from a former mill town to a modern service center and employment base for our region. We have been successful with piecemeal improvements and investments in our traditional downtown area, including the redevelopment of former churches, schools and mill buildings, development of new housing, and deployment of a municipally-owned high-speed fiber-optic network through the heart of our community. However, a key missing ingredient has been modern transportation infrastructure.

The comprehensive approach envisioned by Sanford's RAISE Grant application will make a monumental difference to the community's future success. Included within the grant request are safer intersections, more walkable neighborhoods, connections to our existing trail system, and recreation along the Mousam Promenade. When completed, we imagine more dense housing opportunities, significant tourism-attraction events, and the return of businesses to support them. These are parts of a multi-faceted approach that will be life-altering for our current and future residents, and visitors, as many seek alternatives to driving their cars.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will look favorably upon our request.

Sincerely,

James F. Nimon
Executive Director

917 Main Street, Suite D, Sanford, Maine 04073 | (207) 324-9155 | www.sanfordgrowth.com



March 4, 2022

Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
Unites States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

WinnDevelopment, as a national real estate developer that has completed more than three dozen historic adaptive reuse projects, and in conjunction with Gamble Associates supports the City of Sanford and the Maine Department of Transportation in their cooperative application for a RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) Grant. We are currently in the planning process of redeveloping the historic Stenton Mill in Sanford and expect to have our financing package in place later this year. Once key planning and permitting steps are concluded, in late 2023/early 2024 WinnDevelopment projects begin construction of 97 units of mixed-income housing, with a total project cost exceeding \$30 million. Our project will help address the significant affordable and workforce housing shortage in Downtown Sanford and Southern Maine.

Stenton Mill is located within the proposed scope of the RAISE Grant proposal at 13 River Street. A new traffic signal and geometric improvements designed at the intersection of Route 202/Cottage Street and River Street will provide a dedicated left-turn lane to access our facility. The City of Sanford, contractually partnering with MaineDOT's Municipal Partnership Initiative (MPI) program, has agreed to reconstruct River Street along our frontage in 2023.

These improvements to transportation infrastructure are absolutely vital to the well-being of Sanford, the success of our business and the quality of life for our tenants. Sanford has demonstrated a proactive approach by planning much of this effort with MaineDOT years in advance. We therefore join them in support of this application and look forward to the realization of our cooperative vision for the community.

Sincerely,

Lawrence H. Curtis WinnDevelopment

President and Managing Partner

cc: David Gamble, Gamble Associates



March 3, 2022

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg Office of the Secretary of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Our business is Kids Kove Childcare & Learning Center and we are members of the Friends of Downtown, in Sanford Maine, and we SUPPORT the RAISE Grant application. Friends of Downtown is an ad-hoc grass-roots committee, made up of mostly Sanford residents, business owner/managers, many non-profits, and a few City officials.

Sanford's downtown is distressed. Many of us date the decline of Sanford's downtown to the disastrous federal Urban Renewal program of the 1960's. Much of Sanford's infrastructure has not been significantly addressed with capital improvement since then.

Despite this, City leaders have worked diligently and courageously to secure investments to improve our Downtown. These measures include: Partners Bank relocating their headquarters to Downtown, a first revitalized mill building in our Mills District used to redevelop into housing units, construction of a Downtown Police Station, recently approving the development of 83 units of new housing in Downtown, and developing the largest municipally-owned fiber optic network in Maine.

In addition, City leaders have applied for and received various grants to clean up contaminated industrial sites and improve the downtown streetscape. The voters have voiced their support by approving a \$6.2M roadway improvement bond in 2019 that was then built in 2020.

The missing ingredient in Downtown Sanford is modern transportation infrastructure. A RAISE Grant award would make a great difference in supporting our economy. Included in this grant request are safer intersections, more walkable streets, connected trail systems, and recreation on the Mousam Promenade (two laps makes a 5K run). These improvements, diligently planned and funded rather than in pieces over a long period of time, will present a clear roadmap for Residents, business-owners, and our supporting community that the revitalization of our Downtown corridor is happening now. Please help Sanford by approving this RAISE Grant and seeing another great community in Maine revive and thrive.

Sincerely, Jennifer & Andrew Michaud





March 1, 2022

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg Office of the Secretary of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Our business is the Sanford-Springvale YMCA and we are members of the Friends of Downtown, in Sanford Maine, and we SUPPORT the RAISE Grant application. Friends of Downtown is an ad-hoc grass-roots committee, made up of mostly Sanford residents, business owner/managers, many non-profits, and a few City officials.

Sanford's downtown is distressed. Many of us date the decline of Sanford's downtown to the disastrous federal Urban Renewal program of the 1960's. Much of Sanford's infrastructure has not been significantly addressed with capital improvement since then.

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Sincerely,

Andrew Orazio, CEO

PO Box 249
1 Emile Levasseur Drive
Sanford ME 04073
P 207 324 4942 F 207 636 8046

PO Box 249 19 Elm Street Sanford ME 04073 P 207 457-0080 F 207 636 8046 District Office Telephone: 324-5313 Fax 324-5087

Treatment Plant Telephone: 324-0047 Fax: 324-9830

#### SANFORD SEWERAGE DISTRICT

281 River Street \* P.O. Box 338 SPRINGVALE, ME 04083-0338

March 3, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Buttigieg,

I am writing to you to express the Sanford Sewerage District's (SSD) support for the City of Sanford's application for the RAISE grant pertaining to its goal of reconstructing downtown Sanford. The District knows full well how important upgrades are to key infrastructure. We have invested in our own infrastructure to provide a reliable sanitation system for this vibrant community of 23,000. The City's Public Works Director, Matthew Hill, has been working diligently with numerous stake holder groups to receive full support for upgrades that will prove to be an awesome attraction for new families to raise their children here in Sanford. Streets and intersections will be improved with overall pedestrian and vehicle safety in mind. Multimodal paths will be installed so that recreation can be incorporated into the citizen's lively hood.

The project includes a combined sewer separation project where a dozen or so storm water catch basins will be removed from the sanitary side of treatment. This will be a substantial decrease in the overall flows the District's treats on an annual basis. The decrease in flows will add further capcity in our overall system thus allowing for future development in this City which means an increase in economic commerce. Over the last three decades, SSD has done a tremendous job on the separation 100's of catch basins that were tied into our system. We were once in the EPA's CSO program but were granted an exemption from the program in 2011 due to reduced flows pumped and treated. We no longer have untreated flows bypassing secondary treatment. The sewer separation will also decrease our electrical/chemical expenses while providing excellent treatment and superior effluent discharged back into the Mousam River.

I am in hopes the City is awarded this RAISE Grant so the Public Works and City of Sanford can showcase this wonderful City for its citizens and all who wish to make Sanford their permanent residence. Investments into roadways and infrastructure proves to be a strong influencer for current businesses to stay as well as new entrepreneurs who wish to call Sanford home.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely

André Brousseau Superintendent



March 1, 2022

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Our business is Troiano & Hanselmann and we are members of the Friends of Downtown, in Sanford Maine, and we SUPPORT the RAISE Grant application. Friends of Downtown is an ad-hoc grass-roots committee, made up of mostly Sanford residents, business owner/managers, many non-profits, and a few City officials.

Sanford's downtown is distressed. Many of us date the decline of Sanford's downtown to the disastrous federal Urban Renewal program of the 1960's. Much of Sanford's infrastructure has not been significantly addressed with capital improvement since then.

Despite this, City leaders have worked diligently and courageously to secure investments to improve our Downtown. These measures include: Partners Bank relocating their headquarters to Downtown, a first revitalized mill building in our Mills District used to redevelop into housing units, construction of a Downtown Police Station, recently approving the development of 83 units of new housing in Downtown, and developing the largest municipally-owned fiber optic network in Maine.

In addition, City leaders have applied for and received various grants to clean up contaminated industrial sites and improve the downtown streetscape. The voters have voiced their support by approving a \$6.2M roadway improvement bond in 2019 that was then built in 2020.

The missing ingredient in Downtown Sanford is modern transportation infrastructure. A RAISE Grant award would make a great difference in supporting our economy. Included in this grant request are safer intersections, more walkable streets, connected trail systems, and recreation on the Mousam Promenade (two laps makes a 5K run). These improvements, diligently planned and funded rather than in pieces over a long period of time, will present a clear roadmap for Residents, business-owners, and our supporting community that the revitalization of our Downtown corridor is happening now. Please help Sanford by approving this RAISE Grant and seeing another great community in Maine revive and thrive.

Sincerely,

Ayn Hanselmann, CPA



March 1, 2022

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Our business is Frannie's Mini Donuts and we are members of the Friends of Downtown, in Sanford Maine, and we SUPPORT the RAISE Grant application. Friends of Downtown is an ad-hoc grass-roots committee, made up of mostly Sanford residents, business owner/managers, many non-profits, and a few City officials.

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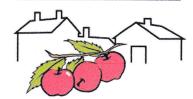
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Sincerely

Jeff Hanselmann, Owner

#### McDOUGAL • ORCHARDS



201 Hanson Ridge Road, Springvale, ME 04083 207-324-5054 www.mcdougalorchards.com

March 1, 2022

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg Office of the Secretary of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Our business is McDougal Orchards and we are members of the Friends of Downtown, in Sanford Maine, and we SUPPORT the RAISE Grant application. Friends of Downtown is an ad-hoc grass-roots committee, made up of mostly Sanford residents, business owner/managers, many non-profits, and a few City officials.

Sanford's downtown is distressed. Many of us date the decline of Sanford's downtown to the disastrous federal Urban Renewal program of the 1960's. Much of Sanford's infrastructure has not been significantly addressed with capital improvement since then.

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Sincerely,



# Friends of Downtown, Sanford Maine

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing today on behalf of the Friends of Downtown Sanford Maine, and we SUPPORT the RAISE grant application. Friends of Downtown is an ad-hoc, grass-roots committee, made up of Sanford residents, business owner/managers, many non-profits, and a few City officials.

Sanford's downtown is distressed. Many of us date the decline of Sanford's downtown to the disastrous federal Urban Renewal program of the 1960's. Much of Sanford's infrastructure has not been significantly addressed with capital improvement since then.

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Sincerely,

Mary W. Hastings

Sanford Regional Economic Growth Council

Small Business Advocate

Member, Friends of Downtown



February 24, 2022

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

RE: Sanford Maine RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing this letter to express YCCAC's strong support for the City of Sanford's application for a transportation RAISE Grant.

A safe and vibrant downtown will encourage residents to live in surrounding neighborhoods where they can easily make local trips via multi-modal means, including transit. As you are well aware from your efforts in South Bend, redevelopment of our Downtown and Mill District here in Sanford will bring new life to the entire area.

YCCAC operates several transportation routes which serve the downtown area of Sanford and connect residents to vital destinations and services. It is very important for our riders to be able to safely access our services, and the proposed projects will greatly improve pedestrian accommodations and connections to our transit stops.

As part of the project design, the City and MaineDOT will be incorporating bus pull-outs at key stops, and we are already coordinating on locations for transit shelters. Both of these will improve both vehicular and pedestrian safety.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need information regarding our support for this important grant application.

Sincerely,

Tom Reinauer

Transportation Program Director

Thomas.reinauer@yccac.org

207-459-2930



February 25, 2022

Matthew E. Hill Director of Public Works City Engineer 156 School St. Sanford, ME 04073

Dear Mr. Hill,

On behalf of Partners Bank, I support the City of Sanford and MaineDOT's request for a Federal RAISE Grant to assist in the reconstruction of Downtown Sanford.

Partners Bank, formerly Sanford Institution for Savings, has been located on Main Street in Sanford since 1933. The bank did a major expansion in 2007, doubling its office size, and is an intricate tenant of the downtown area. Partners Bank thought long and hard about moving to the outskirts of the city back in 2005, but decided it was important to the people of Sanford to remain in the downtown area.

The benefits of "downtown" include the remarkable Goodall Park that houses the Sanford Mainers and brings thousands of locals and out of towners to their stands throughout the summer months.

The Mousam Fall walking trail system provides recreation to young and old alike.

The City of Sanford Municipal offices remain on the corner of Main Street and Roberts Street, where they have been for the past century, and the relocated Police Department is just a short walk from its previous location within the City Hall.

Number One Pond and the waterfall are attractions that bring many to view, and the ski shows are a well-attended attraction through the summer months at Number One Pond.

Numerous churches have a long history on Main Street and have had worshipers from the same families for generations.

The problem is that the City of Sanford needs better sidewalk systems, bike lanes, and parking available for our residents and out of towners who come into the city to enjoy it. It is a deterrent for residents and visitors alike when parking and safe walking is unavailable.

The City of Sanford has a history. It was former mill town, and the Goodall family bestowed several parks. Time has "tired" these great gems. They need to be brought alive again.

You have our full support for this grant application. Please take a moment to recognize the City of Sanford and all of their stakeholder efforts to improve critical infrastructure and improve the downtown.

Sincerely,

Blaine A. Boudreau President/CEO



York County Soil and Water Conservation District 21 Bradeen Street Suite 304 Springvale, ME 04083 207-324-0888 ext. 214

RE: City of Sanford and MaineDOT application for a RAISE Grant

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the City of Sanford and MaineDOT's application for a Federal RAISE grant.

Since the establishment of the York County Soil and Water Conservation District (YCSWCD) in the 1940s, we have partnered with the City of Sanford on a number of projects to support the protection and restoration of their natural resources. We believe that their application for the aforementioned RAISE grant will serve to complement and enhance past efforts at conservation and sustainability to improve the Sanford community.

The YCSWCD believes that the City of Sanford and MaineDOT are incorporating many elements into their application that serve to promote conservation and sustainable use of resources, such as renovating and reusing existing structures and incorporating stormwater infiltration into gutter designs.

This project will also abide by the Goodall Brook Watershed Management Plan by directing any additional stormwater flows away from Goodall Brook. The YCSWCD and City of Sanford have been collaboratively working together for a number of years to restore Goodall Brook, listed on the State of Maine's 303(d) list as an impaired water body and Urban Impaired Stream. Since 2012 these projects have generated over \$204,000 of City and community match working in conjunction with federal 319 and 604(b) funds to restore Goodall Brook.

The YCSWCD is pleased to support the improvements put forth by the City of Sanford and MaineDOT that will promote sustainable design and conservation.

Sincerely,

Mindee Goodrum Project Manager

York County Soil and Water Conservation District

Tindre Godlin

#### STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION





March 1, 2022

Matt Hill **Director of Public Works** 156 School Street Sanford, ME 04073

Dear Matt:

I writing to express DEP's support for the City of Sanford and MaineDOT's joint application for a Federal RAISE grant to assist in the reconstruction of Downtown Sanford.

In addition to supporting the City's revitalization and safety goals, the project would also provide environmental benefits. The project area is located in two of DEP's NPS priority watersheds, Goodall Brook and Estes Lake. Maine DEP has worked closely with the City for over ten years to develop watershed management plans and implement water quality improvement projects in these watersheds. This work has been funded, in part, by Maine DEP and US EPA under Sections 605(b) and 319 of the Clean Water Act and State Stormwater Compensation Fees. If selected for a RAISE grant, Maine DEP would continue to partner with the City to provide technical assistance and potentially additional funding to incorporate water quality improvements and climate resilience into the project.

I have worked with the City for over a decade on several grant projects, and have continued to be impressed by the dedication, professionalism and follow-through of City staff from several different departments. They are proactive and creative in addressing environmental problems, and would most certainly benefit from and successfully carry out a RAISE grant project.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Wendy Garland

Windy Jailans

Director, Division of Environmental Assessment

**Bureau of Water Quality** 



Sanford Parks and Recreation 919 Main Street Telephone: 324-9130 Fax: 324-9142 www.sanfordrec.com recreation@sanfordmaine.org



City Hall 919 Main Street Sanford, ME 04073 Phone: 324-9125 Fax: 324-9127 www.sanfordmaine.org

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On Behalf of the Sanford Parks & Recreation Department I wish to express our support for the proposed Federal RAISE Grant request for downtown Sanford, Maine. Being able to connect trails, biking paths and parks will drastically make a difference in our trail system and City. This will help accomplish a goal of connecting the northern and southern trail systems.

The work that will be done around Number One Pond will create a beautiful walk and ride around the pond and be an attractive asset to our community. In addition, it will allow our department to host 5k or 10k road races around the pond. With the connectivity of this project, it will give people the opportunity to move around the City easier without using vehicles and help promote a healthy lifestyle. I can see this bringing more people to our summer events such as the water ski shows, fireworks and parades.

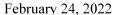
Over the last few years two master plans have been conducted, one by the City of their parks and the other by the Trails Committee of their trails. These are used as a guide to help plan improvements of the parks and trails for future activities. Having a downtown connector to link parks and trails throughout the community will provide a safe route for users to navigate the City. This would be an incredible opportunity for the residents of Sanford.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brady Lloyd

Director of Parks & Recreation

City of Sanford





To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express the Bicycle Coalition of Maine's (BCM) enthusiastic support for Sanford's application for a federal RAISE grant to fund improvements to their downtown. The BCM has long been involved with Sanford, and been part of a team of stakeholders working to make the community more walkable, bikeable and accessible. We are pleased that the City is moving forward to fund some of the projects they have been planning.

Sanford is a classic Maine case of a community challenged by the loss of its manufacturing base, and suffering an economic downturn that has resulted in deferred investment and maintenance for its vulnerable user infrastructure. Sidewalks, crossings and ADA upgrades are all needed, as is the creation of some basic bicycle accommodations throughout the dense downtown area.

We believe that this project will address many of the improvements needed to promote vulnerable user safety in the community. We have appended some additional comments regarding the impact of the project on safety, quality of life, mobility, etc.

In addition to the basic and necessary improvements detailed in the application, the inclusion of a segment of separated multi-use path on Number One Pond will create a key connector between the heart of downtown and surrounding neighborhoods and attractions, including the middle school, the YMCA, Cobb Stadium and Blouin Field. This new facility alone will be a magnet for users, and will drive economic activity and interest in living in Sanford.

We have worked with Matt Hill, the DPW director of Sanford, on several planning and demonstration projects, and we have the highest opinion of his vision, abilities, and understanding of vulnerable user needs. Taxpayer funds have a good steward in him.

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine views the good folks working on improving the bike/ped conditions of Sanford as critical partners in our mission to make Maine better for bicycling and walking. This is a fantastic project for the Federal RAISE program We urge you to fund their request.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Assistant Director

Bicycle Coalition of Maine

Attachment

Bicycle Coalition of Maine Assessments of Sanford Project Impacts



P.O. Box 590 Sanford, Maine 04073 tel. 207.490.3227 fax 207.490.2186 caring-unlimited.org

February 23, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As a Member of the Sanford Friends of Downtown Business Group, we are pleased to submit this letter of support for the cooperative application of MaineDOT and the City of Sanford towards a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant.

The City of Sanford and MaineDOT have been active and successful team members since the City launched a grass-roots effort towards the revitalization of Downtown Sanford and a rededication to fostering our local businesses and economy. Improving the transportation infrastructure in the heart of our community will result in increased economic opportunity in our community.

Caring Unlimited is a private non-profit agency that works to end domestic violence in York County. In addition to our administrative offices and resource center located in Sanford, we own and operate 11 units of transitional housing and an emergency shelter for people who have become homeless due to domestic violence.

This project will increase the quality of life for people we serve, making it easier for them to walk to local businesses and amenities which in turn will make it easier for them to meet their basic needs and pursue employment and educational opportunities for themselves and their children. Most of them do not have personal transportation and public transportation is limited making safe, walkable neighborhoods with a variety of businesses a necessity.

As a member of the Sanford Community, we are committed to creating vibrant and attractive spaces that we can all be proud of and meet the diverse needs of the people who live and work here. We have recently invested over \$200,000 in exterior improvements to our property and have plans to invest that same amount in the coming year. We also hope that improvements like those proposed here including and the vision outlined by the Friends, will help us attract and retain employees.

We fully support the City of Sanford and MaineDOT in these efforts.

Sincerely,

Susan Giambalvo, LCSW Executive Director



Sanford Trails and Urban Forestry Committee Sanford Parks and Recreation City Hall 919 Main Street Sanford, ME 04073

February 24, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Sanford Trails and Urban Forestry Committee I wish to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed Federal RAISE Grant request to help fund traffic improvements in downtown Sanford, Maine. This project will connect trails and biking paths in the northern portion of the city with those in the south which has been a goal of the Trails Committee for a number of years.

The trails system in Sanford has been developed over the last 30 years by dedicated volunteers and includes over 25 miles of mostly interconnected footpaths, bike paths, and multi-purpose trails. In 2019-20, with the assistance of a National Park Service staff person provided through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, the committee created a Sanford Trails Master Plan to govern our future activities. One of the main aspects of that plan was the need for a downtown connector to link existing trails in two main sections of the city. This project will accomplish that goal and is of extreme importance to the Trails Committee, the city, and its citizens.

These connections will encircle Number One Pond, a historic and beautiful natural feature in the center of our city. It is used now, but the planned improvements will greatly enhance its recreational value for many types of users. These changes will also improve the safety of the surrounding streets, especially for walkers and bikers.

I have attached two pages from the Trails Committee's Master Plan that show the importance of these changes. I cannot express how much this means to the Trails Committee and our city's population.

Thank you for your consideration

Lawrence Furlish

Lawrence Furbish

Chair, Sanford Trails and Urban Forestry Committee