

## TOWN OF ISLESBORO

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July 12, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are pleased to send you the following letter in strong support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) \$17.5 million application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program. MaineDOT is requesting \$17.5 million from the Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program to modernize two aging, rural ferry terminals linking the mainland to a year-round island community. This project will support the safe and efficient operation of a new plug-in hybrid/all electric ferry that currently is scheduled for delivery in 2027.

- The ferry provides a vital link between the mainland and an island community of approximately 600 full time residents and many more than that during the summer that is 3 miles off the Maine coast. It is the busiest ferry in the Maine Ferry Service fleet.
- MaineDOT is seeking \$17.5 million through the Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program to modernize and upgrade the ferry terminals serving Lincolnville and Islesboro.
- The two ferry terminals were built in 1959.
- The proposed work will expand the capacity of the terminals to accommodate a new hybrid/all electric ferry that is 37 feet longer than the vessel that it will replace. The ferry will accommodate approximately 10 more vehicles than the vessel it is replacing in order to keep up with demand for the service. Very importantly, the work also will upgrade the electrical infrastructure at the terminals to allow for high-speed charging of the new ferry, which will run primarily on battery power with diesel backup when necessary. The ferry is expected to be delivered in 2027.
- The project is needed for the continued safe improvements critical to the successful operation of this state of the art, virtually and efficient operation of the new ferry.

We strongly support MaineDOT's proposal for the Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program. It will help support crucial transportation service to and from Islesboro and allow Lincolnville and the island community to accommodate the new hybrid ferry.

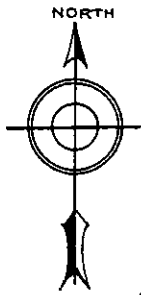
Sincerely,



Shey Conover, Chair, Islesboro Select Board

**Incorporated April 6, 1789**

# MAP OF ISLESBORO MAINE

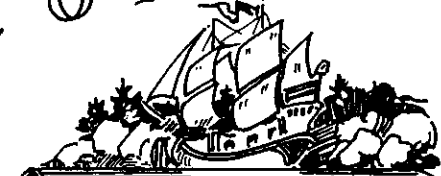


TO BELFAST  
12 MILES

TO CAMDEN  
6 MILES

LINCOLNVILLE  
BEACH

ISLESBORO  
FERRY



## *If Once You Have Slept On An Island*

If once you have slept on an island  
You'll never be quite the same;  
You may look as you looked the day before  
And go by the same old name.

You may bustle about in street and shop,  
You may sit at home and sew,  
But you'll see blue water and wheeling gulls  
Wherever your feet may go.

You may chat with the neighbors of this and that  
And close to your fire keep,  
But you'll hear ship whistle and lighthouse bell  
And lides beat through your sleep.

Oh, you won't know why, and you can't say how  
Such change upon you came,  
But once you have slept on an island  
You'll never be quite the same!

Rachel Field

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