



9/20/23

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 grant application under the 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program. The application outlines important plans to significantly improve the Libbytown neighborhood in Portland, Maine, via the elements included in the Reconnecting Our Villages: historic Libbytown ("Project") to revitalize and reconnect this area as a result of the construction of Interstate 295 in the late 1960's. The work will improve connections throughout the community by:

- Reconstructing numerous streets to include traffic calming features and ADA-compliant sidewalks and crosswalks.
- Installing sidewalks and bikeways to encourage active transportation along right-of-way's that are safe and modern.
- Improving transit stops to support stronger community-wide accessibility; and
- Constructing a roundabout that is safe and improves traffic flow for drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

The Project will lift burdens and support accessibility to housing, employment, retail, healthcare, tourism, and recreation – including the state's \$14 billion tourism industry critical to Maine's economy.

We are pleased Maine DOT in coordination with the City of Portland are seeking assistance from USDOT is able to assist funding these improvements. We recognize the importance of supporting USDOT merit criteria and providing equitable transportation options. Modernizing neighborhood transportation leads to safe and efficient connections and a better quality of life for all.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Packard
President, PK Realty Management