



Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

August 17, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg;

I am pleased to send you the following letter in support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) application to the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Through their application MaineDOT is requesting funding to assist with a project that will raise a section of roadway in Addison, Maine.

This project will directly improve the resilience of East Side Road in Addison, Maine, through climate adaptation measures. The existing causeway on East Side Road crosses a low-lying tidal creek and is vulnerable to sea level rise due to its location directly adjacent to tidal Pleasant Bay and its tributary, Knowles Brook. This section of road frequently floods, often prohibiting passage therefore disconnecting communities in South Addison from critical emergency services and economic opportunities. This project will reduce the impact of flooding events and mitigate the potential of interruptions in service by elevating the roadway and associated bridge above astronomical high tide. Additionally, an increase in the size of the crossing over Knowles Brook will increase the flow capacity, allowing for more naturalized flows.

I am in full support of MaineDOT's efforts to improve the resiliency of Maine's transportation infrastructure, adapt to climate change, and address other climate related community priorities throughout the state. I respectfully urge you to grant them the funding they are seeking through their application to USDOT.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills  
Governor



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