



Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
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AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

February 21, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter in support of the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) and Eastern Trail Management District (ETMD)'s Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application for discretionary funding to assist with the development of two segments of the Eastern Trail in York County, Maine.

This project will construct approximately 2.7 miles of off-road trail in two segments in North Berwick, Wells, and Kennebunk, Maine. It will fill in identified gaps in the Eastern Trail, an important piece of active transportation infrastructure that connects several communities in Southern Maine. It will enhance access to a trail that has already proven to be an important contributor to economic opportunity and quality of life in Southern Maine.

Limited active transportation infrastructure in this region limits the ability of some people to safely access jobs, schools, housing, and other services—especially those without vehicles or who are otherwise unable to drive. This project will provide opportunities for people in these communities to get to work, to school, and to socialize by connecting major employers, schools, and village centers to nearby residential areas. This project will directly support MaineDOT's recently-developed *Maine State Active Transportation Plan*, which lays out our state's plan to improve safety and increase active transportation options throughout our state.

Maine is also committed to combating climate change, as outlined in our Climate Action Plan, *Maine Won't Wait*. This project will further our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by providing Maine people with clean, safe, and efficient alternatives to automobile travel in these communities.

I respectfully request that you please consider funding this project fully through the RAISE program. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or MaineDOT Commissioner Bruce Van Note.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills  
Governor



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