

# Windham Economic Development Corporation

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*Promoting Sound Economic Investment in Windham*

February 9, 2023

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 and the Town of Windham's grant application for a 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity ("RAISE") Grant. The application outlines MaineDOT's important plans to significantly improve North Windham, Maine via the *North Windham Moves: Regional Mobility - Local Access Project* ("Project").

The Windham Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) and the Town have been working to transition the North Windham Commercial District from a regional shopping center known for big box retail, strip malls, and fast food restaurants into a dynamic mixed use downtown with destination shopping and dining experiences, multiple housing options, light industry, and financial, medical, and professional services for Maine's Sebago Lakes Region. The planned *North Windham Moves: Regional Mobility - Local Access Project* will help Windham meet that vision by improving existing and adding new transportation infrastructure while implementing numerous required safety and mobility improvements. The Project will provide opportunities for business expansion, infill development, as well as new light industry, hotel, and housing development on over 50 acres of newly accessible commercial land in the downtown.

The WEDC is currently assisting the Town of Windham and the Westbrook Development Corporation, a designated HUD Community Housing Development Organization, to locate on some of the 50 acres of land, upwards of 200 subsidized affordable housing units, a relocated North Windham Fire Station, and a new active transportation trail network reaching to Windham's Donnabeth Lippman Park, a 126 acre recreation area surrounding Chaffin Pond.

We at the Windham Economic Development Corporation hope USDOT can assist in funding these improvements which will improve safety for all roadway users and greatly reduce U.S. highway and state road congestion. Modernizing Maine's rural towns to make them safe, efficient, walkable, and better connected to shopping, employment, housing, and tourism helps improve the quality of life for our Windham residents and creates a safe and enjoyable experience for visitors to Maine.

Sincerely,



Thomas Bartell

Executive Director

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*Thomas Bartell, Executive Director*