



UNIVERSITY  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ORGANIZATION

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The East Deering: Pathways to Bridge the Gap Project has our enthusiastic support because it will provide bike and pedestrian access directly onto a new university campus in Portland, reinvigorating a marginalized neighborhood and welcoming the public onto this waterfront campus. As President of the University Neighborhood Organization, we recognize the value of multi-modal campus connectivity.

The Roux Institute at Northeastern University will position Maine workers for the jobs of the future, and as such, it should model transportation modes of the future. This grant, with financial commitments from the Maine DOT and IDEALS, the non-profit developing the Roux Campus for Northeastern, makes possible a bike and pedestrian- forward campus. In addition, safety improvements to neighboring infrastructure will improve roadways for active transportation users and motorists.

It is critically important that the grant be issued in 2024 so transportation patterns can be formed, early in the life of the new campus, that take advantage of the enhanced opportunities for non-motorized access. Universities are powerful engines of creativity and job creation, particularly this center for high tech entrepreneurship. But to be successful, they must be fully integrated into the host neighborhood and the city. This grant will make those critical connections possible. It is key to enabling the Roux Institute at Northeastern University live up to its potential for the city of Portland and all of Maine.

I believe this is consistent with the goals of the administration and I hope we have your support.

Kind regards,  
*Carol R. Schiller*

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