



September 22, 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 (MaineDOT) 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. The elements included in the *Reconnecting Our Villages: Historic Libbytown* ("Project") will revitalize and reconnect this area which has been impacted by Interstate 295 since the late 1960's. The Project will improve connections throughout the community by:

- Reconstructing numerous streets to include traffic calming features and ADA-compliant sidewalks and crosswalks;
- Installing multi-use pathways to encourage active transportation along right-of-ways 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.

The Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA) manages the Amtrak Downeaster and plans to relocate the passenger train station in Portland to a location directly adjacent to the Libbytown neighborhood. The improvements in this Project will enhance connectivity and accessibility to the Downeaster.

We are pleased MaineDOT and the City of Portland are collaborating to seek assistance from USDOT for this very important Project and hope USDOT is able to assist funding these improvements, recognizing the importance of 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patricia Quinn".

Patricia Quinn
Executive Director