



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
54 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0054

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

LAURA A. FORTMAN
COMMISSIONER

August 20, 2024

The Honorable Shailen Bhatt, Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Maine Department of Transportation's application to FY 2024-2025 Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program

Dear Administrator Bhatt,

The Maine Department of Labor (MDOL) is pleased to support MaineDOT's request for funding through the FY 2024-2025 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program. The application outlines MaineDOT's important plans to expand access to electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in Maine, particularly in areas facing climate change-related resiliency challenges. Bolstering the state's EV charging infrastructure is imperative to advancing Maine's economic, clean energy and equity goals through reducing greenhouse gas emissions and drivers' fuel costs and focusing on disadvantaged and rural communities.

MDOL is committed to advancing high-quality job opportunities for Maine workers, businesses, and transit agencies by helping employers recruit and train a talented workforce, providing workers with the skills they need to be competitive in the economy through models such as registered apprenticeship, and ensuring safe and fair workplaces for people on the job. This grant funding will create new, high-quality job opportunities for workers in electrical and other trades professions, while also creating opportunities to upskill incumbent electricians on installing and maintaining the state's EV charging infrastructure.

Upon award, MDOL will support this work by:

- Collaborating with MaineDOT, the Maine Community College System, labor unions, and other partners to strengthen the EV workforce by designing registered apprenticeship and certified pre-apprenticeship opportunities for essential EV careers—building on the Maine Apprenticeship Program's nearly 1,000 current apprentices in clean energy and transportation occupations.
- Connecting jobseekers to EV careers and training opportunities through our 12 CareerCenters and local workforce partners with a focus on priority communities including women, individuals with disabilities, veterans, people of color, and the re-entry and recovery communities.

MDOL supports MaineDOT's grant application for this project and looks forward to the continued partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Laura A. Fortman'.

Laura A. Fortman
Commissioner
Maine Department of Labor