

**Kate Snyder**

Mayor

City of Portland

May 16, 2023



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

Dear Administrator Bhatt,

Please accept this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation (“MaineDOT”) and Efficiency Maine application for a 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (“CFI”) Discretionary Grant. This important project will yield many important benefits, including:

- Helping MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine meet EV charging requirements along Federally-designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (“AFCs”);
- Ensuring locations beyond fuel corridors, including disadvantaged communities, have charging infrastructure to serve residents and tourists;
- Assisting Maine in meeting its goal to decrease greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030 and 80% by 2050 – and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045; and
- Ensuring funding received is consistent with that of other states.

In addition, the project will equitably provide public charging in our community, ensuring chargers are located in neighborhoods of all income levels. It will greatly reduce ‘range anxiety’ by closing gaps between charging locations, which will alleviate residents’ hesitation about making the switch to EVs. In addition, an increase in the availability of charging stations will increase Maine’s appeal to visitors, buoying Maine’s \$14 billion tourism industry.

The goals established in the Recharge Maine Project align with the City’s plan to increase the installation of charging infrastructure in locations that, in particular, benefit low- and moderate-income individuals who do not have private access charging infrastructure. We also strongly support the State’s plan to install additional fast chargers in locations that will benefit visitors who support Portland’s hospitality and restaurant industries.

We are pleased that MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine are seeking discretionary funding from USDOT for this very important project. The Pine Tree State was an early adopter of EVs and set rigorous but attainable climate improvement goals long ago. We hope USDOT is able to help the state reach these goals by ensuring everyone in our community – residents and visitors – can easily and equitably access EV charging stations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate Snyder".

Kate Snyder, Mayor