



7/12/23

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to send you the following letter in strong support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) \$17.5 million application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program. MaineDOT requests \$17.5 million from the Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program to modernize two aging, rural ferry terminals linking the mainland to a year-round island community. This project will support the safe and efficient operation of a new plug-in hybrid ferry that is scheduled for delivery in 2027. We have several mainland students K-12 and staff that cross daily from Lincolnville to Islesboro and back. This new ferry would create a more efficient, safe, and reliable transportation for our staff and students.

- MaineDOT is seeking \$17.5 million through the Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program to modernize and upgrade the ferry terminals serving Lincolnville and Islesboro.
- The proposed work will expand the capacity of the terminals to accommodate a new hybrid ferry that is 37 feet longer than the vessel that it will replace. The ferry will accommodate 10 more vehicles than the vessel it is replacing in order to keep up with demand for the service. The work also will upgrade the electrical infrastructure at the terminals to allow for high-speed charging of the new ferry, which will run primarily on battery power with diesel backup. The ferry is expected to be delivered in 2027.
- The project is needed for the continued safe and efficient operation of the new ferry.
- The two ferry terminals were built in 1959.
- The ferry provides a vital link between the mainland and an island community that is 3 miles off the Maine coast.

I support MaineDOT's proposal for the Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program. It will help support crucial transportation service to and from Islesboro and allow Lincolnville and the island community to accommodate the new hybrid ferry.

Sincerely,


Dr. Dominic DeBatsy, Superintendent of Islesboro School Department