

April 25, 2024

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

RE: Support Letter for Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) Application to the Federal Transit Administration Low or No Emission Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Hatch Associates Consultants, Inc. (Hatch) is pleased to join Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) in responding to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) FY 2024 Low or No Emission Grant Program (Low-No) and Grants for the Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program (Buses and Bus Facilities Program). Having assisted in developing MaineDOT's plans to electrify transit fleets throughout the state, Hatch is in full support of MaineDOT's pursuit of Low-No funding for 2024.

Hatch pledges its commitment to support MaineDOT and the five (5) transit agencies within the state participating in this grant request by offering our project management, design and technical support. Hatch is an industry leader in deploying sustainable transportation initiatives, having worked with over 45 transit agencies and government entities with zero-emissions implementation. Hatch will leverage this experience to provide expert support to Maine DOT and the participating transit agencies.

As MaineDOT's technical consultant, Hatch will oversee the procurement of charging systems, vehicles, and related infrastructure, prioritizing joint procurement strategies and eliminating customization as able. We will review proposals from suppliers, and assist MaineDOT and the participating transit agencies in selecting the most qualified candidates. Hatch will also assist in the development of infrastructure designs for each charging location and provide oversight of infrastructure installations. Finally, we will validate the performance of delivered vehicles and charging infrastructure against modeling and specification values.

Hatch is excited to continue our support of MaineDOT's bus electrification initiatives as part of this transformative project.

Sincerely,



Daniel Lang  
Director, Bus and Sustainable Transportation

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## Hatch's Qualifications

Hatch brings decades of experience in traditional electric vehicle applications, plus recent experience in the burgeoning world of the latest battery and energy storage technologies, to help design a transit vehicle solution tailored to each transit agency's specific requirements, local operation, and zero-emission goals. Using our proprietary Energy Modeling for Intelligent Transportation and Sustainability (EMITS) simulation software, Hatch can conduct a thorough analysis of each agency's operating needs and define the technologies, vehicle configurations, and power systems necessary to fulfill those requirements.

Hatch has also assisted clients in the procurement, design, and maintenance of electric vehicles for decades. Hatch offers the industry's largest portfolio of high-tech transit rolling stock, totaling over 26,000 zero-emission passenger vehicles. That level of success means our team can identify opportunities to evaluate and refine every aspect of the vehicle life cycle, from engineering and manufacturing through testing and in-service maintenance, plus midlife overhaul and selective replacement of obsolete components and systems. Hatch will assist the agencies in Maine with procurement support, vendor selection, quality inspections, testing, commissioning, and verification of vehicles performance.

Hatch has been designing transit electrical power substations since 1935. Today, Hatch leverages its extensive experience to help agencies design charging infrastructure for zero-emission buses. Hatch will provide the agencies in Maine with support of infrastructure procurements, utility coordination and management, oversight of installations, and troubleshooting of any issues that may emerge. Hatch will develop the electrical designs used by contractors to install the charging equipment. Hatch will also support in curriculum development for any workforce training necessary for the success of this project.

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## Hatch's Experience with the State of Maine

In addition to our work with numerous other US transit agencies, Hatch has been supporting MaineDOT since 2022 with the development of transition plans for 12 transit agencies within the state of Maine.

Hatch is assisting each agency in selecting the optimal equipment for electrification. This involves simulations of each transit agency's operations to determine the best vehicles and charging systems to allow feasible operation in all seasons and to ensure sustainable, economical operations throughout the asset lifecycle. Hatch has developed an optimized charging plan for each agency to minimize utility costs and improve operational efficiency.

Hatch has also been working with the local utilities to inform them of expected charging load requirements and to coordinate upgrades where necessary. Hatch has worked with these utilities to accurately estimate the cost, schedule and scope of each upgrade.

Recently, Hatch assisted the MaineDOT with the development of specifications to procure new electric transit vans for multiple transit agencies within the state. The specifications are comprehensive of all agency requirements, industry standards and best practices to improve the likelihood of successful operation.

Hatch's experience with supporting MaineDOT and the 12 transit agencies participating will be invaluable experience in support of the State's Low-No project proposal for 2024. Hatch has the advantage of established relationships with all key stakeholders, and has developed valuable tracking metrics that can be used to verify that equipment performs as expected.