



Jared Golden
Congress of the United States
2nd District of Maine

October 3, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write today in strong support of the Rural Surface Transportation Grant application recently submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) to the U.S. Department of Transportation. Through their application, MaineDOT is seeking \$27.6 million in discretionary grant funding to facilitate a rehabilitation project valued at nearly \$38 million.

MaineDOT's project, the *Northern Maine U.S. Route 1 Road Improvement Project*, is a crucial endeavor aimed at enhancing U.S. Route 1 in Frenchville, Maine, a community located within Aroostook County, Maine's most expansive and rural county. This initiative addresses the pressing need to repair two substandard sections of Route 1, totaling 10.4 miles. Over the past quarter-century, a significant portion of Route 1 within Aroostook County has undergone comprehensive modernization. However, there remain four unfinished sections, and this project seeks to complete two of those remaining segments.

U.S. Route 1 plays a pivotal role in the lives of northern Maine residents, serving as a vital link to employment, healthcare, and essential goods. Its unique positioning along the U.S.-Canadian border connects families split between Frenchville and Canada, and it also serves as a primary artery for exporting Maine products. The proposed project is essential to ensuring that the people of Frenchville and surrounding communities maintain consistent access to the services they depend on.

Thank you for your time on behalf of MaineDOT. We urge your full and fair consideration of their application, in accordance with all rules and regulations. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Barbara Hayslett at 207-492-6009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared F. Golden".

Jared F. Golden
Member of Congress