

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 19, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write in support of the application submitted by the Independent Transportation Network (ITN) to the United States Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration's Integrated Mobility Innovation (IMI) Program for its proposal "ITNCountry: Transportation for Rural and Small Communities."

In 2003, the Federal Transit Administration helped to fund an ITNAmerica planning grant that created the nation's first national nonprofit transportation network for older adults and people with visual impairment. The national network surpassed a million rides in 2018, commemorated by S. Res. 491 and H. Res. 851. Throughout these years, ITN has maintained a rich research database that is now used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study mobility in older Americans.

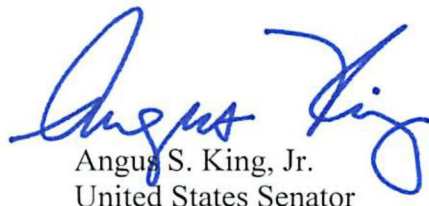
With this application to the IMI Program, ITN and ITNAmerica are turning their attention to one of the nation's most intractable transportation problems—transportation for people in rural and small communities. Maine is one of the most rural states in the nation with 61.3 percent of the population living in rural areas. It is also the oldest state by median age, with a median age of 44.6. These demographics presents serious safety and mobility problems for Maine's older drivers: Maine ranks fourth in the country in traffic crashes involving drivers age 65 and older.

Thank you for your consideration of the Independent Transportation Network's application to the Federal Transit Administration's Integrated Mobility Innovation (IMI) Program grant. We encourage your careful evaluation of this application, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you notify [REDACTED] when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator