

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 28, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write to express our strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MDOT) application for funding for its Traffic Mobility Improvements – Phase I Project through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program. The project will fulfill local transportation and economic needs by increasing traffic mobility in designated communities across Maine.

The State of Maine faces unique infrastructure challenges due to its geography, weather conditions, and population density. Because much of Maine is rural, reliable infrastructure is critical for its residents to access employment, education, health care, and other services. In its efforts to upgrade the state's infrastructure system, it is crucial that MDOT has adequate funding. Through this project, the department plans to leverage federal dollars to replace or enhance 101 traffic signals statewide as the first phase of a larger traffic mobility improvement project that aims to reduce traffic congestion and make transportation in the state more efficient.

This project will enable MDOT to integrate cutting-edge technologies into Maine's traffic signal system to improve aging infrastructure. The new features will have many benefits for Mainers, helping make industries like trucking more competitive in the state, improving traffic mobility for first responders, and making significant improvements to intersections for the blind and visually impaired in adherence to the American with Disabilities Act. As evidenced by the project outline, MDOT is prepared to make the necessary changes to the state's transportation system to make it safe and efficient for commuters, businesses, and community members alike. This is especially applicable to pedestrians who are unable to drive or who rely on limited public transit.

We strongly believe that the technological advances detailed in MDOT's BUILD proposal will go a long way towards ensuring that Maine's infrastructure is up to date, efficient, and reliable. Improving the state's overall traffic mobility would enhance the quality of life for area residents and further expand economic opportunity.

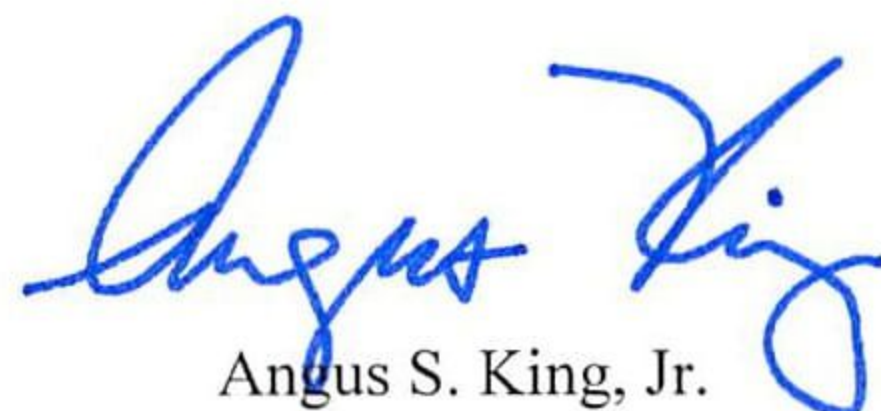
Thank you for your attention to this proposal. We respectfully request that the Department give careful consideration to the Maine Department of Transportation's application, subject to all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that your staff notify [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] when a final decision is made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator