

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 7, 2018

Ms. K. Jane Williams
Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Acting Administrator Williams:

We write in support of the application submitted by the Greater Portland Council of Government (GPCOG) to the Federal Transit Administration's Human Services Coordination Research Grant Program. Through its *Mobility Solutions for Maine* proposal, GPCOG seeks to increase access to transportation for vulnerable populations across the state through improved coordination and efficiency.

As the regional planning agency for the most populous county in the state, GPCOG has distinguished itself as a skilled convener and catalyst for regional and statewide initiatives aimed at advancing equity and prosperity in Maine. As one of the oldest and most rural states in the country, Maine faces significant challenges in providing access to transportation for its people. According to GPCOG, approximately 61 percent of Maine residents live in rural areas and 18 percent of residents are age 65 or older.

GPCOG has been leading recent efforts to establish a multi-sector collaboration to improve Mainers' access to transportation throughout the state. The *Mobility Solutions for Maine* project is the culmination of several years of partnership building and goal-setting between the Maine Department of Transportation and stakeholder organizations representing planning, human services, aging and disability, health care, public health, transportation, and housing.

If selected for funding, the project will focus on developing a mobility management network for Maine that provides a forum to share best practices, troubleshoot problems, spur innovation, and leverage funding to integrate mobility management into the current transportation system. It also includes regional pilots that aim to improve access to transportation information, support, and resources among populations who face transportation challenges. We believe this proposal will improve transportation options and have lasting benefits for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the Greater Portland Council of Government's proposal. We urge your careful review of this application, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you please notify Katie Seelen (Collins) at (202) 224-2523 and Adam Lachman (King) at (202) 224-5344 when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator