



CITY OF BELFAST

131 Church Street
Belfast, Maine 04915

Belfast Mayor and City Council

Honorable Mayor, Eric Sanders
Ward 1 Councilor, Mary Mortier
Ward 2 Councilor, Neal Harkness
Ward 3 Councilor, Brenda Bonneville
Ward 4 Councilor, Michael Hurley
Ward 5 Councilor, Paul Dean

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William Pulver, P.E., Chief Operating Officer
Maine Department of Transportation
24 Child Street, Augusta, Maine 04330

April 22, 2020

Mr. Pulver,

The City of Belfast supports for the concept of a Rapid Commuter Ferry Service for Penobscot Bay. A working waterfront is a critical component of our local and regional economy. This investment in infrastructure will expand our transportation network, increase connectivity with our surrounding communities, and enhance economic activity in our region, all of which are especially critical as we emerge from the current health crisis and an associated depressed economy.

The potential to create more than seventy-five jobs in our community is timely and meaningful. The employees required for the construction of high-speed ferries at Front Street Shipyard, development of land-based infrastructure and subcontracting opportunities for Maine's boat building and composites industries will benefit businesses and families in our community. The City of Belfast has already been involved in this endeavor through securing CDBG Public Service Program funding last year for training at Front Street Shipyard and will continue to provide all the support we can as this concept takes further shape.

Whether this service is utilized for commuting to and from work or school, for ambulance services, or for shopping, entertainment or tourism, we see only the addition of value to our diverse working

waterfront. It is an exciting opportunity to establish our State and region as the national leader in the construction of high-speed composite ferries and continue this important aspect of our heritage.

Again, the City of Belfast will remain ready to provide support to this project. We have had discussions regarding dockage, parking, waste removal, and fueling and look forward to carrying on these conversations with the Maine State Ferry Service. We sincerely hope that the Maine DOT and the Maine State Ferry Service give this proposal serious consideration.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Mayor Eric Sanders
Councilor Mary Mortier
Councilor Neal Harkness
Councilor Brenda Bonneville
Councilor Michael Hurley
Councilor Paul Dean