

MAINE MOTOR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

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"The spokesman for the Maine Trucking Industry"

July 15, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to offer Maine Motor Transport Association's support for their Bridge Investment Program Planning Grant Application requesting federal funding for the development of the MaineDOT Off-System Bridge Investment Program. MMTA represents approximately 1,785 member companies whose 32,000 employees make their living in the trucking industry in Maine.

As you can appreciate, MMTA's primary focus is to foster and promote safety. We understand and welcome the improved safety benefits that MaineDOT has identified as it looks to develop this program to replace off-system local bridges. Additionally, it will encourage needed investments in critical infrastructure connecting underserved and rural communities where our members live and work. The vast majority of these bridge structures represent one of a limited number of ways to access rural populations as they serve as the economic lifeblood of their respective regions. Every improvement to these poor and critical condition structures will have a significant benefit for maintaining essential connections, moving goods, services and people across safer and more resilient infrastructure.

We support MaineDOT's initiative in creating a planning process that evaluates off-system bridge replacements through careful consideration of local, regional, and statewide criteria. If successful, this grant funding will create a bridge bundling program that will immediately prioritize nearly a third of the 239 poor and critical condition bridges for replacement over the next four-year work plan, based on future bridge investment program funding opportunities. These replacements will use innovative technologies and processes while continuing to improve travel networks that are currently underserved.

This project enjoys strong local and regional support, and your help in making it possible will strengthen what MaineDOT has identified as a priority and significant need. MMTA hopes the USDOT will make a grant award to the MaineDOT to further strengthen the impact of decades of significant state and local investments in this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Brian Parke
President and CEO
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