

September 6, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We are pleased to submit this letter in support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) application for funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation 2022 Bridge Investment Program (BIP).

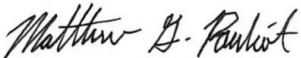
Through their project, *U.S. Route 202/Interstate 95 Interchange Bridge Replacement and Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project*, MaineDOT will replace a 6-lane span overpass in Augusta, Maine. This 67-year-old structure carries U.S. Route 202/State Route 17 over Interstate 95 and with it more than 28,000 vehicles daily over more than 34,000 vehicles on the interstate below.


This current bridge is approaching the end of its useful life and has insufficient vertical clearance for freight passage on I-95 making it vulnerable to being struck and potentially causing significant traffic disruption at this busy intersection. Additionally, there are narrow shoulders and functionally-obsolete sidewalks.

MaineDOT's project proposes a new bridge that will have a higher clearance and contain a number of improvements, including pedestrian upgrades. The project will address the safety issue of narrow shoulders and functionally-obsolete sidewalks that exists on the current bridge and will incorporate wider sidewalks and modern crosswalks so pedestrians can move safely through the area.

We are hopeful you will give MaineDOT's application your full consideration and grant them the funding they are seeking. This bridge is utilized daily by many commuting into Maine's Capital City from neighboring communities. We are pleased to see the department prioritize this structure and propose a more modern and reliable replacement.

Sincerely,


Mathew Pouliot
State Senator


Raegan F. LaRochelle
State Representative