

Appendix E
Letters of Support



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

April 26, 2021

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Congratulations on your recent appointment by President Biden. We in the State of Maine look forward to working with you in these upcoming years and sharing in your successes.

I write today to lend my full support to the Maine Department of Transportation's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application. MaineDOT's project, *The Initiative for New Decks Essential for Economic Development*, proposes replacing 15 bridge decks that have reached the ends of their useful lives. Through its application, MaineDOT is seeking roughly \$48 million in INFRA funds to be matched by state and other federal funding for a total project cost of \$80 million.

The 15 bridges identified in MaineDOT's project are all on the National Highway System, on Interstate 95. Eleven of them are part of the National Highway Freight Network. These structures are critical to maintaining the state's highway freight corridors that support most of Maine's freight and vehicle traffic.

As has been the case in all states, Maine has seen a drastic decline in traffic over the past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fewer vehicle-miles traveled directly equates to less funding to support the state's transportation infrastructure. MaineDOT has repeatedly proven its ability to successfully deliver grant-funded projects on time and within budget. I have no doubt that this project will result in similar success.

Thank you for your time and effort in reviewing MaineDOT's proposal. I appreciate your full consideration of this worthy proposal and urge you to award MaineDOT the funding it is requesting.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
MAINE

133 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224-5344
Website: <https://www.King.Senate.gov>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 29, 2021

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
INTELLIGENCE
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am pleased to write you in strong support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) request for federal funding for the *Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) 2021 Grant Program*. As a founding member of the bipartisan *Climate Solutions Caucus*, I am a strong advocate for energy efficient solutions and fully support opportunities to reduce the carbon footprint in our nation's transportation sector.

MaineDOT's *Initiative for New Decks Essential for Economic Development (INDEED)* project will replace fifteen bridge decks, all on the National Highway System, eleven of which are on the National Highway Freight Network. Maine is vast and relies heavily on these major highways to move more than 80% of the freight and goods within the state. Replacing the deteriorating structures addresses an aging rural transportation infrastructure that directly supports the economic vitality in Maine.

Interstate 95 is a major route that spreads over a 300-mile span to the Canadian border and is instrumental in facilitating international trade with Canada. The deteriorating infrastructure on this critical highway leads to frequent repairs and has an increasingly negative impact throughout the region, leading to disruptions that increase fuel usage, wear on vehicles and tires, and congestion along local roads. The rehabilitation of these bridge decks with a properly designed and constructed deck system will reduce environmental impact by maintaining efficient access through the state for the public and freight ultimately reducing the carbon footprint and impact on climate change.

MaineDOT's project will generate national and regional economic, mobility, and safety benefits and will improve access to work, school, healthcare, and emergency services. Improving our state's infrastructure and transportation systems is an essential component to the future of Maine's economy. I strongly support MaineDOT's INFRA 2021 grant application and urge DOT's careful review of this proposal, subject to all applicable laws and regulations. Please notify Adam Lachman (King) at (202) 224-5344 when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

AUGUSTA
4 Gabriel Drive, Suite 3
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 622-8292

BANGOR
202 Harlow Street, Suite 20350
Bangor, ME 04401
(207) 945-8000

BIDDEFORD
227 Main Street
Biddeford, ME 04005
(207) 352-5216

PRESQUE ISLE
169 Academy Street, Suite A
Presque Isle, ME 04769
(207) 764-5124



March 9, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Maine Better Transportation Association (MBTA) is thrilled to submit this letter of unqualified support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for the replacement and rehab of fifteen bridges on and around the Interstate 95 corridor in rural Maine. The project would begin in the town of Pittsfield (Somerset County) and extend northly through Penobscot County, ending in Benedicta, Aroostook County.

Maine
Better
Transportation
Association

146 State Street
Augusta
ME 04330

PHONE: 207.622.0526
FAX: 207.623-2928
www.mbtaonline.org

You may know that Maine has unique infrastructure challenges due to its geography, weather, and low population density. Much of Maine is comprised of vast forest land, making it one of the most rural states in the country. This rural nature makes reliable and safe infrastructure a critical component for businesses in the region, as well as employment and mobility. Transportation is the backbone of our rural economy.

Clearly, the Interstate is the most important Maine highway on the National Highway System (NHS) and the only NHS highway serving the northern half of Maine north of the City of Bangor. This project is crucial to maintaining the state's key highway freight and passenger corridor, which supports most of Maine's freight shipments (including forest products, and other heavy bulk commodities) and passenger movement into, out of, and within the State.

The I-95 bridges over the Penobscot River in Medway and over Somerset Avenue and Webb Road in Pittsfield connects northern Maine to the United States. The bridges on Route 202 in Hampden and Bangor provide a crucial direct link to the port of Searsport. Through the INFRA grant, rehabilitating these bridges would allow freight corridors, businesses, and residents to have modern transportation infrastructure that others take for granted. If these projects do not occur, the region will experience a continued decline in financial opportunity, drastically reducing Maine residents way of life.

We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation to replace the identified bridges. We strongly believe that this region of the country cannot be competitive on a regional, national, or global scale if these improvements to the highway system are not completed.

Maine Better Transportation Association is a statewide coalition with over 600 members including companies and individuals who plan, design, build, maintain and use Maine's transportation infrastructure. Our members include design engineering and construction firms, airports and rail companies, port facilities, bus companies and others committed to improving transportation to enhance our communities and our economy.

We thank you for your careful review of this application, and respectfully request that you consider fully funding this project in this round of INFRA grant awards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria R. Fuentes".

Maria R. Fuentes
Executive Director

MAINE MOTOR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

142 Whitten Road

P.O. Box 857

Augusta, Maine 04332-0857

(207) 623-4128 • FAX (207) 623-4096 • www.mmta.com

"The spokesman for the Maine Trucking Industry"

March 8, 2021

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

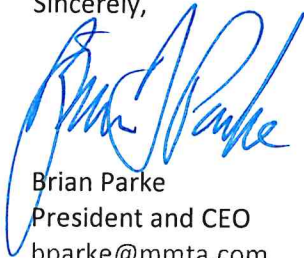
Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to offer Maine Motor Transport Association's support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for the replacement and rehabilitation of fifteen bridges on and around the Interstate 95 corridor in rural Maine. MMTA represents almost 1,600 member companies, whose employees make up a large portion of the 33,000 people who make their living in the trucking industry in Maine.

The projects outlined in the MeDOT's application are self-explanatory from an engineering standpoint, but our industry also looks at them from a safety perspective as MMTA's primary focus is to foster and promote highway safety. Rehabilitating/replacing these bridges will objectively improve safety for both passenger traffic and commercial trucks alike, while also supporting Maine's rural businesses and residents who rely on this infrastructure as the underpinnings for economic activity.

Many of our members use the bridges identified in the MaineDOT grant to further commerce in and around Maine and the northeast region which is why we write to you today to offer our support. Please consider the improved safety, congestion and supply chain efficiency impacts when deciding on federal funding investments like the one outlined in the MeDOT application.

Sincerely,



Brian Parke
President and CEO
bparke@mmta.com



March 4, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Concord Coach Lines is pleased to submit this letter of support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for the replacement and rehabilitation of fifteen bridges on and around the Interstate 95 corridor in rural Maine.

As you are aware, the State of Maine has unique infrastructure challenges due to its geography, weather, and low population density. Much of Maine is comprised of vast forest land, making it one of the most rural states in the country. This rural nature makes reliable and safe infrastructure a critical component for U.S. businesses in the region, as well as employment and mobility. This project is crucial to maintaining the state's key highway freight and passenger corridor, which supports the majority of the state's freight shipments (including forest products, and other heavy bulk commodities) and passenger movement into, out of, and within the State.

Interstate 95 is the primary highway corridor in Maine, and any disruption to traffic on this vital transportation link has a severely negative impact to the movement of freight, mobility of residents, and vitality of businesses throughout Maine. Through the INFRA grant, rehabilitating these bridges would allow freight corridors, businesses, and residents to have modern transportations infrastructure that others take for granted. If these projects do not occur, the region will experience a continued decline in financial opportunity, drastically reducing Maine resident's way of life.

We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation to replace the identified bridges. We strongly believe that this region of the country cannot be competitive on a regional, national, or global scale, if these improvements to the highway system are not completed.

We thank you for your careful review of this application, and respectfully request that you consider fully funding this project in this round of INFRA grant awards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Blunt", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Benjamin Blunt
Vice President

March 4, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

John T. Cyr & Sons, Inc. is pleased to submit this letter of support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for the replacement and rehabilitation of fifteen bridges on and around the Interstate 95 corridor in rural Maine.

As you are aware, the State of Maine has unique infrastructure challenges due to its geography, weather, and low population density. Much of Maine is comprised of vast forest land, making it one of the most rural states in the country. This rural nature makes reliable and safe infrastructure a critical component for U.S. businesses in the region, as well as employment and mobility. This project is crucial to maintaining the state's key highway freight and passenger corridor, which supports the majority of the state's freight shipments (including forest products, and other heavy bulk commodities) and passenger movement into, out of, and within the State. Our school buses and motor coaches travel Interstate 95 on a daily basis. We rely on a stable infrastructure to safely transport thousands of passengers every year.

Interstate 95 is the primary highway corridor in Maine, and any disruption to traffic on this vital transportation link has a severely negative impact to the movement of freight, mobility of residents, and vitality of businesses throughout Maine. Through the INFRA grant, rehabilitating these bridges would allow freight corridors, businesses, and residents to have modern transportations infrastructure that others take for granted. If these projects do not occur, the region will experience a continued decline in financial opportunity, drastically reducing Maine resident's way of life.

We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation to replace the identified bridges. We strongly believe that this region of the country cannot be competitive on a regional, national, or global scale, if these improvements to the highway system are not completed.

We thank you for your careful review of this application, and respectfully request that you consider fully funding this project in this round of INFRA grant awards.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Whitmore, Owner

John T. Cyr & Sons, Inc.

John T. Cyr & Sons, Inc
207-827-2335
becky@cyrbustours.com

H.O. BOUCHARD

March 5, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

H.O. Bouchard, Inc. is pleased to submit this letter of support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for the replacement and rehabilitation of fifteen bridges on and around the Interstate 95 corridor in rural Maine, beginning in the town of Pittsfield in eastern Somerset County and extending northly through Penobscot County ending in Benedicta, Aroostook County.

As you are aware, the State of Maine has unique infrastructure challenges due to its geography, weather, and low population density. Much of Maine is comprised of vast forest land, making it one of the most rural states in the country. This rural nature makes reliable and safe infrastructure a critical component for U.S. businesses in the region, as well as employment and mobility.

The Interstate is the most important Maine highway on the National Highway System (NHS) and is the only NHS highway serving the northern half of Maine north of the City of Bangor. This project is crucial to maintaining the state's key highway freight and passenger corridor, which supports the majority of the state's freight shipments (including forest products, and other heavy bulk commodities) and passenger movement into, out of, and within the State.

We own 105 trucks, based in Hampden, Maine, with a satellite location in Eliot, Maine. Our fleet travels 7.5 million miles per year, burning nearly 1.5 million gallons of fuel in the process. We transport a variety of commodities in various types of tanker trailers. We employ 155 employees in Maine and 5 in New Hampshire. We transport:

- Cement products from Dragon Cement to their customers in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Eastern Canada.
- Home heating oil, propane and gasoline from Searsport, South Portland and Auburn to destinations all over the state of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont for many Oil
- Road salt to DOT and municipal salt sheds from Searsport to Augusta, to Rangeley to Jackman, over to Calais and continue serving DOT sheds up north to all the sheds as far north as Fort Kent.
- Liquid asphalt from St. John, New Brunswick, Searsport, South Portland, Newington, NH and Boston to all the paving contractors in Maine, and most in New Hampshire. We

deliver industrial chemicals from Searsport, Auburn and Nashua, NH to Pulp and Paper mills, as well as waste treatment plants and water districts in Maine and as far north as Edmundston, New Brunswick and as far south as Peabody, Mass.

The I-95 bridges over the Penobscot River in Medway and over Somerset Avenue and Webb Road in Pittsfield connects northern Maine to the United States. The bridges on Route 202 in Hampden and Bangor provide a crucial direct link to the port of Searsport. Through the INFRA grant, rehabilitating these bridges would allow freight corridors, businesses, and residents to have modern transportation infrastructure that others take for granted. If these projects do not occur, the region will experience a continued decline in financial opportunity, drastically reducing Maine resident's way of life.

We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation to replace the identified bridges. We strongly believe that this region of the country cannot be competitive on a regional, national, or global scale, if these improvements to the highway system are not completed.

We thank you for your careful review of this application, and respectfully request that you consider fully funding this project in this round of INFRA grant awards.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bouchard

H.O. Bouchard, Inc



March 4, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Penquis is pleased to submit this letter of support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for the replacement and rehabilitation of fifteen bridges on and around the Interstate 95 corridor in rural Maine.

As you are aware, the State of Maine has unique infrastructure challenges due to its geography, weather, and low population density. Much of Maine is comprised of vast forest land, making it one of the most rural states in the country. This rural nature makes reliable and safe infrastructure a critical component for U.S. businesses in the region, as well as employment and mobility. This project is crucial to maintaining the state's key highway freight and passenger corridor, which supports the majority of the state's freight shipments (including forest products, and other heavy bulk commodities) and passenger movement into, out of, and within the State.

Interstate 95 is the primary highway corridor in Maine, and any disruption to traffic on this vital transportation link has a severely negative impact to the movement of freight, mobility of residents, and vitality of businesses throughout Maine. Through the INFRA grant, rehabilitating these bridges would allow freight corridors, businesses, and residents to have modern transportation infrastructure that others take for granted. If these projects do not occur, the region will experience a continued decline in financial opportunity, drastically reducing Maine resident's way of life.

Each year, Penquis provides transportation to over 7,000 residents ranging from low income families, elder adults, people with disabilities and the general public throughout the region. In a typical year we are responsible for over 400,000 trips with more than 9 million miles traveled throughout Maine. The condition of these infrastructures are invaluable to our mission and our ability to provide our services. We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation to replace the identified bridges. We strongly believe that this region of the country cannot be competitive on a regional, national, or global scale, if these improvements to the highway system are not completed. We thank you for your careful review of this application, and respectfully request that you consider fully funding this project in this round of INFRA grant awards.

Sincerely,

Kara Hay – President and CEO
Penquis

262 Harlow Street
PO Box 1162
Bangor, Maine 04402
www.penquis.org

(207) 973-3500
Fax (207) 973-3699
TDD (207) 973-3520
1-800-215-4942



March , 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Pleasant River Lumber Company is pleased to submit this letter of support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for the replacement and rehabilitation of fifteen bridges on and around the Interstate 95 corridor in rural Maine, beginning in the town of Pittsfield in eastern Somerset County and extending northly through Penobscot County ending in Benedicta, Aroostook County.

As you are aware, the State of Maine has unique infrastructure challenges due to its geography, weather, and low population density. Much of Maine is comprised of vast forest land, making it one of the most rural states in the country. This rural nature makes reliable and safe infrastructure a critical component for U.S. businesses in the region, as well as employment and mobility.

The Interstate is the most important Maine highway on the National Highway System (NHS) and is the only NHS highway serving the northern half of Maine north of the City of Bangor. This project is crucial to maintaining the state's key highway freight and passenger corridor, which supports most the state's freight shipments (including forest products, and other heavy bulk commodities) and passenger movement into, out of, and within the State.

Pleasant River Lumber owns and operates 5 lumber manufacturing facilities, multiple log purchasing yards, two saw filing shops and a trucking company in the State of Maine. We pride ourselves on providing high-quality products and long-term consistent business relationships. Good quality highways provide for greater efficiencies and lower vehicle maintenance costs. The quality of the interstate is essential to the economic viability of the company.

The I-95 bridges over the Penobscot River in Medway and over Somerset Avenue and Webb Road in Pittsfield connects northern Maine to the United States. The Route 155/I-95 overpass in Howland is a major route for logs from Eastern Maine and finished products from our Enfield operation. Through the INFRA grant, rehabilitating these bridges would allow freight corridors, businesses, and residents to have modern transportations infrastructure that others take for granted. If these projects do not occur, the region will experience a continued decline in financial opportunity, drastically reducing Maine resident's way of life.

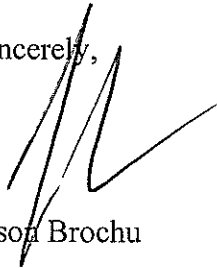
Pleasant River Lumber Company
Route 16 / 432 Milo Road
P.O. Box 68
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426

T: (207) 564-8520
F: (207) 564-8259

We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation to replace the identified bridges. We strongly believe that this region of the country cannot be competitive on a regional, national, or global scale, if these improvements to the highway system are not completed.

We thank you for your careful review of this application, and respectfully request that you consider fully funding this project in this round of INFRA grant awards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Brochu', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Jason Brochu

Co-President



March 8, 2021

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

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

Smith's Farm Inc. is pleased to submit this letter of support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for the replacement and rehabilitation of fifteen bridges on and around the Interstate 95 corridor in rural Maine, beginning in the town of Pittsfield in eastern Somerset County and extending north through Penobscot County ending in Benedicta, Aroostook County.

As you are aware, the State of Maine has unique infrastructure challenges due to its geography, weather, and low population density. Much of Maine is comprised of vast forest land, making it one of the most rural states in the country. This rural nature makes reliable and safe infrastructure a critical component for U.S. businesses in the region, as well as employment and mobility.

The Interstate is the most important Maine highway on the National Highway System (NHS) and is the only NHS highway serving the northern half of Maine north of the City of Bangor. This project is crucial to maintaining the state's key highway freight and passenger corridor, which supports the majority of the state's freight shipments (including forest products, and other heavy bulk commodities) and passenger movement into, out of, and within the State.

Smith's Farm Inc. is the largest grower and shipper of fresh broccoli and cauliflower east of the Mississippi River and is headquartered in Presque Isle Maine at the north end of I-95. The company will ship approximately 2 million cartons of produce annually, this is 120 to 150 tractor trailer loads a week in the 4-month harvest. The company ships by truck with products being delivered within 24 to 72 hours of harvest to New England, New York, and all points along the eastern seaboard and beyond. The fresh product is supplied to almost every major chain store on the east coast out to Chicago and down to Florida. The interstate is essential to the economic viability of our company.

The I-95 bridges over the Penobscot River in Medway and over Somerset Avenue and Webb Road in Pittsfield connects northern Maine to the United States. Through the INFRA grant, rehabilitating these bridges would allow freight corridors, businesses, and residents to have modern transportation infrastructure that others take for granted. If these projects do not occur, the region will experience a continued decline in financial opportunity, drastically reducing Maine resident's way of life.



Smith's Farm, Inc.

99 Fort Road, Suite 1 🍷 Presque Isle, Maine 04769 🍷 Tel.: (207) 764-4540 🍷 Fax: (207) 764-2816

We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation to replace the identified bridges. We strongly believe that this region of the country cannot be competitive on a regional, national, or global scale, if these improvements to the highway system are not completed.

We thank you for your careful review of this application, and respectfully request that you consider fully funding this project in this round of INFRA grant awards.

Sincerely,

Emily G Smith

President

Smith's Farm Inc

SUSAN M. COLLINS
MAINE

413 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904
(202) 224-2523
(202) 224-2693 (FAX)

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON AGING

April 5, 2021

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in strong support of the application submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) for funding assistance through the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Program. MaineDOT's application seeks \$48 million in funding to assist the Initiative for New Decks Essential for Economic Development (INDEED) Project, which has a total cost of \$80 million.

Maine faces unique challenges that make rural transit services and highway freight corridors critical to the most economically distressed regions in the state. The INDEED Project proposes to replace fifteen bridge decks on the National Highway System that are beyond their useful life, deteriorated, and do not meet acceptable safety standards. The people of Maine rely heavily on these major routes in their everyday lives. They use them to get to work, go to school, and access health care and other essential services. Eleven of the decks in the project are part of the National Highway Freight Network on Interstate-95 and are used to move more than 80% of freight across the state. Interstate-95 provides access to the northernmost parts of Maine and is a direct route to Canada, contributing to Maine's ability to compete internationally.

The COVID-19 pandemic has left a lasting imprint across the state and the nation, and the uncertainties and economic impacts are unprecedented. Efficient, reliable transportation is crucial to connect Maine people to necessary resources and markets and to create and sustain jobs. Bridge closures along these essential highways would cause detours up to 100 miles, adding unnecessary disruptions to local roads and an increased cost for those doing business in rural Maine. Failure to replace these bridge decks would impose undue burdens on already economically challenged regions and lead to negative impacts on the economy and people of Maine as a whole.

MaineDOT's project would enhance the efficiency of Maine's transportation network, preserve and create jobs, secure Maine's ability to compete in national and international markets, and deliver direct benefits to families and businesses across the state.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the Department fund this project in this round of INFRA grant awards. I urge your careful consideration of this application, subject to all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you please notify me directly or Cameron O'Brien in my office at (202) 224-2523 when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Jared Golden
Congress of the United States
2nd District of Maine

April 6, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter as testament of my support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) application for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) 2021 Grant Program. Upgrading Maine's outdated roads, bridges, and transit systems continues to be vitally important for small businesses to be competitive and provides the ability for our citizens to access work, school and necessary resources such as healthcare and emergency services.

MaineDOT is requesting funding for their Initiative for New Decks Essential for Economic Development (INDEED) project. Plans to replace fifteen dilapidated bridge decks that have reached the end of their useful lives along the National Highway System is crucial to keep Maine moving forward. Interstate-95 and Route 202 are major corridors that connect Mainers to essential resources and are critical to move goods across the state and remain competitive in local and international markets.

Maine is physically vast and has only limited routes to transport raw materials and finished goods throughout the state. These highways are required to access opportunities in Canada and connect points north and south to ocean ports. Unnecessary closures and costly detours would prove to be detrimental to Maine's environment with congestion on local roads and harmful vehicle emissions. Safety concerns and higher production expenses would result from additional miles of freight movement, up to 90 miles in some cases, having an adverse effect on Maine's already struggling economy.

Maine's infrastructure needs to be updated to remain competitive and survive the continuing uncertainties of our economy. The "INDEED" project will move us in the right direction and provide safe, reliable roadways, saving time and preserving our natural resources. I urge you to move forward with Maine's INFRA 2021 grant request to help preserve our economic viability and avoid additional challenges during these uncertain times.

Thank you for your time on behalf of MaineDOT. I request your careful consideration of this proposal, subject to all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that your staff please notify Dan Jenkins in my office at (207) 241-6767 when a final decision has been made.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared F. Golden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "G".

Congressman Jared Golden
United States House of Representatives