

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 26, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

We are writing to express our strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MDOT) application for funding for the Jonesport-Beals Island Bridge Replacement Project through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program. The project is an ideal candidate for TIGER funding in 2016 and will meet the program's goals by fulfilling local and state transportation and economic needs.

The Jonesport-Beals Island Bridge Replacement Project proposes to replace the Beals Island Bridge located in Jonesport, Maine. The Beals Island Bridge was originally built in 1958 and serves as the only crossing that connects the island and town of Beals with the mainland at Jonesport. An underwater inspection of the bridge in May 2014 showed that its pier piles are in poor condition and deteriorating at an accelerated rate. The bridge is currently classified as structurally deficient. A TIGER grant would allow MDOT to move forward in replacing the bridge, which would improve transportation safety, increase connectivity between the island and the mainland, and reduce future maintenance and repair needs.

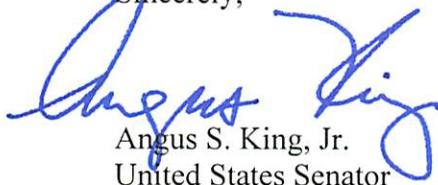
The Jonesport-Beals Island Bridge Replacement Project address many of the U.S. Department of Transportation's project guidelines by seeking to address rural safety concerns, preserve maritime resources, and enhance existing transportation facilities, all while generating economic opportunity in rural areas of Maine.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. We respectfully request that the Department give careful consideration to this application, subject to all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that your staff notify Katie Seelen (Collins) at (202) 224-2523, Sanjay Kane (King) at (202) 224-5344, and Michael Sinacore (Poliquin) at (202) 225-6306 when a final determination has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Bruce Poliquin
Member of Congress