

TOWN OF BEALS
Office of the Selectmen
11 Big Pond Road
P.O. Box 189
Beals, Maine 04611

April 12, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

It is our understanding that the Maine Department of Transportation is preparing an application for a TIGER grant to help with cost of replacing the Beals Bridge. Therefore, we selectmen of the Town of Beals are writing in support of Federal funding for this vital project.

The sole connection between Beal's Island and the mainland, the existing bridge has well served the citizens of the region and the general public since its construction in 1957. The populace of Jonesport, Beals, and surrounding towns depend on the free flow of traffic in conducting their daily personal and business affairs, especially as it relates to the lobster and fishing industries. Students daily travel to the mainland to attend the consolidated high school in Jonesport. For a small community, the record reveals significant use with more than 2,000 vehicles using the bridge daily, with 8% use by heavy trucks

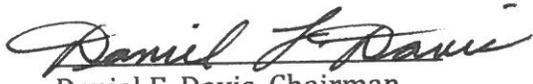
The benefits of a new bridge to our island community and the public would be immeasurable, including increased confidence in traveling to and from Beals over a wider and safer structure with an incentive toward increased tourism, especially as it relates to Nature Conservancy lands on adjoining Great Wass Island and the town's Backfield Park. When the old bridge was opened in 1958, nearly 130,000 people used the bridge in that first year alone, many of which came as tourists, thus significantly impacting the local economy. The old bridge, in its deteriorated condition, has had a negative impact on tourism and the local real estate market, which should improve with the availability of better and safer transportation. In addition, the local citizens' concerns regarding student transportation to and from the island will be greatly diminished by a new and improved bridge crossing Moosabec Reach.

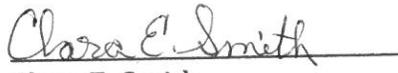
A wider roadway and shoulders on the bridge and approaches would accommodate more users, including oversize loads, buses, bicyclists, and pedestrians. A reduction in the number of supports under the main span would also provide safer passage for boats through Moosabec Reach, especially larger ones, and with greater ease. A widening of the intersection at the Beals end of the bridge would facilitate greater maneuverability, thus allowing for unimpeded traffic flow and a reduced risk of accidents and potential injury. This, combined

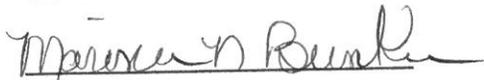
with wider travel lanes, would be especially beneficial to local trucking and commercial businesses.

We ask that you please consider TIGER funding in support of this worthwhile and much needed project, as an investment in the future economic growth and stability of the Moosabec region.

Sincerely,


Daniel F. Davis, Chairman


Clara E. Smith


Mariner N. Bunker

Board of Selectmen
Town of Beals