

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 17, 2019

Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite  
Commanding General  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G Street NW  
Washington, DC 20314

Lieutenant General Semonite:

We write to urge you to provide all necessary funding for the Cape Cod Canal Bridges in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY 2020). We commend the USACE for its Draft Major Rehabilitation Report on the Sagamore and Bourne Bridges in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. These bridges connect the nearly 250,000 residents on the Cape and Islands to the rest of Massachusetts and connect the rest of the country to this beating heart of the Massachusetts tourism economy. The Bourne and Sagamore bridges are also over eighty years old and, as the USACE's draft report just concluded, structurally deficient and in desperate need of replacement. We believe that the new draft report represents significant progress toward addressing the construction needs of these two critical infrastructure projects, and ask that you devote the full resources necessary for completing this vital work.

According to the report, the USACE will make a final decision on its construction plan for the Cape Cod Canal Bridges in the spring of 2020. After that, the next step will be design development and preparation for solicitation in the second half of 2020. It is of critical importance that work on the Cape Cod Canal Bridges begins as soon as possible. We therefore urge you to approve this project as a "new start" in the USACE's FY 2020 Work Plan and allocate all necessary funds in the USACE's construction budget toward that goal, including appropriate amounts to prepare the solicitation for design and construction of the replacement bridges.


Allocating these initial funds in FY 2020 will represent a significant down payment and a responsible long-term investment in this critical infrastructure project. This project has benefitted from the ongoing collaboration between USACE, the Federal Highway Administration, our offices, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), and local stakeholders. We understand that the USACE will soon sign a memorandum of understanding with MassDOT that includes a plan to divest these federal bridges to state control after the USACE's construction work is complete. The USACE's investment of initial funds in FY 2020 will ensure that this process begins on schedule, avoids increasing costs brought on by project delays, and facilitates the state's takeover of these bridges as soon as possible. We applaud this goal because we believe it will lead to the best result for Massachusetts, while also helping to reduce the USACE's future workload and amounts spent on Operations and Maintenance.

We thank you for your full and fair consideration of this important matter. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact our offices at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress