

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We write to you in support of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's (MassDOT) application for funding in the 2022 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. This unique partnership seeks to replace the vitally important but aging Bourne and Sagamore Bridges that connect Cape Cod and the rest of Massachusetts across the Cape Cod Canal. The Cape Cod Canal Bridge Replacement Project will deliver immense social, economic, public safety, and environmental benefits, and represents an ideal opportunity for a big, bold investment that will make our country greener, safer, and more prosperous.

The Bourne and the Sagamore Bridges are vital assets for the Cape Cod economy and surrounding communities, and serve as the gateway to Cape Cod for more than 250,000 Cape and Islands residents and over 5 million visitors annually. With more than 35 million vehicles crossing the canal each year, the bridges are the sole access point for vehicular traffic to and from Cape Cod and serve as essential routes for general transportation, tourism, and evacuations in case of an emergency. However, the current bridges are nearly 90 years old, functionally obsolete, require increasingly costly maintenance, and need major rehabilitation over the next decade estimated to cost more than \$342 million.¹ The bridges' structural deficiencies present a risk to the accessibility and economic stability of the Cape Cod region.

Over the past several years, USACE, MassDOT, and other stakeholders have partnered to develop a plan to replace both the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges and the highway approaches to them. The project will lead to contemporary bridges that vastly improve travel conditions, meet modern safety standards for vehicle and pedestrian traffic, and provide significantly improved multimodal travel. Because USACE currently owns the bridges, they are the official applicant for funding from the MPDG program. However, USACE and MassDOT have signed a memorandum of understanding in which MassDOT would take ownership of the completed replacement bridges, allowing USACE to divest itself of these federal assets. This unique partnership is ready to capitalize on the historic funding opportunities provided by the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*.

¹ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District. (2020). Major Rehabilitation Evaluation Report and Environmental Assessment: Cape Cod Canal Highway Bridges Bourne, Massachusetts.
<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/Topics/Cape%20Cod%20Canal%20Bridges/Reports/FinalMRERDocument.pdf>

The Cape Cod Bridges replacement is a prototypical project that the bipartisan infrastructure law was designed to fund, and is a key to modernizing Massachusetts' physical infrastructure to meet the economic, social, and environmental challenges of the 21st Century. We are proud to support USACE and MassDOT's application for funding in the 2022 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program. We appreciate your fair and full consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
U.S. Senator



Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senator



William R. Keating
Member of Congress