

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 18, 2023

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 in strong support of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's application for funding through the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program's National Infrastructure Project Assistance (MEGA) and Infrastructure for Rebuilding America Program (INFRA) opportunities. This proposal 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 Bridges Program (Program) will deliver immense social, economic, public safety, and environmental benefits for a nationally significant and iconic region and ultimately resolve an outstanding federal responsibility for the maintenance and safety of the Cape Cod Bridges.

The Bourne and Sagamore Bridges—currently owned and maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)—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 evacuation 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 \$600 million.¹ The bridges' structural deficiencies—a USACE responsibility—present an enormous risk to the accessibility and economic stability of the Cape Cod region and a long term financial liability for the federal government.

Over the last decade, the Commonwealth, USACE, and other stakeholders have partnered and worked in consultation with the U.S. Department of Transportation to develop a comprehensive plan for replacing both the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges and the associated highway approaches. Under the Healey-Driscoll Administration, the Commonwealth has developed a rigorous sequencing plan that will lead to the replacement of both bridges and commence with the replacement of the Sagamore Bridge. To further buttress the plan, the Healey-Driscoll Administration has committed \$700 million to the Program and agreed to

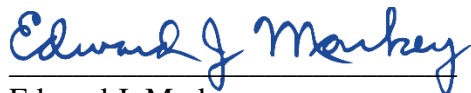
¹ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District. (2020). Major Rehabilitation Evaluation Report and Environmental Assessment: Cape Cod Canal Highway Bridges Bourne, Massachusetts.
[https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/Topics/Cape%20Cod%20Canal%20Bridges/Reports/FinalMRERD document.pdf](https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/Topics/Cape%20Co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

financially backstop this initial phase of the project. With these new commitments and the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the Commonwealth and USACE, the project will lead to contemporary bridges that vastly improve travel conditions, meet modern safety standards for vehicle and pedestrian travel, and provide vastly improved multimodal options.

With the strong leadership of the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the deep support of the Biden Administration, the partnership between the Commonwealth and USACE is prepared to capitalize on the historic funding opportunities provided by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. To address the need for further federal commitments, we recently secured \$350 million in federal funding in the Senate's *Fiscal Year 2024 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act*, which reflects a major step forward to fulfill President Biden's request in his Fiscal Year 2024 budget to provide an initial \$350 million toward a minimum total commitment of \$600 million from USACE for the Program. The Massachusetts congressional delegation will continue to work hand-in-glove with the Healey Administration, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Biden Administration to deliver essential federal funding, which will not only get construction underway on the bridges replacement project and ensure the safety of residents and visitors, but also deliver good-paying union construction jobs for our workers and create greener, more sustainable transit options for the Cape.

The Cape Cod Bridges Program 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 the Commonwealth's application for funding. We appreciate your fair and full consideration of this important project.

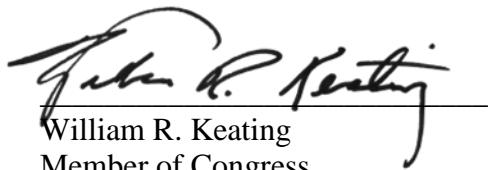
Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



William R. Keating
Member of Congress