

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 16, 2023

The Honorable Michael Connor
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
U.S. Army
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20314

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Assistant Secretary Connor and Director Young,

We write to ask the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Civil Works to include in its fiscal 2024 budget hundreds of millions of dollars to replace Cape Cod's Bourne and Sagamore Bridges ("Bridges"). The Corps and Massachusetts have a critical opportunity to secure a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation and replace the Bridges — nearly 90 years old and functionally obsolete — with modern, accessible bridges. The Corps' competitiveness for a DOT grant, however, may hinge on its ability — in coordination with Massachusetts — to identify non-DOT financial funding sources for the project. With a request in its fiscal 2024 budget for hundreds of millions of dollars in funding to replace the Bridges, the Corps would send a clear signal to DOT about its commitment to the project.

The Cape Cod Bridges are vital assets for the Cape Cod economy and surrounding communities, but they are in desperate need of replacement. Built in 1935, the Bridges "changed the relationship between the Cape and the rest of Massachusetts."¹ Today, the Bridges serve as the gateway to Cape Cod for more than 260,000 Cape and Islands residents and more than five million annual visitors, serving as essential routes for general transportation, tourism, and evacuations in case of an emergency. The Bridges, however, are functionally obsolete, require increasingly costly maintenance, and cannot keep up with modern traffic levels. The Corps rightfully concluded in 2020 that replacing the Bridges, rather than rehabilitating them, was the "most cost-effective means of providing safe and reliable crossings."²

¹ Asad Jung, *Sagamore, Bourne bridges have brought prosperity, loyalty and now worries to Cape Cod*, Cape Cod Times (May 27, 2022), <https://www.capecodtimes.com/story/news/2022/05/27/cape-cod-canal-bridges-brought-prosperity-loyalty-worries/9688301002/>.

² U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, *Major Rehabilitation Report and Environmental Assessment: Cape Cod Canal Highway Bridges Bourne*, Massachusetts ES-19 (Mar. 2020),

Although the Bridges project did not receive a federal construction grant in fiscal 2022, Massachusetts and the Corps have taken important actions to advance this project in recent months. In October, the Corps provided \$2 million to initiate and complete preconstruction and engineering and design work.³ Massachusetts — which has bond authority to provide at least \$350 million for the Bridges project⁴ — has also invested \$25 million to move forward on preliminary activities, including utility relocation and environmental reviews, and in January, Massachusetts unveiled the design for the new bridges.⁵ Taken together, these steps demonstrate clear forward momentum for this essential project.

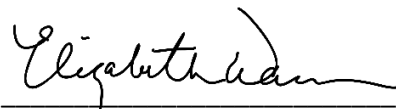
The missing piece is a significant grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. We remain optimistic that the Corps will be able to secure a grant from programs that Congress created through the *Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act*, particularly the \$12.5 billion Bridge Investment Program (BIP). However, BIP grants can cover only 50% of the project's costs, and the Federal Highway Administration can issue a BIP grant only if that grant is "adequate to fully fund the project (in combination with other financial resources identified in the application)."⁶ For that reason, the Corps and Massachusetts must identify other stable and dependable sources of federal funding for this project. Although we understand that the Corps cannot commit unappropriated money, a significant fiscal 2024 budget request — in the hundreds of millions of dollars — for the Bridges would send a strong message to U.S. DOT that the Corps is committed to the project. Moreover, on Capitol Hill, we will steadfastly support a major budget request with congressional leadership and appropriators.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/Topics/Cape%20Cod%20Canal%20Bridges/Reports/FinalMRERDdocument.pdf>.

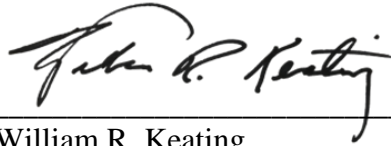
³ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Investigations FY22 Spend Plan - 03 October 2022 Addendum* (Oct. 3, 2022),

<https://www.usace.army.mil/Portals/2/BID%20IIJA%20%20Investigations%20Addendum%20Final%20Cleared%2020221003.pdf>.

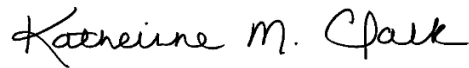
⁴ See Ethan Genter, *Bond bill includes \$350M for roadwork near Cape Cod Canal bridges*, Cape Cod Times (Jan. 20, 2021), <https://www.capecodtimes.com/story/news/2021/01/20/350-m-roadwork-near-bridges-earmarked-transportation-bond-bill/4235710001/>.

⁵ See Irvin Rodriguez and Asher Klein, *Here's What Kind of Bridges Will Eventually Replace Cape Cod's Iconic Ones*, NBC Boston (Jan. 25, 2023), <https://www.nbcboston.com/news/local/heres-what-kind-of-bridges-will-eventually-replace-cape-cods-iconic-ones/2954477/>.

⁶ 23 U.S.C. § 124(c)(2).



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



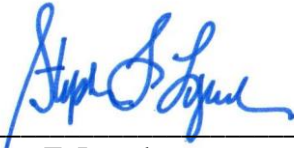
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