

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 21, 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 (MassDOT) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) joint application for funding through the Bridge Investment Program (BIP). This partnership aims to replace the aging Bourne and Sagamore Bridges that cross the Cape Cod Canal and connect Cape Cod and the rest of Massachusetts and New England. This project 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 current BIP application focuses on the replacement of the Sagamore Bridge, which will ensure that our region's transportation system is able to meet the current and future needs of Cape Cod's residents, businesses, and visitors with a safe, reliable crossing.

The Bourne and Sagamore Bridges—currently owned and maintained by 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 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, if not replaced, would need major rehabilitation over the next decade estimated to cost more than \$600 million.¹ The bridges' structural deficiencies present an enormous risk to the accessibility and economic stability of the Cape Cod region and are a long-term financial liability for the federal government.

Over the last decade, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, USACE, and other stakeholders have partnered and worked in consultation with the U.S. Department of Transportation to develop a comprehensive, multimodal plan for replacing both the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges and the associated highway approaches. Among other benefits, this plan will avoid the extended lane closures and full closures of the existing bridges that would result from a major rehabilitation; address poor traffic operations and high crash rates; improve bicycle and

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

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pedestrian access and safety; and encourage economic growth through increased mobility. Under the administration of Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, the Commonwealth has developed a rigorous “phased approach” that will commence with the replacement of the Sagamore Bridge. Beginning the larger project with the Sagamore is the most efficient and cost-effective way to maintain the safety and economic vitality of the Cape Cod crossing, as well as deliver good-paying union construction jobs and create greener, more sustainable transit options.

With the strong leadership and commitment of the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the deep support of the Biden Administration, the partnership between MassDOT and USACE is prepared to capitalize on the historic funding opportunities provided by President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Funding from the Bridge Investment Program is a critical component of the project’s complete finance plan. The total cost for replacing the Sagamore Bridge is \$2.14 billion. MassDOT is requesting a total of \$1.072 billion through the FY2023 Bridge Investment Program, as well as \$372 million from the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program. To buttress the plan, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has committed \$700 million in state funding to the project without any further legislative authorization required.

Furthermore, we are proud that the Senate Appropriations Committee included \$350 million in its *Fiscal Year 2024 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act* for this project. This funding is a major step toward fulfilling President Biden’s request in his Fiscal Year 2024 budget to provide an initial \$350 million to USACE for the replacement of the bridges, out of a minimum total commitment of \$600 million. Our congressional delegation will continue to work hand-in-glove with all partners to deliver essential federal funding.

The Cape Cod bridges are a prototypical project that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was designed to fund. They are 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, and we appreciate your fair and full consideration of this vital project.

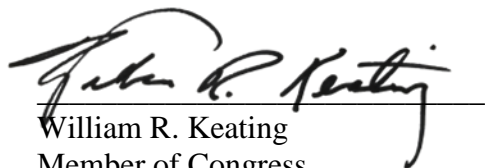
Sincerely,



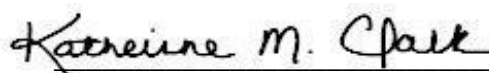
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress

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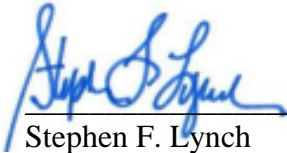
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Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



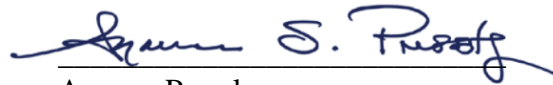
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