



# AGC MAINE

THE CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

June 25, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT), I am writing in support of the Bridge Investment Program Planning Grant Application requesting federal funding for the development of the MaineDOT Off-System Bridge Investment Program.

Since 1951, AGC Maine has been dedicated to ensuring a sound and healthy construction industry and providing the public with an assurance of the skill, responsibility, and integrity of AGC-member firms. We represent the industry across all sectors – from general contractors and subcontractors to suppliers and service providers.

With your assistance, MaineDOT will be able to develop this program to replace off-system local bridges. Highlights of the program include standard designs, innovative materials and construction techniques, and investing in critical connections to underserved rural communities. By creating a more reliable process around replacement of these poor and critical condition structures, both MaineDOT and municipalities will be able to better plan and actively improve the safety and increase travel time reliability for residents, workers and businesses that will benefit greatly from this bridge replacement program. It is MaineDOT's intention to apply for Bridge Program grants in subsequent years for bridge bundle projects identified through this planning program.

Replacement of the bridges can be done through establishing consistent criteria that can be developed in coordination with communities, construction experts, and resource agencies with an eye towards efficiency, innovation, and habitat protection. The vast majority of these bridge structures represent one of a limited number of ways to access rural populations as they serve as the economic lifeblood of their respective regions. Every improvement to these poor and critical condition structures will have a significant benefit for maintaining essential connections, moving goods, services and people across safer and more resilient infrastructure.

AGC Maine supports MaineDOT's initiative in creating a planning process that evaluates off-system bridge replacements through careful consideration of local, regional, and statewide criteria. If successful, this grant funding will create a bridge bundling program that will immediately prioritize nearly a third of the 239 poor and critical condition bridges for replacement over the next four-year work plan, based on future bridge investment program funding opportunities. These replacements will