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United States Senate

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October 20, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of the application submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) to the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY2022 Bridge Investment Program. MaineDOT's *U.S. Route 202/Interstate 95 Interchange Bridge Replacement and Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project* would replace an aging but vital overpass in Maine's capital, Augusta.

MaineDOT requests \$14.5 million in federal funding, to be matched with \$4.8 million in other funds, to replace an aging overpass over Interstate 95 in the City of Augusta. This overpass is critical to ensuring reliable and safe access to and through the City and to the seat of Maine's government. The existing overpass is 67-years-old and carries more than 28,000 vehicles daily on U.S. Route 202/State Route 17 over I-95. The existing bridge is quickly approaching the end of its useful life and the vertical clearance over I-95 is insufficient for safe freight travel.

The proposed replacement bridge would meet the significant transportation needs of the area. The bridge would have sufficient clearance over I-95, allowing for freight to move quickly and safely through the capital area. Additional improvements are planned as well, including modern and FHWA-compliant crosswalks to accommodate all pedestrians.

I urge your careful consideration of this proposal, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you please notify me directly, or have your staff notify Trevor Hustus at (202) 224-2523 when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator