

Appendix E



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

May 5, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am pleased to send this letter in strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant application to replace the Ticonic Bridge which connects the communities of Waterville and Winslow, Maine.

The Ticonic Bridge, which carries US Route 201 over the Kennebec River, is a crucial component of this region's transportation system. With more than 16,000 vehicles traversing the bridge daily, it provides access for area residents to shopping, critical healthcare, and commuting to and from work, and allows for the continued delivery of freight throughout the region. Originally built as three distinct sections in 1909, the bridge has deteriorated to the point that the end of its useful life is near and further attempts to repair or rehabilitate the structure are not viable options.

As you are aware, the State of Maine has unique infrastructure challenges due to its geography, weather and population density. Maine is one of the most rural states in the country, making reliable infrastructure critical to everyday life and competition in a global economy. More than ever, the region needs this workhorse structure to reliably allow uninterrupted transportation between these two towns, to the neighboring rural communities and to nearby Interstate 95. With much of the bridge predating World War II and in a state of significant stress and decay, now is the time for its replacement to ensure that this region is not disadvantaged by costly detours which it cannot afford.

I am pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from the US Department of Transportation to make these investments. The declining condition of this structure and so many like it increases risk to the quality of life for residents and works to further expand the rural opportunity gap experienced in this area of Maine.

Therefore, I respectfully request that you please consider funding this project through the BUILD program. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or MaineDOT Commissioner Bruce Van Note.



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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Janet T. Mills
Governor



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*3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003*

May 11, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

We submit this letter to voice our strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant application. Through this application, MaineDOT is seeking \$25 million in federal funding to be matched by \$15.5 million in state and other federal funding to replace the Ticonic Bridge, which connects the communities of Waterville and Winslow in our state.

The Ticonic Bridge carries U.S. Route 201 over the Kennebec River and is used by more than 16,000 vehicles every day. The bridge provides access to shopping, critical healthcare, and freight delivery. Many commuters use this bridge also. It is critical that this bridge remain accessible to the residents who use it daily, and any interruption in service would prove to be devastating to our constituents: the residents of Waterville and Winslow and the surrounding communities.

The Ticonic Bridge was originally built in three separate sections. Construction began in 1909. Today, the bridge has deteriorated to the point that further attempts to repair or rehabilitate the structure are not feasible. Without replacement, this bridge stands to be posted for weight restrictions or closed, creating a detour and traffic congestion.

Maine is one of the most rural states in the country. MaineDOT is responsible for approximately 2,800 bridges, and many of these are nearing the end of their useful lives. The department has been an accomplished, experienced, and responsible steward of not only BUILD Grant funding but also other federal discretionary grant monies. The dedicated and hardworking staffers at MaineDOT will deliver this project with success. Replacing the Ticonic Bridge will ensure mobility and safety for this region without inflicting undue burdens – burdens that our state, with its vast rural areas, simply cannot afford.

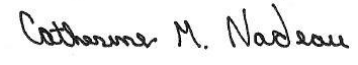
We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking funding assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The declining condition of the Ticonic Bridge poses a risk to the quality of life for area residents. We respectfully request that you consider awarding in full the funding MaineDOT is seeking through the BUILD Grant program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Scott W. Cyrway
State Senator



Catherine M. Nadeau
State Representative



Bruce A. White
State Representative



Office of the
City Engineer

March 12, 2020

Hon. Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

This letter comes in support of MDOT's 2020 BUILD Grant request for funding towards replacement of the Ticonic Bridge, Waterville-Winslow, Maine. This 1930s-era structure carries Rt. 201 over the Kennebec River, connecting the densely settled portion of Winslow with downtown Waterville. It is used by more than 16,000 vehicles daily. The proposed new bridge construction comes at a time of marked renewal for Waterville, Maine. Since 2010, the city's population has increased by 6% and its riverfront and downtown have seen considerable new investment. These include the recreational Kennebec Riverwalk and the refurbishment of the historic Two Cent Bridge, the last remaining toll pedestrian bridge in the United States. In the downtown, Colby College has invested more than \$75M in a new hotel, a mixed-use residential/retail building and an innovative arts collaborative building. Truly, it is a new day for the City, which has weathered many years of stasis after the decline of its leather and textile manufacturing industries.

A new Ticonic Bridge can complement the growth in Waterville's population and economy and better serve a revived region in the decades ahead. We look forward to USDOT's support in 2020, Maine's bicentennial year. Thank you.

Andrew J. McPherson, P.E.
City Engineer
City of Waterville, Maine



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Winslow, ME 04901

March 16, 2020

Hon. Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to strongly support Maine Department of Transportation's 2020 BUILD grant request for funding to replace the Ticonic Bridge, Winslow and Waterville, Maine. This workhorse structure spanning the Kennebec River carries Rt. 201 and more than 8,000 vehicles daily between Winslow and Waterville. It is a transportation mainstay in the region, serving commuters, shoppers, successful businesses, freight shippers and providing access to interstate Rt. 95.

The Central Maine region has grown noticeably during the past decade. In Winslow, that growth has been seen in the success of Johnny's Selected Seeds, a nationally top-rated catalog seed company and Mid-State Machine Products, a manufacturer of specialty machinery. Across the Kennebec River in Waterville, Colby College is investing more than \$75 million in the revitalization of the downtown. A new Ticonic Bridge will complement the growth and development our communities are experiencing. I hope U.S. DOT will support our efforts with grant funding in 2020, Maine's bicentennial year.

Respectfully,

Michael Heavener
Town Manager

March 23rd, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter in strong support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) USDOT BUILD grant application.

As you are aware, the State of Maine has unique infrastructure challenges due to its geography, weather, and low population density. Much of Maine is comprised of vast forest land, making it one of the most rural states in the country. This rural nature makes reliable and safe infrastructure a crucial component for U.S. businesses, employment and mobility across the region. This BUILD grant award would allow the replacement of one major bridge which is in our region of service. This project is critical to maintaining the state's highway freight corridors (into, out of, and within the state) which support the majority of the state's freight shipments (including forest products and other heavy bulk commodities).

KVCOG represents a rural region in an already rural state and this BUILD grant would specifically replace the Ticonic Bridge (#2854) which is essential to allow businesses, residents and tourists to have modern transportation infrastructure that others, in more populous regions, take for granted. This Bridge is the primary transportation link between the communities of Waterville and Winslow that serve as Service Center Communities. If these projects do not occur, the region will experience a decline in financial opportunity, drastically reducing Maine residents' way of life. For these reasons, and many more, we at KVCOG fully support MaineDOT's BUILD grant application.

We are pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation to replace the identified bridges and intersection. We strongly believe that this region of the country cannot be competitive on a regional, national, or global scale, if these improvements to the highway system are not funded. We thank you for your careful review of this application, and respectfully request that you consider fully funding this project in this round of BUILD grant award.

Sincerely,



Laura Cyr
Executive Director

Kennebec Valley Council of Governments