



Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

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

May 9, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) recently submitted two grant applications to the FY2023 – 2026 Bridge Investment Program (BIP). I write today to support MaineDOT's applications and request for funding through USDOT. If awarded this funding will assist in repairs, rehabilitation, and replacement of six bridges on I-395 between Bangor and Brewer, Maine, and the replacement of six aging overpasses carrying rural local and collector roads over Interstate 95 near Augusta, Maine.

Specific to the I-95 projects, the proposed replacement bridges will meet today's design standards, including recommended height clearances. The new structures will employ safety improvements for motorists traveling on and over the interstate. These bridges provide vital connections and link numerous communities in Kennebec County, Maine, to service centers, helping rural residents meet every-day needs.

The funding requested to support the bridges along I-395 is critical in abating the effects of alkali-silica reaction (ASR) that is currently impacting the six outlined in MaineDOT's application. This is an issue caused by a chemical reaction between alkali from the cement and silica aggregates in the presence of moisture. If left unabated, the cracking and deterioration of the concrete will continue to compromise the structural integrity of the identified bridges along I-395.

I am supportive of both applications submitted by MaineDOT and their request for funding to assist with these important structural projects. Please do not hesitate to contact me or MaineDOT Commissioner Bruce Van Note with any questions you might have regarding their applications. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Janet T. Mills  
Governor



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