

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 18, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

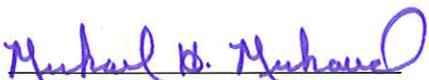
We write in strong support of Maine DOT's TIGER VI grant application for the replacement of the Androscoggin River Bridge between the towns of Mexico and Peru, Maine. The bridge carries North Main Street over the Androscoggin River providing Peru with a vital connection to Route 2. Federal funding would create jobs, increase efficiency for area businesses, and improve public safety by replacing the outdated and dangerous span currently in place. I ask that you give the application your full consideration as the TIGER VI process moves forward.

The current Androscoggin River Bridge was constructed in 1930 and has fallen into disrepair. The bridge has structural deficiencies, inadequate width, and a restricted weight limit of 25 tons. The vertical clearance of 14.83' is too low for many trucks, causing numerous collisions and damage to the overhead braces and vertical trusses. Further, entry and exit from the bridge is difficult for trucks as they must make wide turns and encroach into the opposing traffic's lane.

Current weight restrictions already force many trucks servicing local businesses to take an 8 mile detour, adding time, costs and reducing efficiency. If the bridge is not replaced its condition will continue to deteriorate, leading to further load postings and eventually closure. Local businesses and commuters will face added costs, and first responder vehicles will be delayed, putting lives at risk.

The proposed replacement bridge's roadway would be nearly 50 percent wider and have a higher vertical clearance. It will improve public safety, ease navigation for larger vehicles, and reduce transportation costs for area businesses. We fully support Maine DOT's TIGER VI grant application and hope that you will give it every consideration. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress


Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress