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1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

April 14, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to express my strong support for the TIGER 2014 grant application submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) for funding to reconstruct nearly 5 miles of Route 4 in the towns of Phillips and Madrid, Maine. In addition to the highway improvements, MaineDOT is using other funding sources for work in the project area to replace two bridges that carry Route 4 over the Sandy River. .

The segment of Route 4 for which MaineDOT is seeking TIGER funds is badly crowned with gravel shoulders, contributing to increased sedimentation to the Sandy River. This project will complete the last segment of the 43 mile Route 4 corridor between Farmington and Rangeley, which has seen investments of over \$41 million in the past 15 years to bring it up to modern design standards. The project also is the beginning point for the Rangeley Lakes National Scenic Byway, an important element in the region's tourism economy, a major regional economic driver. Additionally, Route 4 runs through Maine's Western Mountains Region providing a critical link for natural resources based industries in the region, in particular forest management that provides raw materials to Sappi Paper Company in Skowhegan, the Geneva Wood Pellet Plant in Strong, and other paper mills and wood manufacturing facilities throughout western and central Maine. It is also an important link for those who commute to Farmington, which is the County Seat, a regional service center, and a University of Maine campus. Further, Route 4 provides access to the U.S. Navy SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape) facility in Reddington, commonly referred to locally as "the Navy Seals Training Facility."

Route 4 is the gateway to Maine's Western Mountain Region, which has several state parks and six major lakes. Completion of this last segment of the corridor in the towns of Phillips and Madrid will ensure a modern, safe, and efficient Route 4 that serves the region's economy in the forest industries and recreation related sectors. I urge your strong consideration of this application for funding.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage  
Governor



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