

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:

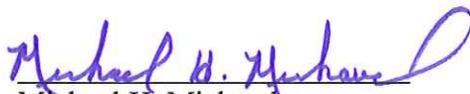
We are writing in strong support of the Maine DOT's TIGER VI grant application for the reconstruction of about 4.5 miles of Route 4 between the towns of Madrid and Phillips, Maine. This is the last segment of a 43 mile corridor between Farmington and Rangeley to be built to modern design standards. In addition to the highway improvements, Maine DOT is using other funding sources for work in the project area to replace two bridges that carry Route 4 over the Sandy River. Modernizing this section of Route 4 will improve safety and is vital to local businesses and commuters. I ask that you give the application your full consideration as the TIGER VI process moves forward.

Route 4 is used by a variety of natural resources based industries, particularly the forestry products that supply Sappi Paper Company and the Geneva Wood Pellet Plant, two major employers in Maine. The road also provides access to the US Navy Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape facility in Redington, Maine, and is crucial for the recreation and service industries in the region. However, the current segment of Route 4 between Madrid and Phillips is aging, badly crowned and has no shoulders.

The reconstruction between Madrid and Philips is part of a larger project by Maine DOT, as noted above, that will also replace two bridges carrying Route 4 over the Sandy River to the two towns. The bridges are aging and slowly being scoured away. The replacement bridges will have wider openings and greater spans. TIGER funds will be used to complete this larger project by reconstructing the area's remaining older section of Route 4.

Federal assistance to modernize the road is critical for the safety of the traveling public, and the economy of the region. 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