

APPENDIX D
LETTERS OF SUPPORT

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 25, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

We are writing to express our strong support for the 2019 BUILD grant application submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) for the Station 46 Bridge Replacement project. MaineDOT is applying for \$25 million in BUILD funds, to be matched by \$5 million in existing state funds.

The Station 46 Bridge is located on a critical segment of Route 1 in Woolwich between one of the state's top employers to the south, General Dynamics Bath Iron Works (BIW), and destinations on or near the ocean to the north. BIW, a defense contractor for shipbuilding, employs 6,000 people in Maine, many of whom cross this bridge every day as part of their daily commute. As a major regional employer, BIW not only contributes significantly to the economy of Maine, but the work performed here remains important to the entire United States. In September 2018, the U.S. Navy awarded BIW a \$3.9 billion multiyear procurement contract for the construction of four new Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, and in December 2018, BIW was awarded an additional option ship under that contract for \$911 million. This past June, BIW christened the U.S. Navy's newest guided missile destroyer, the USS Daniel Inouye.

The Station 46 Bridge also provides access to Maine's coastline and is vital to the lobster, fishing, and aquaculture industries in Maine, all of which are critical economic engines in the state. Lobster, the number one export for Maine, was a \$386 million industry in 2018 and robust infrastructure along U.S. Route 1 is necessary to support this industry. The lobster industry as a whole contributes \$1 billion to the Maine economy each year, and accounts for more than 4,000 associated jobs on land and 6,000 jobs on the water.

The Station 46 Bridge is currently considered fracture critical and in poor condition. In the event the bridge had to be closed, there would be a detour of about 32 miles one-way. With an average annual daily traffic count of 18,881 vehicles, a detour of this magnitude would result in serious economic harm to the region. This bridge provides access to some of Maine's most attractive tourist and recreational destinations. U.S. Route 1, including this bridge, is the lifeline of Midcoast Maine. Maine's tourism industry sustains 107,000 jobs and generates nearly \$9 billion in sales through the nearly 36 million visitors that visit our state each year.

Replacement of this bridge will maintain safety and mobility, support the freight network for Maine's multi-million dollar seafood industry, and maintain critical access for tourists, residents, first responders, and Bath Iron Works employees.

Thank you for your consideration of MaineDOT's proposal. We encourage your careful evaluation of this application, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you notify Cameron O'Brien at (202) 224-2523 and Adam Lachman (King) at (202) 224-5344 when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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CHELLIE PINGREE
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
1ST DISTRICT, MAINE

June 20, 2019

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND
RELATED AGENCIES
INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND
RELATED AGENCIES
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
BIOTECHNOLOGY, HORTICULTURE, AND
RESEARCH
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) application for BUILD Grant funding for the Station 46 Bridge Replacement Project: *Maintaining Access to Maine's Coastal Communities*. This bridge, located in Woolwich, ME, provides critical access to Maine's coastline in the mid-coast region of the state. It is a vital piece of infrastructure that has a dramatic impact on the state's economy due to the lobster, fishing and aquaculture industries that are prevalent in this region of the state.

The Station 46 Bridge was built in 1933. Today, the bridge is vital to the economy of Midcoast Maine and helps support the state's signature lobster, shellfish, and fishing industries. Approximately 19,000 vehicles use the bridge every day. The bridge also maintains critical access for workers at Bath Iron Works – the region's largest employer, employing 6,000 people. Despite significant investments made by MaineDOT in keeping the Station 46 Bridge safe, the bridge is fracture critical and considered in poor-fair overall condition.

MaineDOT estimates replacing the Station 46 Bridge will cost \$30 million. The department is seeking \$25 million in BUILD Grant funding, matched by \$5 million in state funding. This project would help sustain safety and mobility on a critical piece of infrastructure. U.S. Route 1 is a Highway Corridor Priority 1 road that allows residents, workers, tourists, and freight traffic to move throughout Midcoast Maine.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this worthy project.

Sincerely,

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

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

June 19, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express my strong support for the 2019 BUILD grant application submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT). MaineDOT is applying for \$25 million in grant funding and will be providing the \$5 million match through state funds. This \$30-million project proposes to replace the Station 46 Bridge in Woolwich, Maine. This bridge carries U.S. Route 1, which is the lifeline of this rural coastal region.

The Station 46 Bridge provides critical entry to access points for tourists, residents, first responders, and employees of the region's largest employer, General Dynamics Bath Iron Works (BIW), a defense contractor for shipbuilding. BIW employs 6,000 people in Maine, many of whom utilize this bridge daily to get to and from work. Replacing this bridge is essential to maintaining safety and mobility and to supporting our state's economy.

The Station 46 Bridge is currently in fracture critical condition and in vital need of replacement. Permanently closing the bridge would result in a detour consisting of 32 miles one way. A detour of this magnitude would be detrimental not only for the residents who traverse this bridge daily to get to their employment, but also for the tourism, lobster, fishing, and aquaculture industries. These industries are major drivers of Maine's economy.

Tourism and recreation in Maine are integral to the state's economic health. Tourism sustains more than 100,000 jobs in Maine and generates nearly \$9 billion in sales, contributing \$600 million in taxes to the state. We welcome nearly 36 million visitors a year, making tourism one of the largest industries in Maine. This bridge project is in the hub of Maine's midcoast region, a region which remains among the most popular for tourists who visit the state each year.

Thank you for your time and effort in reviewing MaineDOT's proposal. I appreciate your full consideration of this worthy proposal and urge you to award MaineDOT the funding they are requesting.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills
Governor



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

July 1, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

We are writing to express our support for the Maine Department of Transportation's application for a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant. If awarded, this funding will help MaineDOT ensure the safety of a critical piece of infrastructure that plays a vital role in the state's economy.

The Station 46 Bridge carries U.S. Route 1 over a state-owned railroad and the Back River Marsh in Woolwich, Maine. The bridge was built in 1933, and while it underwent significant work in 1981 and 2012, it is now well beyond the end of its useful life. The bridge is in fracture critical condition. It needs to be safer; that's why it is a top priority for MaineDOT.

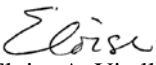
If the deteriorating condition of this bridge reaches the point that MaineDOT must close it to traffic, it will prove detrimental to drivers, and the local economy will suffer tremendously. The shortest detour route not using local roads is 32 miles long and takes approximately 45 minutes. Nearly 19,000 vehicles cross the Station 46 Bridge every day, and the roads that would be used to handle detoured traffic are not meant to deal with such vehicle volume. Furthermore, U.S. Route 1 is the backbone of Midcoast Maine's economy. It supports, among other aspects of commerce, the state's billion-dollar lobster industry.


This bridge is also utilized daily by the employees of General Dynamics Bath Iron Works (BIW). BIW employs 6,000 Maine residents, making it one of the largest employers in Maine, and contributes significantly to the state's economy.

Through this BUILD grant application, MaineDOT is seeking \$25 million in federal funding to be matched by \$5 million of state money. The \$30-million investment in replacing the Station 46 Bridge is expected to generate \$1.24 billion in economic output for the region.

Thank you for taking the time to consider MaineDOT's application. We hope you will respond favorably.

Sincerely,


Eloise A. Vitelli
State Senator


Allison Hepler
State Representative



297 Bath Road
Wiscasset, ME 04578
207-882-5983

June 12, 2019

U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

To whom it may concern:

Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission strongly urges funding of the Station 46 Bridge Replacement on Route 1 in the Town of Woolwich through the FY2019 BUILD Transportation Program.

Lincoln County is a rural county of about 35,000 residents, with 18 communities heavily dependent on Route 1 in many ways. This regional arterial (a Highway Corridor Priority 1 road) traverses the central part of the County linking all our municipalities with markets, products, resources, services, jobs, and people!

Woolwich directly borders the County's western edge, and the Station 46 Bridge acts as a gateway for all the travel and transport into/out of Lincoln County and Midcoast Maine. The poor condition of the bridge and the environmental issues are concerning to regional residents and businesses. The County is the leading producer of oysters and clams in the State, and with lobster and other commercial fisheries, tourism, boatbuilding and marine services, these sectors -- which generate millions of dollars and create countless jobs -- rely on a safe and efficient roadway system.

Route 1 is also the most important work commute route, serving as critical access for workers to region's largest employer, Bath Iron Works and increasingly the re-developed former Naval Base at Brunswick Landing. The major access for our residents for health care services and for first responders to Mid-Coast Hospital and Maine Medical Center in Portland is via this route.

For several years, the LCRPC has provided sea-level rise data for our communities and continuing program support to investigate possible adaptations for a variety of public infrastructure. We applaud the planned Black River Marsh Feasibility Study and Preliminary Design to improve habitat connectivity and reduce roadway flooding, providing improved safety and environmental conditions for the surrounding region. To minimize negative economic and safety disruptions during construction, we also prefer alternatives with minimal detours.

We highly recommend U. S. Department of Transportation's funding of this key link in the region's and the State's transportation system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ellen Barnes".

Mary Ellen Barnes
Executive Director



June 21, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Maine Better Transportation Association (MBTA) fully supports the grant application submitted by MaineDOT for the BUILD 2019 Station 46 Bridge Replacement Project. MBTA is grateful for the past grant funding that US DOT has provided, and we hope you will agree that this critical project is worthy of BUILD 2019 funding.

If MaineDOT is successful in acquiring the grant, the funds will be used to replace the current Station 46 Bridge, on US Route 1 in Woolwich, which is a fracture critical bridge in poor-fair overall condition. The 86-year old railroad bridge is a 675 foot long, 17-span steel structure over the Black River Marsh.

The MBTA is very concerned that without the BUILD grant, the bridge will be closed, which would create major disruption to commuters, freight suppliers and businesses in the region. The shortest alternative route is a detour of 32 miles, which would necessitate a transportation delay of 45 minutes.

There are many benefits to the bridge replacement project. If funding is approved, MaineDOT will put out to bid a bridge project which will be safer and more efficient than the original bridge. With new materials available today, the service life of the bridge will be longer, and future maintenance costs will be minimized. It will provide safety and mobility for residents, commuters, tourists and freight traffic on Route 1, a critical artery in Midcoast Maine which is home to some of Maine's most beautiful beaches and other popular spots for both residents and tourists alike.

The bridge replacement project will also complement the Black River Marsh Feasibility study, which aims to improve habitat connectivity and reduce roadway flooding, providing significant environmental opportunities and enhancements.

To sum, rebuilding the Station 46 Bridge in Woolwich will provide significant economic, safety and environmental benefits to the Midcoast region. We respectfully request that you include funding for this critical project in your BUILD 2019 awards.

The Maine Better Transportation Association is a state-wide coalition consisting of organizations and individuals representing both the public and private sector who plan, design, build, maintain and use Maine's transportation infrastructure. Members including rail and bus companies, design engineering firms, transportation contractors and suppliers, aviation and marine entities, and others committed to improving Maine's economy and quality of life by investing in our transportation system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria R. Fuentes". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the typed name and title.

Maria R. Fuentes
Executive Director

Maine
Better
Transportation
Association

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July 12, 2019

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

Dear Ms. Chao,

On behalf of the Maine Aquaculture Association, I am writing to you in strong support of the Maine Department of Transportation application for funding from the US Department of Transportation's BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Transportation Discretionary Grant program. The Maine Aquaculture Association represents over 100 businesses that grow and ship healthy Maine seafood throughout the United States. Our members employ over 700 people and generate roughly 100 million dollars in farm gate sales annually. The Station 46 Bridge on US Route 1 in Woolwich, Maine is critical to our members as it is on the primary road on which they ship their products to markets up and down the east coast. If the bridge is closed or has a load reduction imposed on it, it will significantly disrupt our members businesses, and increase shipping costs. Those costs will have to be passed on to our customers putting us at a significant competitive disadvantage. In addition to our members products the bridge is also vital to the rest of Maine's seafood industry including the 500 million-dollar Maine lobster industry. The bridge also provides critical access for the states 8-billion-dollar tourist industry, local residents and first responders. Finally, the bridge serves as a key access point to the region's largest employer, Bath Iron Works, a shipyard vital to the nation's defense infrastructure and national security.

The project is estimated at \$30 million and the BUILD request is for \$25 million. Built in 1933, the bridge is currently fracture critical and according to the state DOT in poor-fair overall condition. Maine is a small rural state with limited financial resources federal assistance in this matter is needed and vital to our ability to continue to have viable rural communities and working waterfronts. I ask for your positive consideration of Maine DOT BUILD grant applications.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely yours,

Sebastian Belle
Executive Director