



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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System (BACTS) is writing in support of MaineDOT's funding request to the FY2023 - 2026 Bridge Investment Program (BIP) for repairs, rehabilitation, and replacement of seven bridges on I-395 between Bangor and Brewer, Maine. Over time, these bridges have been severely affected by alkali-silica reaction (ASR), an issue caused by a chemical reaction between alkali from the cement and silica aggregates in the presence of moisture. While certain regions may be more prone to ASR, the risk is not limited to these areas and has grown to be an identified issue in nearly every state with the higher levels of concrete cement being used.

If left unabated, the cracking and deterioration of the concrete will continue to compromise the structural integrity of the identified bridges along I-395. BACTS is in support of MaineDOT's efforts to address the bridge conditions throughout the state and along I-395 specifically. The I-395 bridge project is not only important locally, but statewide, as this is a vital transportation corridor in the Bangor/Brewer area. This corridor provides access to employment, business, and services throughout the region, including but not limited to retail, professional services, educational institutions, and emergency and non-emergency medical services.

As the Bangor region's Metropolitan Planning Organization, BACTS is a strong supporter of MaineDOT BIP I-395 application. MaineDOT is committed to sustainable solutions through rehabilitations and replacement of these structures as part of a safe, resilient transportation system.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Sara Devlin*

Sara Devlin  
Executive Director