

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 26, 2015

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

We are writing to express our strong support for the applications submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation for funding through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) 2015 discretionary grant program. The projects, detailed below, are ideal candidates for funding as they meet each of the goals of the TIGER program by supporting regional and state transportation and economic goals. The applications submitted on behalf of Maine include:

- **Maine Regional Railways Project** – This project proposes to expand upon existing rail infrastructure and capital investments made by the Maine Northern Railroad, the Central Maine and Quebec Railroad, and the connecting lines of Pan Am Railways. By creating two improved rail interchanges and making track improvements this project will increase efficiency, reliability, and connectivity for rail users throughout central and northern Maine. This project will facilitate and support economic growth in the region by connecting shippers to the west, in Montreal, with international markets in the east, through Searsport, and to US Class I railroads to the south.
- **Jonesport-Beals Bridge** – This project proposes to replace the Beals Island Bridge, which was originally built in 1958 and serves as the only connection crossing between the island and town of Beals to the mainland of Jonesport. An underwater inspection of the bridge in May 2014 revealed the pier piles to be in poor condition with critical section loss in some areas. Additionally, the bridge's narrow width has warranted it to receive a classification of Functionally Obsolete from the Federal Highway Administration.

TIGER funding is critically important to these rural Maine infrastructure projects that address the transportation tenets of DOT's project guidelines. Each project seeks to improve rural connectivity, is ready to proceed, and would bring existing transportation facilities into good repair, all while creating economic opportunity in rural areas of Maine.

If funded, we are confident that these Maine TIGER 2015 National Infrastructure Investment applications would create jobs, improve key transportation-related assets, and provide regional economic growth and vitality. We respectfully request that you give these applications every appropriate consideration, subject to all applicable laws and regulations. In addition, we request that your staff notify David Lieberman (Collins) at (202) 224-2523 and Sanjay Kane (King) at (202) 224-7033 when a final determination has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator