



JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

GOVERNOR

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

September 11, 2009

The Honorable Raymond L. LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to express my strong support for the TIGER Grant application in the amount of \$80 million submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) for Part A of the Maine-New Hampshire "Bi-State Memorial Bridge Project" to make improvements to Memorial Bridge connecting Kittery, Maine and Portsmouth, New Hampshire over the Piscataqua River. (Part B of the TIGER Grant application will be submitted individually by New Hampshire DOT).

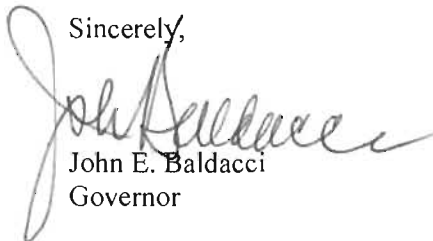
The Bi-State Memorial Bridge Project is important to the movement of people and goods in the area, including the transport of workers and materials to and from the Naval Shipyard in Kittery, which employs approximately 4,200 workers. This project will address local and regional multimodal transportation needs, enhance national security, and ensure the continued economic and cultural vitality of south coastal Maine and the seacoast region of New Hampshire

Memorial Bridge has critical needs. The bridge is listed in Maine's "Keeping Our Bridges Safe" report, but without TIGER funding, Maine would be severely challenged in meeting the needs of this bridge when 385 other bridges, including the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge, will require significant investment in the coming funding cycle.

As you will see in our application, TIGER Grant funds for the Memorial Bridge Project will be used to conduct extensive rehabilitation to the bridge, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, including total replacement of the lift structure, decking, and below-deck structural steel, as well as above-deck steel truss rehabilitation. Rehabilitation and deck replacement will also be made to the Kittery Approach Bridge and replacement of the Scott Avenue Approach Bridge in New Hampshire.

This is a significant investment for the region that would maintain and enhance the quality of life of area residents and promote economic development. I urge your strong consideration of the Bi-State Memorial Bridge Project application submitted for funding under the USDOT TIGER Grant discretionary program.

Sincerely,



John E. Baldacci
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER
888-577-6690 (TTY)
www.maine.gov