



Jared Golden
Congress of the United States
2nd District of Maine

September 12, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express my strong support for the grant applications recently submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) to the FY 2023 – 2026 Bridge Investment Program (BIP). These applications seek funding to address critical infrastructure needs along I-395 between Bangor and Brewer and the replacement of aging overpasses near Augusta, Maine.

Through their applications MaineDOT is requesting nearly \$70 million to support the *I-95 Accessibility Improvement Minimizing Heavy-Truck Impacts Project* and roughly \$63 million for the *I-395 Bridge Bundle Improvement Project*. MaineDOT would be providing a match of \$17.4 million and \$15.7 million respectively for each project.

These proposed projects are essential for the safety and functionality of our transportation network. Specifically, the repairs, rehabilitation, and replacement of six bridges on I-395 will not only ensure the structural integrity of these vital thoroughfares but also incorporate safety improvements to enhance the travel experience for motorists.

Furthermore, the replacement of six aging overpasses near Augusta, Maine's capital city, is crucial for maintaining connectivity between communities in Kennebec County and beyond. These overpasses serve as vital links for rural residents, facilitating access to essential services and economic opportunities.

I applaud MaineDOT's proactive approach in addressing these infrastructure challenges and commend their efforts in preparing comprehensive grant applications for the BIP. I urge you to review their applications favorably and grant them the funding they are seeking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared F. Golden".

Jared F. Golden
Member of Congress