

United States Senate

July 15, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I write in support of the application from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) for a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant from the United States Department of Transportation for the Route 119 Bridge Replacement Project.

Strengthening and modernizing our transportation infrastructure is critical to the success of our people and businesses. The Anna Hunt Marsh and Charles Dana Bridges were constructed in the 1920s and connect Hinsdale, New Hampshire to Brattleboro, Vermont over the Connecticut River, and are critical for the local, regional, national, and international movement of freight and people. NH Route 119 connects Cheshire County and the Monadnock Region to Interstate 91 in Vermont, which then connects the region to the Canadian trade market as well as larger New England ports to the south.

Due to their age and the harsh northern climate, the steel truss bridges have deteriorated and require significant rehabilitation or replacement. This project proposes a new bridge located downstream of the existing bridges with two lanes, two shoulders, and a sidewalk for pedestrian passage, along with vertical clearance for freight movement.

With the support of this grant, the new bridge would serve the citizens of Hinsdale, Winchester, and Westmoreland, New Hampshire, many of whom commute to Vermont for employment. Businesses in the area would also rely on the new bridge to help facilitate the delivery of goods and services throughout the area. Additionally, the nearest medical facility serves the entire region.

This grant would be a significant investment for the New Hampshire Department of Transportation and would be critical to the quality of life and economic vitality of the region. I urge you to look favorably upon their application. Please do not hesitate to contact Dorothy Parsons in my office at (603) 622-2204 if we can be of further assistance. Thank you for your consideration.

With every good wish,



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

CC: Commissioner Victoria Sheehan, NHDOT
Secretary Joseph Flynn, VTrans